

## Reflection Tuesday Week 9 - 2021

**St Aidan (- 651)**, a native of Ireland, was a monk on Iona. When the Christian King Oswald returned from exile on Iona to his kingdom of Northumbria, he invited the monks of Iona to provide missionaries to instruct his people in Christianity. Aidan was consecrated bishop and sent with some Irish monks to begin this mission. He established a monastery on Lindisfarne which became the centre of a major missionary effort in Northern England. The monastery became a valuable centre of learning and an important training ground for the education of English boys who would continue the work of evangelisation. Aidan journeyed throughout Northumberland, usually on foot, and working closely with King Oswald who found him to be a wise adviser and a good personal friend. After Oswald's death in 642, Aidan continued this work under his successor, Oswin. Nine years later Oswin was killed. Aidan died soon after in 651. According to Bede, Aidan was a man of great gentleness and moderation, outstanding for his energetic missionary work. His influence on the North of England was enormous, and his wise promotion of Christian education among the native English laid the solid foundation for the spread of the Gospel in the centuries following his death.

Although Aiden did not cast out daemons in the way Jesus did, he did cast out ignorance about Jesus and opened many to the Good News of Jesus Christ; what St Paul would call a light to the peoples.

The Monk Preston wrote, *"Aidan cultivated peace and love, purity and humility; he was above anger and greed, and despised pride and conceit; he set himself to keep and teach the laws of God, and was diligent in study and in prayer."*

It is said that St Aidan, *"Traversed both town and country on foot... and wherever on his way he saw, either rich or poor, he invited them, if infidels, to embrace the mystery of the faith or if they were believers, to strengthen them in the faith, and to stir them up by words and actions to alms and good works. ... He was known throughout the kingdom for his knowledge of the Bible, his learning, his eloquent preaching, his holiness, his distaste for pomp, his kindness to the poor, and the miracles attributed to him"*.

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing his own incision? Either **Suture self.** (or) **"Pull yourself together."**

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but **good players are really hard to find.**