

Reflection Saturday Week 5 St Cyril and St Methodius 2026

Saints Cyril and Methodius stand as towering heroes of the Christian faith, embodying the courage and commitment that Christ's call to evangelisation demands. Born in ninth-century Thessalonica, these remarkable brothers exemplified the missionary spirit found in Acts, taking the light of the Gospel to the Slavic peoples of Moravia and beyond.

Their pioneering work was nothing short of revolutionary. Recognising that faith flourishes in one's mother tongue, they translated sacred liturgical texts into Slavonic and created the Glagolitic alphabet – a gift that would enable countless souls to encounter God's word in their own language. This innovation laid the foundation for Slavic literacy and culture.

Following Christ's commission in Luke, they went forth as labourers into the harvest, facing formidable opposition with unwavering resolve. Methodius, even after Cyril's death in Rome in 869, continued his arduous evangelisation in Pannonia, enduring attacks and political intrigue until his own death in 885. Throughout their trials, papal support sustained them, affirming the authenticity of their mission.

We owe these saints deep gratitude. They didn't merely preach the faith; they gave entire peoples the tools to receive it, worship in it, and pass it on through generations. Their legacy shows that authentic evangelisation requires both courage to face opposition and creativity to make Christ accessible to every culture and tongue.