

Reflection for Wednesday 27th May 2020.

The Solemnity of Saint Augustine of Canterbury.

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Father Paul, Deacon Kevin, Father Fred, Monsignor Danny and myself, we want to wish you all the happiest of Feast days as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Augustine, our Patronal Feast.

How different the times and context in which Saint Augustine set forth from the Monastery of Saint Andrew's in Rome, along with thirty or forty other monks, to continue the evangelisation of the Anglo-Saxons. The Year was 597 and Pope Saint Gregory the Great asked Augustine to undertake this task.

The story is told how Pope Gregory noticed some slaves in the Roman Market and enquired to which race they belonged. He was told that they were of the race of the 'angles', to which he replied, "they look more like angels.!"

Vastly different times but the message remains ever new and the risen Lord continues to send His Holy Spirit so that the Gospel may touch the hearts and minds of each and everyone.

We today are the spiritual sons and daughters of Saint Augustine and how he lovingly intercedes for us so that we might bear Christ's love in our hearts and rejoice to make Him known and loved.

Jesus in today's Gospel prays to His Father in Heaven for his followers. He asks three things from His Father for His followers. Firstly to ***"keep those You have given Me true to Your name"***, secondly ***"I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one"***, and finally ***"Consecrate them in the truth; Your word is truth."***

Our Lord, just as he prayed this prayer for Saint Augustine and the monks who came to England also prays this prayer for us today.

Being true to the name of the Father involves us living as God's beloved children, growing in filial confidence and trust, depending on His providence and care.

Saint Paul reminds us ***“The Spirit that you have received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives. It is the spirit of sons and daughters and it makes us cry out “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself and our spirit bear united witness bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing His sufferings so as to share His glory.”*** (Romans 8: 15-17)

Have an enjoyable Feast Day and a tasty meal!

Saint Augustine pray for us!