

Reflection Tuesday Week 21 St Bartholomew 2021

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle, was born at Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. Nothing further is known for certain. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber that is principally used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick.

It is believed that Nathaniel and Bartholomew are the same person. When Philip brings him to Jesus, the encounter becomes an encounter with God and this encounter changed the whole course of Bartholomew's life. Like all the apostles, Bartholomew was led by the Holy Spirit to places which he would never have otherwise visited. In Baptism we, too, are missioned by Jesus to bring the Good News to those we encounter by the way we live. We are made temples of the Holy Spirit so that, wherever we go, we carry the Holy Spirit with us. Hopefully, this will not lead to our being flailed alive like Bartholomew but bring others to Christ. We hope that our encounters will bring about a revolutionary change in others' lives, as happened to Bartholomew. Pray to him to be freed from all guile to better fulfil your mission of spreading Good News for the glory of God.

St Bartholomew By Thomas Traherne

What powerful Spirit lives within!
What active Angel doth inhabit here!
What heavenly light inspires my skin,
which doth so like a Deity appear!
A living Temple of all ages, I
within me see;
a Temple of Eternity!
All Kingdoms I descry
in me.

The Soul's a messenger whereby
within our inward Temple we may be
even like the very Deity
in all the parts of His Eternity.
O live within and leave unwieldy dross!
Flesh is but clay!
O fly my Soul and haste away
to Jesus' Throne or Cross!
Obey!

- **On the last mission to the moon, NASA set up a restaurant. It didn't last very long.** The food was good, but there was no atmosphere.
- **What's the most intense moment in history?** When the mission to take the first cow into space commenced. The steaks had never been higher!!