

Reflection Thursday week 26 Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael 2022

St Michael, meaning **who is like God?** Or **gift from God**, is mentioned in Revelation as the leader of the heavenly host. He is a patron of soldiers.

St Gabriel meaning **God is my strength, God is my strong-man**, appears in the book of Daniel explaining some of the prophet's visions. He was also the bearer of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St Raphael, meaning **God heals**, is in the Book of Tobit. He heals Tobit of his blindness.

Knowing that three great archangels watch over us is a consolation and encouragement. The Hebrew letters at the end of each name, **el**, means God. These Archangels reflect the care God has for us who is present as a gift, a source of strength and a healer.

Michaelmas gales assail the waning year,
and Michael's scale is true, his blade is bright.
He strips dead leaves; and leaves the living clear
to flourish in the touch and reach of light.
Archangel bring your balance, help me turn
upon this turning world with you and dance
in the Great Dance. Draw near, help me discern,
and trace the hidden grace in change and chance.
Angel of fire, Love's fierce radiance,
drive through the deep until the steep waves part,
undo the dragon's sinuous influence
and pierce the clotted darkness in my heart.
Unchain the child you find there, break the spell
and overthrow the tyrannies of Hell. (Malcolm Guite)

Stalwart Guardian of the word
so that God's will would be heard.
You are Saint Gabriel the Archangel,
bringing God deeds that are exchangeable.
Saint Gabriel ignites change with a spark,
anointing confirmation with a spoken mark.
God's messenger brought Revelation into view,
by instilling faith, to the rightful chosen few.
Mary is told, by Saint Gabriel, of God's Holy plan.
She accepts Divine Will humbly, though she could have ran.
Angelic words spoke of "*the word made flesh*" which saves our race.
God becomes incarnate, eyes will now see his human face. (Joseph Kushnir)