

## Reflection Friday Week 24 St Cornelius & St Cyprian 2022

Cornelius became bishop of Rome in 251. He fought against the Novatian schismatics, and established his authority with the aid of Cyprian. The emperor Gallus sent him into exile, and he died at Civitavecchia in June 253. He is buried in Rome.

Cyprian was born in Carthage 210 and spent most of his life practicing law. Converting to Christianity he became bishop of Carthage in 249. He steered the church through troubled times, including the persecution of emperor Decius, when he went into hiding so as to continue looking after the church. In 258 emperor Valerian exiled Cyprian on 14<sup>th</sup> September and executed him after a trial notable for the calm and courtesy shown by both sides. Cyprian's many letters and treatises shed light on a formative period in the Church's history. They are valuable for their doctrine and the picture they paint of people in constant peril of their lives but still determined to keep the faith.

Like our two saints, the Lord kept Queen Elizabeth true to his name. Although we rightly believe Truth concerns a list of beliefs, it is so much more. It is an inner power. Scripture talks of the authority with which Jesus spoke. The truth in which Queen Elizabeth was consecrated was a power of goodness, of compassion, of a desire to bring people together, to heal wounds and differences, that strengthened the inner goodness of people wherever she went. Read the comments about her from the leaders of nations as well as from the ordinary people she encountered. She made people feel good about themselves just like Jesus did as he walked among them opening them to their inner dignity, integrity, honour and respect.

- *She lived a life of dignity, honour and service...*
- *Queen Elizabeth was a beacon of dignity, respect and humility. She was not just a monarch but an era.*
- *She brought the country together through good times and bad, she held the country and the nation to her heart, always putting us first during her 70-year reign.*

**Jeffrey Scott Shapiro** wrote: *Queen Elizabeth was an embodiment of courage, dignity and honour from the days of her youth, she demonstrated uncompromising love and loyalty to the people of England, setting the standard for how all of us should conduct ourselves in the face of adversity and hardship.*