

## Reflection Monday Week 19 St Dominic 2022

**St Dominic (1170 - 1221)** was born in Castile (Spain) and became a canon of Osma cathedral. He accompanied his bishop (Diego de Azevedo) in a mission preaching against the Albigensian heresy, strong in southern France. Dominic and Diego lived in extreme poverty preparing diligently for the debates with their opponents. Although suppression of Albigensianism was undertaken by invasion and war, Dominic continued to try to preach and persuade. In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years earlier, the Dominicans stressed the importance of poverty of the individual and the community, and the need to be involved directly in the world while living some form of monastic life. Their life was revolutionary and thought to be subversive. The Friars made a lasting impact on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans in particular altered the course of intellectual history by offering well-thought-out and rational responses to the new learning in which long-forgotten thinkers such as Aristotle became known once more. Dominic died at Bologna on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1221.

There is no doubt that following Jesus is precarious. It is never certain where Jesus will lead us. But those who follow Jesus, like St Dominic, help the Christian message grow in the hearts of the baptised and even draw the non-baptised into the family. With his fellow Dominicans, Dominic brought the Church back to its mission to spread the Good News not by force, but in recognising the power of God working through the message of Good News that they preached. God will also work his power through us if we do the same!!