

Reflection Thursday Week 29 St Chad and St Cedd 2023

St Chad (- 672) was educated at Lindisfarne under Aidan. He became abbot of Lastingham and was chosen to be bishop of Northumbria, but St Wilfrid contested his appointment, and Chad obediently withdrew. He was then sent as bishop to Mercia, where he founded the see of Lichfield. His ministry there was very short (he died at Lichfield on 2nd March 672), but he was immediately revered as a saint because of the holiness of his life, his outstanding humility, and his dedication to preaching of the Gospel.

St Cedd (- 664). Like his brother Chad, he was educated at Lindisfarne under Aidan. He founded many monasteries and was sent as a bishop to evangelize the East Saxons. He established his see at Bradwell in Essex. He died at his monastery at Lastingham in Yorkshire on 26th October 664, of the plague.

ST CHAD ON THUNDERSTORMS AND FEAR OF THE LORD: It seems that whenever there was a thunderstorm St Chad would go to the church and pray until the storm had passed. Why? This is the explanation he gave to his monks: *'God stirs the air and raises the winds; He makes the lightning flash and thunders out of heaven, to move the inhabitants of the earth to fear Him, and to remind them of judgement to come ... Therefore, we should respond to His heavenly warnings with the fear and love we owe Him, and whenever He raises His hand in the trembling air as if to strike, yet spares us still, we should hasten to implore His mercy, examining our inmost hearts and purging the vileness of our sins, watchful over our lives lest we incur His just displeasure.'*