

Reflection Saturday Week 16 St Bridget of Sweden 2022

St Bridget of Sweden (1303 - 1373) was married to a nobleman and had eight children. Aged 30 she joined the court of the King of Sweden, as a lady-in-waiting to the queen. She tried without success to moderate the riotous and indecent life of the royal court. After a pilgrimage to St James at Compostela in Spain, Bridget and her husband Ulf decided to spend the rest of their lives in monasteries. Ulf died in 1344, but Bridget then founded a double monastery (for men and women in separate but adjacent institutions) as a new monastic order. In 1350 she travelled to Rome for the Holy Year, and spent the rest of her life there caring for the poor and the sick, denouncing the excesses of the aristocracy, and robustly telling the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon. She had many mystical visions, which alarmed her, fearing them being the work of the Devil. A learned Cistercian monk reassured her, and she subsequently dictated and published the revelations she received, which were partially devotional and partly prophetic. She is a patroness of Europe.

It is not too hard to see that Christ lived in Bridget through her sensitivity and desire for goodness and in her response to the poor and needy, as well as wanting to share the life of Christ she experienced in her with others in an ordered way of life open to prayer. Because the life of Christ flowed through her like a vine, much fruit was produced as realised in the lives of all those she touched. May she inspire us to respond as generously as she did and produce much fruit for Christ.

"People with guns who say give me your money... you gotta hand it to them."

"So I went to my local department store and said I can't decide whether to buy this bed or not. He said do you want to sleep on it? I said of course I do."

"I refuse to work in the subway. Its beneath me."

"I met this girl called Ena. Every time I see her, I say Hi Ena and she laughs her head off."

"I can't remember my homing pigeon's name but am sure it will come back to me."

"So, I was reading this book about the history of glue.... I couldn't put it down."