

Reflection Monday Week 5 St Agatha 2024

St Agatha was martyred at Catania in Sicily, probably during the persecution of Decius (250-253). Devotion to her was widespread in the Church in the earliest times and she is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass. Although little is known about her life, she has given rise to many stories.

Maybe she found strength for her martyrdom from the psalm (30/31) chosen for her feast.

*Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.
As for me, I trust in the Lord:
let me be glad and rejoice in your love.
My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me.
Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.*

Among his wise quotes St John Henry Newman writes:

- Faith is not a higher kind of reason; it is a different kind of reason.
- Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.
- We can believe without seeing; we can love without seeing; we can be happy without seeing.
- The power of love is the power of faith.
- To holy people the very name of Jesus is a name to feed upon, a name to transport. His name can raise the dead and transfigure and beautify the living.