

Reflection Tuesday Week 34 St Columbanus 2021

Saint Columbanus was born in Ireland before the middle of the sixth century. A monk from his youth, he studied both sacred and secular literature. At 45 he left Ireland for Europe, where he founded three monasteries in what is now France. His monastic rule was based on strict Irish practice. Columbanus criticised the king's debauched living and he and his Irish-born monks were ordered to be deported. Eluding their captors, they eventually reached Italy, where Columbanus founded the monastery at Bobbio. He died there in 615. The Rule of St Columbanus was eventually superseded by the Rule of St Benedict. Columbanus's writings offer early evidence of Irish knowledge of Latin. Some of his "Instructions" are part of the Office of Readings.

The wisdom of Columbanus:

Be gentle to the weak, firm to the stubborn, steadfast to the proud, humble to the lowly.

Be helpful, when you are at the bottom of the ladder; be the lowest, when you are in authority.

Be slow to anger, swift to learn, slow also to speak, but swift to hear.

Be respectful to the worthy, merciful to the poor.

Be mindful of favours, unmindful of wrongs.

Be simple in faith but well-trained in manners.

Be demanding in your own affairs but unconcerned in those of others.

Be guileless in friendship, astute in the face of deceit.

Be tough in times of ease, tender in hard times.

Disagree when necessary, but be in agreement about the truth.

Be strong in trials, weak in dissensions.

Be up and doing to make progress, slack to take revenge, careful in word, eager in work.

Be persistent in study, unshaken in turmoil, joyful in suffering.

Be vigilant in the cause of truth, cautious in time of strife.

Be submissive to good, unbending to evil.

Though weary, do not give up.

The other day, I passed by a man on a tractor yelling "the end of the world is nigh"

I think it was Farmer Geddon!!