

## Reflection Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Easter Sts. Philip & James Apostles 2022

Philip was born in Bethsaida and became a disciple of John the Baptist. After the Baptist's death he followed Jesus. James the son of Alphaeus is called "*James the Less*", to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee. James "*the brother of the Lord*" ruled the Church at Jerusalem; wrote an epistle; led an austere life; and converted many Jews to the Faith. He was crowned with martyrdom in 62.

Jerome believed these two Jameses were the same person, which was the prevailing opinion when the feast of Philip and James was instituted in 560. Nowadays scholars prefer to separate them.

*"I am the Way the Truth and the Life"* says Jesus. The early followers of Jesus were known as the people of the Way because they lived their lives following the principles and virtues of Jesus teaching, particularly their mutual support of each other. The Truth invites us to believe in who Jesus is, a Redeemer who won salvation for us all; he was also the Son of the Father and therefore God and with the Holy Spirit formed a Trinitarian God. Most of all Jesus is a merciful God who wants us to find true fulfilment in a life in which God is at the centre. Life, therefore, is living inspired by this belief in Jesus knowing that he is always there to help and guide us along the way just as Jesus was for the apostles Philip and James.

***Teach us to be generous, good Lord. Teach us to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing we do Your will.***