

Reflection Friday Week 27b St Edward the Confessor 2023

St Edward the Confessor (1003 - 1066) became King of England in 1042. He was regarded as a saint during his lifetime, renowned for his generosity to the Church and to the poor and for his readiness to listen to his subjects' grievances. He died on 5 January 1066, the last of the old Anglo-Saxon line, and his death precipitated the dynastic quarrels that led to the conquest of England by William of Normandy later the same year. On 13 October 1163 his relics were translated to a new shrine in Westminster Abbey.

There is a growing belief in the Church that *being* is more important than *doing*, not to discount the importance of doing but in the belief that good prayer will eventually lead to action. The beatitudes reinforce this belief. All the Beatitudes begin with an interior disposition needed in order to lead to action. It was Edward's interior disposition that inspired and motivated his concern and support for the Church and the help that he gave to the poor and which gave inspiration to those whom he served.

Blessed Lord, Saint Edward the Confessor was one of the most popular English kings, because he trusted in You and greatly loved his people. By relying on You, he was able to rule wisely and maintain peace. I ask him to pray for world leaders and for those serving in our nation's government. Lord, help us to elect Godly men and guide our politicians to make wise decisions inspired by the Holy Spirit. Bless the leaders of every country and all religions and fill them with a high sense of values. Raise up new leaders who build peace, protect life, and promote the fair and just treatment of all people. Saint Edward, pray for us. Amen.