

Reflection Wednesday Week 27 (St Bruno) 2021

St Bruno (c.1033 - 1101) born in Cologne became head of the episcopal school in Reims for almost 20 years. In 1075 he was appointed chancellor of the church of Reims and administer the diocese. Bruno was asked to succeed Manasses, deposed for corruption, and become Bishop of Reims in 1080 but he and two of his fellow-canons had made a vow to abandon the world and enter religious life in 1077. It had not been possible to do this then. Now it was. Bruno fled. He went to Molesme and formed the Cistercians. However, in 1084, he and his followers relocated to Chartreuse, not far from Grenoble, in the mountains. They devoted themselves to living in deep retreat and poverty, entirely occupied in prayer and study. Bruno pioneered the "mixed" form of religious life with hermits living together in a community. He did not found an Order but was the inspiration for the Carthusian Order.

It would be good to think that the inspiration behind Bruno's self-dedication to God came from the Our Father. Although a prayer in its own right it is also a prayer to put us in the right disposition before God. We come before God with nothing, we recognise, with the deepest reverence, the greatness and glory of God and that his name would cause us to fall prostrate before him. We recognise that all we have and all we receive comes from the bounty of God. We acknowledge our frailty and failings. We earnestly plead for the Father's his help never to turn away from God or judge our neighbour wrongly. In this way we seek to open ourselves completely to God. Bruno shows us how this can be done.