

## Reflection Thursday Week 26 St Jerome 2021

**St Jerome (340 - 420)** born in Strido, Dalmatia, studied in Rome and was baptized there. Attracted to the ascetic life, he travelled to the East where he was (unwillingly) ordained a priest. Recalled to Rome, he became secretary to Pope Damasus, but on the Pope's death he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where he founded a monastery, a hospice, and a school, and settled down to translating the Bible into Latin, a translation which, with some revisions, is still used today. He wrote many other works, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. When troubles came from barbarian invasions and internal divisions in the Church, he helped refugees and those in need. He died in Bethlehem. Jerome must have read Paul's letters to Timothy many times and been inspired and encouraged to translate the scriptures into Latin, the common language of the people at that time.

Be inspired by his wisdom:

- Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you.
- It is our part to seek, God's to grant what we ask; ours to make a beginning, God's to bring it to completion; ours to offer what we can, God's to finish what we cannot.
- Be ever engaged, so that whenever the devil calls, he may find you occupied.
- So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be.
- True friendship ought never to conceal what it thinks and can only cease if it has never been real.
- The Church of Christ has been founded by shedding its own blood, not that of others; by enduring outrage, not by inflicting it. Persecutions have made it grow; martyrdoms have crowned it.

**What do you call** a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus!

**Two translators** on a ship are talking. "Can you swim?", asks one. "No", says the other, "but I can shout for help in nine languages".