Reflection Saturday Week 31 St Martin of Tours 2023

St Martin of Tours was born in the Roman province of Pannonia (western half of Hungary) about 316 and was educated at Pavia, Italy. He was baptized, left the army and after spending time as a hermit on an island off the Ligurian coast, founded a monastery at Ligugé, western France, where he lived a monastic life guided by St Hilary. Later he was ordained priest and became bishop of Tours. He gave an exemplary example of what a good shepherd should be. He founded other monasteries, educated the clergy, and preached the Gospel to the poor. He died in 397. A famous story about St Martin is that while a soldier in Amiens he gave half of his military cloak to a beggar and later had a dream in which the beggar revealed himself as Christ.

The Psalm today could well be addressed to St Martin but also equally to us as followers of Christ. It reminds us how precious we are to God and how much he wants to help us:

God says: *with my holy oil I have anointed you;*
my hand shall always be with you
  and my arm shall make you strong.
My truth and my love shall be with you;
  so, we recognise God as a special father,
  a rock who saves us.
In response *we will proclaim God's truth,*
because God's love lasts forever,
  and God's truth is firmly established.
Jesus then tells us that the best way we can show our love for God, for our family, for those we encounter, is how we help them in a practical, loving and generous way.

Why couldn't the skeleton go to school?   His heart just wasn't in it.
Why do hummingbirds hum?   Because they don't know the words!
Why is a snake difficult to fool?   You can't pull its leg!