

Reflection Thursday Week 18 St Laurence 2023

St Laurence was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome, executed on 10th August 258, four days after Sixtus II and his companions. Few facts of his life are known for certain: he was probably a Spaniard from Toledo. A basilica was built over Laurence's tomb fifty years after his death, by the Emperor Constantine, and the anniversary of his martyrdom was kept as a solemn feast – with considerably more solemnity than that of Pope Sixtus II. By the sixth century, it was one of the most important feasts throughout western Christendom. His name occurs along with Sixtus in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

God loves a cheerful giver and don't you forget it. Given all the doom and gloom that the media seems to revel in at the moment, we are in need of more joy, humour and cheerfulness to lift our spirits. Stories around St Laurence suggest that he enjoyed a spiritual humour and was able to laugh in the face of death. Maybe one day in the future we will have a feast day for humour that we can really enjoy. It would be a day on which we will completely forget about ourselves and focus on bringing joy and happiness into the world. If we do it well, we might even continue doing this after the feast day?????

Pope Francis says: "A sense of humour is a gift I ask for every day. Because a sense of humour lifts you up, it shows your life is short and helps you take things in the spirit of a redeemer. It's a human attribute but it is closest to God's grace.

- Three years ago, my doctor told me I was going deaf. I haven't heard from him since.
- I don't want to brag but I finished the puzzle in under a week and it said 2-4 years on the box.
- I'm reading a horror story in braille, something bad is going to happen. I can feel it.