

Reflection Tuesday Week 2 - St Wulstan 2021

St Wulstan (1008? - 1095) joined the Benedictines at Worcester Cathedral Priory, and later became prior. He reformed the monastic observance and became known as a preacher and counsellor. In 1062 he was made Bishop of Worcester, combining effectively his role as monastic superior and diocesan bishop. He is the first English bishop known to make a systematic visitation of his diocese. Together with Lanfranc he helped abolish the slave trade from Bristol to Viking Ireland and supported Lanfranc's reforms. He built churches and re-founded the monastery at Westbury-on-Trym, insisted on clerical celibacy, and made Worcester an important centre of Old English literature and culture. He was known for his abstinence and generosity to the poor. He was buried in his Cathedral and was canonised in 1203. An unofficial story about Wulstan said that one day, whilst celebrating Mass, he was distracted by the smell of roast goose wafting into the church from the kitchen. He prayed that he might be delivered from the distraction and vowed that he would never eat meat again if his prayer were granted. He was probably the first vegetarian Bishop!!

The intention with which we act can change its significance even if the outcomes are the same. We might go to mass on Sunday out of fear of punishment, or to fulfil the law, but if we go to Mass because we love God and want to be part of a family of believers, the action is the same but the result in each case will be very different, both for the individual and for the community.

- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to try just one more time.
- Good intentions will make a difference not just for you but also for those around you.

Emmanuella Raphaele wrote:

I choose beauty over bitterness.

I choose discovery over doubt.

I choose freedom over fear.

I choose grace over grief.

I choose peace over panic.

I choose surrender over suffering.

I choose trust over terror.

I choose wisdom over warfare.

I choose life, light and love!

What do you choose and why??

Only one man has ever entered parliament with honest intentions..... Guy Fawkes

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to being brought breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. Finally, the children called her to come downstairs. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs.

"As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "we decided to cook our own breakfast."