

Reflection Wednesday Week 1 St Hilary of Poitiers 2021

St Hilary of Poitiers was born at the beginning of the fourth century. He was elected Bishop of Poitiers in 350. He fought strongly against Arianism and was exiled by Emperor Constantius. His works are full of wisdom and learning, directed to the strengthening of the Catholic faith and the right interpretation of Scripture. He died in 367. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1851.

The alleluia verse states: *“Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you;”* The message of Christ is not just about information or even teaching, it is meant to lead us into action. It was the motivating force behind the life and work of St Hilary even though it caused him to be exiled. Scripture will also motivate us into action if we give it the time and place in our prayer - like Jesus.

One of the fears of Jesus which was also a motivating force, was he did not want to be made a king in the earthly sense which is why he moved from town to town. It was a healthy and beneficial fear and urged Jesus to preach and visit many different communities. His prayer also assured him that his Father was watching over him and as the psalmist suggests, God is true to his covenant, he keeps his promises, and inspired Jesus to do the same.

Macrina Wiederkehr on prayer: *Prayer is a Mystery no words can explain. In fact, words are the least important part of prayer. God doesn't need our words. It is our love that moves the heart of God. When you are in the presence of mystery how can you speak? In the presence of mystery, you fall silent. We are always in the presence of mystery, of course, yet we are not always awake to the mystery. We do not always have a felt sense of that mystery and that is understandable. There are moments, however, when veils fall away and the Divine is almost tangible. Those are moments for falling into silence.*

Two hardcore trump supporters die and ascend to heaven. God meets them at the pearly gates and asks if they have any questions. One of them says, *“Yes, what were the real results of the 2020 election and who was behind the fraud?”*

God says, *“My son, there was no fraud. Biden won the electoral college fair and square, 306 to 232”.*

After a few seconds of stunned silence, one chap turns to the other and whispers, *“This goes higher up than we thought”.*