

## Reflection Friday Week 4 Sts Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore 2023

**St Laurence of Canterbury (- 619)** was one of the original missionaries who came from Rome with St Augustine in 597. He succeeded Augustine as Archbishop of Canterbury around 604. He died at Canterbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 619.

**St Dunstan of Canterbury (- 988)** began in Glastonbury where he became abbot in 945. In 960 he became Archbishop of Canterbury, where he remained until his death on 19<sup>th</sup> May 988. He worked hard for the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, restoring churches, judging lawsuits, defending the weak and friendless, reforming institutions and even promoting the draining of parts of the Somerset Levels so that they could be used for agriculture. In folklore he figures in many duels with the Devil, which he wins by ingenuity as much as by holiness.

**St Theodore of Canterbury (602 - 690)** was born in Tarsus around 602. In 667 he was living in Rome, still a layman, when the Pope chose him to be Archbishop of Canterbury. He was ordained priest, consecrated as Archbishop, and arrived in Canterbury in May 669. The English Church at this time was troubled and divided, and he travelled around the country filling vacant bishoprics and promoting peace and unity. He died at Canterbury on 19<sup>th</sup> September 690.

The love of Jesus is a deep fraternal love full of empathy and compassion, seeking any and every way to help the people, however imperfect they may have been. It was this same love that inspired Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore to work tirelessly for the people. The rebuilding of the Church that they achieved began and ended with the rebuilding of the faith of the people in a deeply loving God.