

Reflection Thursday Week 24 St Cornelius (Pope) and St Cyprian 2021

Pope St Cornelius (- 253) became bishop of Rome in 251. He fought against the Novatian schismatics, and established his authority with the aid of Cyprian. Emperor Gallus sent him into exile. He died at Civitavecchia in June 253. He is buried in Rome.

St Cyprian (210 - 258), born in Carthage, spent most of his life practicing law. He was converted to Christianity and made bishop of Carthage in 249. He steered the Church through troubled times, including the persecution of emperor Decius, when he went into hiding to continue looking after the Church. During the persecution of emperor Valerian 258, Cyprian was first exiled and then executed, 14th September, after a notably calm and courteous trial. Cyprian's many letters and treatises shed much light on a formative period in the Church's history, and are valuable for their doctrine and the picture they paint of a people in constant peril of their lives but still determined to keep the faith.

The Gospel must have given Cornelius and Cyprian great support knowing that Jesus foretold the difficulties they would face and that he would be there supporting them at every step. Like Jesus, their concern was for the people they served. Their selfless generosity and courage they received as a gift from Jesus. These two great saints stand as examples for us today.

While, Cornelius and Cyprian faced persecution, we face the destruction of the planet. The selfless generosity we show today in caring for our common home will be invaluable for the Church and the world to have a future.

Caring for our common home calls us to care for all, especially the most vulnerable. We only have **8 years** until the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis become irreversible. **8 Years!**

Let us focus on the principles at the heart of Pope Francis' encyclical **LAUDATO SI'**.

- to be **grounded in a faith** which motivates us to act.
- be committed to a **spiritual transformation** shown by **caring for one another; being prophetic** and taking an **integral approach** i.e. ecological, cultural, and social issues are intertwined.
- By **cultivating unity in diversity** shown by working with all groups, all faiths and none.
- Being in the **Church and in the world** by **building bridges, embracing contemplation and action** and **living in hope**.

By faith I gaze up to the heavens
and know within its vastness that this is your creation,
planned and effected within eternity

By faith I listen for your voice,
and know the whisper that I hear
breathed a world into existence,
yet listens to the prayer within my soul

By faith I cling to your word,
and know the strength that I receive
has its source within the love
that is at the centre of all things.

Very short funny: I hope this works; it is translated from German: **What's 3x3? No**