

## Reflection Wednesday Week 19 St Laurence 2022

**St Laurence ( - 258)** was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome and was executed on 10<sup>th</sup> August 258, four days after Sixtus II and his companions. Few facts of his life are known for certain but he was thought to be a Spaniard from Toledo. A basilica was built over Laurence's tomb fifty years after his death by Emperor Constantine, and the anniversary of his martyrdom was kept as a solemn feast – with considerably more solemnity than that of Pope Sixtus II (we don't know why). By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, it was one of the most important feasts in western Christendom. His name occurs (with Sixtus's) in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

*God loves a cheerful giver* we are told. There is a story about Laurence that Ambrose relates that when he was asked for the treasures of the Church he brought forward the poor, among whom he had divided the treasure, in place of alms; also that when Pope Sixtus II was led away to his death he comforted Lawrence, who wished to share his martyrdom, by saying that he would follow him in three days. That Laurence was so eagerly celebrated in the early Church is testimony that he inspired many to follow in his steps and also give their lives for Jesus.

St Laurence help us to follow Christ like you and always with a sense of humour and a cheerful smile.