

Reflection Saturday Week 2 St Agnes 2023

As with many early Roman martyrs, very little is now known about Agnes' life because the details have been obscured by the light that shines from her martyrdom and the cult that it inspired and also because being martyred aged 12, your life has not really acquired that many details. Agnes was filled with the love of God from an early age, vowed herself to celibacy, and when the opportunity of martyrdom arose, she stepped forward and took it.

This is really all that is known: but it is enough. We can often find excuses to avoid any inconvenience that our faith might cause us. We can, therefore, admire the simple wisdom of Agnes, realise that there are moments where compromise and moral ambiguity just will not do, and pray for the strength to live up to such moments when they happen.

Paul in his letter to the Corinthians reminds us that, like Agnes, we too have been chosen and called and that *God has made us members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom.* We have no excuse in believing we are unworthy or incapable of being an exemplary witness of the good news of Jesus Christ, we have been given the wisdom, virtue, holiness and freedom to be just that - martyrdom or not.