

Reflection Wednesday Week 21 Saint Bartholomew, Apostle 2022

Saint Bartholomew was born in Cana and brought by the apostle Philip to Jesus. Nothing further is known for certain. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick.

At a certain time in life, one appreciates the people who are up front about what they think and believe especially in their valuation or appreciation of you. In that sense, Bartholomew, known as Nathaniel, was very much like Jesus who has been very forthright in his appraisal of the Jewish leaders in recent Gospels.

In his conversion, St Augustine discovered the truth in Christ Jesus which opened him to even greater truths:

*“Late have I loved you,
O Beauty ever ancient, ever new,
late have I loved you!
You were within me, but I was outside,
and it was there that I searched for you.
In my unloveliness
I plunged into the lovely things which you created.
You were with me,
but I was not with you.
Created things kept me from you;
yet if they had not been in you
they would have not been at all.
You called, you shouted,
and you broke through my deafness.
You flashed, you shone,
and you dispelled my blindness.
You breathed your fragrance on me;
I drew in breath and now I pant for you.
I have tasted you,
now I hunger and thirst for more.
You touched me,
and I burned for your peace.”*

What's a sentence that can never be truthfully written down? "This pen isn't working"