Reflection Tuesday Week 33 St Edmund of Abingdon 2021

St Edmund Rich was born at St Edmund's Lane, Abingdon, on 20th November, about 1175. His father was a rich merchant. Under his mother's influence, he led an ascetical life. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and became a teacher around 1200. For six years he lectured on mathematics and dialectics, dividing his time between Oxford and Paris, and was influential in introducing the study of Aristotle. He is the first known Oxford Master of Arts, and where he taught was eventually renamed St Edmund Hall. Between 1205 and 1210 he began studying theology and was ordained a priest. Becoming a doctor in divinity, he won fame as a lecturer on theology. Between 1219 and 1222 he was appointed vicar of Calne in Wiltshire and Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral. He became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1233. He was a notable and effective reforming Bishop. Finding himself ranged against Rome as champion of the national Church, he eventually retired to Pontigny, where he is buried. He died at Soisy-Bouy on 16th November 1240. Edmund was canonised in 1246, and is the Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese of Portsmouth. He is venerated as a vigorous and reforming bishop, a peacemaker, a distinguished commentator on the Scriptures and an effective spiritual writer. Jeremiah was told by the Lord, what Edmund also believed, *"Go now to those to whom I send you and, say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you."* Let us hear these words as we enter into the listening phase of our synodal journey. Let us speak from our hearts, unafraid because the Lord will be with us to guide our sharing and will help us hear his word and his Spirit speaking to us. Let us speak with the love of Christ in our hearts and the love of Christ will inspire us.

If there is one place I cannot stand . . . . it's an **Ice Rink**!!