

Reflection Monday Week 21 St Rose of Lima 2021

St Rose (1586 - 1617) was born in Lima, Peru. She lived a life of selflessness and devotion from an early age. Refusing to marry, she became a Dominican tertiary at 20. Her asceticism and intense spiritual experiences excited the criticism of her friends and family and the suspicion of Church authorities. She cared for the sick, the poor, Indians, and slaves. She was the first person in the Americas to be canonized, and is a patron saint of South America.

We have a statue of St Rose in Bethnal Green since she stood for all the values that Assumptionists hold dear. Much of what St Paul said to the Thessalonians applies to St Rose. She showed her faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Rose did not use the Law for her own benefit or to look good. Love God and love your neighbour are the only laws by which Rose lived and never for her own benefit but for the benefit of others and for the glory of God. What St Paul said and Jesus emphasised, Rose lived. We are called to live by the Spirit, allowing the Spirit of God to work within us in the service of others - a service of Love or as St Rose said:

- *“When we serve the poor and the sick, we serve Jesus. We must not fail to help our neighbours, because in them we serve Jesus”.*
- *“If only mortals would learn how great it is to possess divine grace, how beautiful, how noble, how precious. How many riches it hides within itself, how many joys and delights! No one would complain about his cross or about troubles that may happen to him, if he would come to know the scales on which they are weighed when they are distributed to us.”*