

Reflection Tuesday 2nd Week Advent St Ambrose 2021.

St Ambrose was born in Trier (now Germany) between 337 and 340. His Roman father was praetorian prefect of Gaul. Ambrose was educated in Rome and became an advocate and administrator at Sirmium, Illyria. About 372 he was made prefect of Liguria and Emilia, whose capital was Milan. In 374 the bishopric of Milan fell vacant. When Ambrose tried to pacify the conflict between the Catholics and Arians over the appointment of a new bishop, the people turned on him and demanded he become their bishop. He was an unbaptised layman but coerced by the people and the emperor, he was baptized, ordained, and installed as bishop within a week, on 7th December 374. He immediately gave his money to the poor and his land to the Church and set about learning theology. Knowing Greek, he was able to read the Eastern theologians and philosophers as well as those of the West. He was assiduous in his duties, acting with charity to all: a true shepherd and teacher of the faithful. He defended the rights of the Church and attacked the Arian heresy with learning, firmness and gentleness. He wrote a number of hymns still used today. Ambrose was a key figure in the conversion of St Augustine to Catholicism, impressing Augustine by his intelligence and scholarship. He died on Holy Saturday, 4th April 397.

Like St Paul, Ambrose recognised he had been given a special grace in becoming Bishop of Milan and acted accordingly. Assumptionists are grateful to Ambrose for bringing Augustine into the Church. Augustine is a special inspiration, guide and encouragement for us and an exemplary example of the Good Shepherd. He said: *“The Lord will help me to speak the truth if I do not speak on my own authority. If I speak on my own authority, I will be a shepherd nourishing myself and not the sheep. However, if my words are the Lord’s, then he is nourishing you no matter who speaks.”*

A chicken pie in the Bahamas costs £7, while a shepherd's pie, in Jamaica, costs £8. But a mushroom pie in Bermuda only costs £3.

So, these are the **pie-rates** of the **Caribbean**.