

Reflection Saturday Week 4 St Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore 2024

St Laurence of Canterbury (- 619) was one of the original missionaries who came from Rome with St Augustine in 597. He succeeded Augustine as Archbishop of Canterbury about 604. He died at Canterbury on 3 February 619.

St Dunstan of Canterbury (- 988) At Glastonbury he became the abbot in 945. In 960 he became Archbishop of Canterbury, where he remained until his death 19th May 988. He worked hard for the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, restoring churches, judging lawsuits, defending the weak and friendless, reforming institutions and even promoting the draining of parts of the Somerset Levels so that they could be used for agriculture. In folklore he figures in many duels with the Devil, which he wins by ingenuity as much as by holiness.

St Theodore of Canterbury was born in Tarsus about 602. In 667 he was living in Rome, still a layman, when the Pope chose him to be Archbishop of Canterbury. He was ordained priest, consecrated as Archbishop, and arrived in Canterbury in May 669. The English Church at this time was troubled and divided and he travelled round the country filling vacant bishoprics and promoting peace and unity. He died at Canterbury on 19th September 690.

***“Sheltered under the name of Jesus Christ,
I do not fear these pains, for they do not last long.”***

***“Learn, unhappy man, how great is the power of my God;
for your burning coals give me refreshment
but they will be your eternal punishment.”*** *St Laurence*

*St Dunstan, as the story goes,
once pull'd the devil by the nose
with red-hot tongs, which made him roar,
that he was heard three miles or more.*

St Theodore

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you;
your poverty enriched you.
Archbishop Theodore, entreat Christ our God
that our souls may be saved.