

### Reflection Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Week Easter St Philip and St James Apostles 2023

Philip was born in Bethsaida and became a disciple of John the Baptist. After the Baptist's death, he followed Christ. James the son of Alphaeus is called "James the Less", to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee. James "the brother of the Lord" ruled the Church at Jerusalem; wrote an epistle; led an austere life; and converted many Jews to the Faith. He was crowned with martyrdom in the year 62. Jerome held these two James's to be the same person, and this was certainly the prevailing opinion when the feast of Philip and James was instituted in 560. Nowadays scholars prefer to divide them, in which case we might think of today as being the feast of Philip and James and James.

Whenever we reflect on the saints, the most outstanding feature of them all is that they not only believed that Jesus was the Way, the Truth and the Life but they lived his Way and his Truth and his Life! In the case of the apostles, despite having abandoned Jesus in his greatest hour of need, they returned and became his greatest advocates. What is more Jesus did not demand a public apology or even any apology. He was too loving and caring to want that.

May St Philip and St James inspire us always to return to Jesus however much we may have messed-up!!

*Teach us to be generous, good Lord. Teach us to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing we do Your will.*