

## Reflection Monday Week 6 Sts Cyril and Methodius 2022

**St Methodius (826?)** was born in Thessalonica. With his brother Cyril he went to Moravia to preach the faith. They translated liturgical texts into the Slavonic language and invented the Glagolitic and possibly also the Cyrillic alphabet. After Cyril's death he went to evangelise Pannonia. Because of international politics he suffered much from attacks by his enemies, but was always supported by the Popes. He died on 6<sup>th</sup> April 885.

**St Cyril (827?)** was born in Thessalonica and educated in Constantinople. He joined his brother Methodius preaching the faith in Moravia. They were called back to Rome where Cyril died on 14<sup>th</sup> February 869.

Like Paul and Barnabas, Cyril and Methodius were a light to the nations bringing the Gospel to the gentiles.

From Byzantine writings:

*"The complex apostolic work of SS. Cyril and Methodius is rich, exceptionally fruitful and important from a theological, cultural and ecumenical standpoint. Aspects of their missionary work interest not only the history of the Church, but also the civil and the political history of a great part of the European continent. Translating Sacred Books into the vernacular for liturgical and catechetical use made SS. Cyril and Methodius not only the Apostles of the Slavic peoples but also THE FATHERS OF THEIR CULTURE."*

Saint Cyril: *"However tired and physically worn out I am, I will go with joy to that land; with joy I depart for the sake of the Christian faith."*

Cyril, to Methodius on his deathbed: *"Behold, my brother, we have shared the same destiny, ploughing the same furrow; I now fall in the field at the end of my day. I know that you greatly love your Mountain; but do not for the sake of the Mountain give up your work of teaching."*