

### Reflection Thursday Week 20 St Bartholomew 2023

**Saint Bartholomew, Apostle** was born at Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. Nothing further is known for certain. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber that is principally used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick.

As one of the Apostles Bartholomew witnessed the miracles of Jesus, his teachings, heard his stories and lived in his company for around three years. Many scholars believe that Bartholomew is called Nathanael in John's Gospel but there is no clear evidence. Like the other apostles after Pentecost, he became a missionary and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of the places where he was led by the Holy Spirit. Some believe he even reached India. Like all the other Apostles, he suffered a martyr's death as a true apostle of Jesus Christ.

*"The saints must be honoured as friends of Christ  
and children and heirs of God.  
Let us carefully observe the manner of life  
of all the Apostles, Martyrs, ascetics  
and just men  
who announced the coming of the Lord.  
And let us emulate their faith,  
charity, hope, zeal, life, patience under suffering  
and perseverance unto death,  
so that we may also share their crowns of glory."*

St John Damascene (675-749)  
Father and Doctor of the Church