

the year after the conquest by the Emperor Claudius. Another account is that he came here in 60 A.D when Boudicca's rebellion began and that he was crucified in 61 A.D. by the Romans in (modern-day) Lincolnshire. Nikephoros I, Patriarch of Constantinople in the early 9<sup>th</sup> century, corroborates a mission to Britain by St Simon. Nikephoros said of Simon: "...the same doctrine he taught to the Occidental Sea, and the Isles called Britanniae".

The knowledge of St Simon's relics is as patchy as that concerning his missionary life. There are traces of them said to be in the Basilica of Saint Sernin in Toulouse as an 8<sup>th</sup> century donation from Charlemagne who had received them from Pope Leo III. The main relics are thought to be in Rome having been brought there from Persia, probably when Persia was first seized by the Muslims. These relics, along with those of St Jude are reputed to be in St Peter's Rome. St Simon the Zealot is venerated together with St Jude and they share a feast day on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

-Stephen S.

**Entrance antiphon: Hosana to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7**

**Psalm 21: Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11**

**Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66**

**Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.**

**Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.**



## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection: **The lesser-known apostles: (6) St Simon the Zealot** : St Simon the Zealot is perhaps the apostle about whom the least is known. He appears as the last-mentioned apostle in the lists in the Gospels of those called by Jesus. He is also one of those present in the upper room when Jesus appeared to them after the Ascension. In Matthew and Mark he is referred to as Simon the Cananaean. This should not be confused with a Canaanite, i.e. a resident of Cana. A Cananaean is an Aramaic word for a zealot, so the Gospels are consistent with each other. The Zealots wanted independence for the Jews from the dominance of Rome. They believed that the Messiah would come as a general to lead them to victory over the Roman occupiers. It is not clear whether Simon had been a member of this political group or whether he attracted his nickname as a zealous follower of the law of Moses and/or to distinguish him from Simon Peter. If he had belonged to the band of freedom fighters his views would initially have been very different from those of St Matthew, the collector of taxes on behalf of the Romans. After the reference to Simon after the Ascension, he is not again mentioned by name in Scripture, though he presumably was one of the eleven subsequently recorded as being involved in the election of Matthias as a substitute for Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:23).

There are a number of traditions about Simon's missionary work and his death. The predominant tradition is that Simon evangelised in Egypt and then teamed up with St Jude. They spread the Good News in Persia (Iran), Armenia and Beirut and then both martyred in Beirut. However, the Eastern tradition has Simon preaching and dying in Georgia. Others say he was crucified in Samaria or died peacefully in Edessa, Mesopotamia. There is another strong but later tradition that Simon was martyred by being sawn in half in Persia; for this reason St Simon is often portrayed in art with the identifying attribute of a saw. Finally, some say that Simon visited Roman Britain. The 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> century author Hippolytus dates his arrival in Britain at 44 A.D,