

## Reflection Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Week Easter St Justin Martyr 2022

**Saint Justin, Martyr (- 165)** was born at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century in Nablus, Samaria, of a pagan Greek family. An earnest seeker after truth, he studied many systems of philosophy before being led, through Platonism, to Christianity. As a layman he accepted the duty of making the truth known, and travelled from place to place proclaiming the gospel. In 151 he travelled from Ephesus to Rome and opened a school of philosophy and wrote defences and expositions of Christianity, the earliest known writings of their kind that we have. In the persecution of 165, he was denounced as a Christian to emperor Marcus Aurelius, arrested and beheaded. The transcript of his trial by the Roman prefect Rusticus has survived.

Justin treats Greek philosophy as mostly true but incomplete. In contrast to the Hebrew view of God as making revelations to them and no-one else. In the parable of the Sower, he sees God as sowing the seed of wisdom throughout the world, to grow wherever the soil receives it. In disputes with people who disagree with us, we would do well to assume that they are seeking wisdom and have found truth of a kind. There is only one God and one Truth, we should not contradict or belittle their achievement but show them how their strivings and searches are ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

Justin was certainly a salt and light in his time and showed that Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of all reflection about faith, religion and God. This is the way we should approach any dialogue with other denominations and faiths, with the added knowledge that we will learn from them a deeper understanding of our faith and of Jesus Christ.