

Reflection Tuesday 2nd Week Easter St George patron of England 2022

St George (- c.303) was martyred at Lydda (*now in Israel*) about 303, during the persecution of Diocletian. Like many saints of that period, the only fact of which we are certain is his martyrdom. His cult spread quickly through East and West, and the legend of St George and the Dragon only appeared some time afterwards. During the crusades, George personified the ideals of Christian chivalry and was adopted as the patron saint of several city states and countries, including England and Catalonia. King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast was proclaimed a holiday.

The Book of revelation presents the glory and importance of martyrdom as a victory over evil, echoing Jesus' victory over evil which he shares with us all. Jesus never shielded the fact that his followers would suffer and be put to death. Paul, however, helps us by unveiling the benefits to be gained from suffering, not as something good in itself, far from it, but by the fact that it offers us an opportunity to enrich our lives. St Paul: *sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.* (Rm 5:4-5)

St George

Legend has it that a fearsome dragon was slain,
which is how a brave knight named George rose to fame.

Our country's patron saint is remembered year on year,
through celebrations consisting of flags and beer.

So, kickback and enjoy a lovely British cuppa,
whilst remembering St George with a roast dinner supper.

The knight slayed a mythical beast and saved a princess,
so go ahead and party - we expect nothing less!!