

Reflection Tuesday 4th Week Easter St George Patron 2024

Saint George, widely venerated as a Christian martyr and the patron saint of various entities including England, soldiers, and scouts, was a historical figure who lived during the late 3rd century AD in the Roman province of Cappadocia, which is now modern-day Turkey. He was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel) about 303, during the Diocletian persecution. Like many saints of that period, the only fact that we can be certain of is his martyrdom. His cult spread quickly through both the East and the West, and the legend of St George and the Dragon only appeared some time afterwards.

During the crusades, George personified the ideals of Christian chivalry and was adopted as the patron saint of several city states and countries, including England and Catalonia. King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast was proclaimed a holiday.

Little is known about his early life, but according to tradition, George was a Roman soldier who courageously professed his Christian faith and refused to renounce it, even in the face of persecution. The most famous legend about him recounts how he heroically defeated a fearsome dragon that was terrorizing the city of Silene, rescued a princess and converted the city's inhabitants to Christianity. Despite the mythical elements surrounding his story, Saint George's steadfast devotion to his faith and his unwavering courage in the face of adversity have made him a beloved and revered figure in Christian tradition, celebrated for his virtues of bravery, chivalry, selflessness and steadfast faith.

Dear Lord, help us to be like your faithful servant George, who did not give up on what he believed was right. Help us all to be respectful and tolerant of others who we do not fully understand. We pray that persecution of people of all faiths will come to an end. Amen.

A weary traveller in 18th century England, hungry and tired, approached a roadside inn with a sign that read: "Saint George and the Dragon."

He knocked on the door. The innkeeper's wife poked her head out of a window.

"Any chance for a bite to eat?" he inquired.

The woman eyed his ragged, filthy clothes and yelled, "No!"

"May I have a pint of ale?"

"No!" she yelled back.

"Can I at least rest in your stable?"

"No!" she yelled once more.

The traveller tried again, "Could I kindly...?"

"What is it now?" the woman snapped, cutting him off.

"Would it be possible," he asked, "to have a chat with George?"