

on 28th December 1065, a week before his death and there he was buried. The Bayeux Tapestry depicts the burial procession from Westminster Hall to the Abbey. Edward was canonised as Saint and Confessor by Pope Alexander III in 1161. The title of confessor denotes a person not martyred but distinguished by heroic virtue. Henry III demolished most of the Abbey and replaced it with the present-day version. Henry was a great admirer of Edward and built a magnificent new shrine to him. The cult of Edward was such that he was considered by many to be England's patron saint before Edward III's adoption of St George in 1350. During Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries Edward's shrine was desecrated but restored by Queen Mary I, and houses his remains to the present day as the centrepiece of Westminster Abbey.

Legend has it that Edward in his later years was riding past an Essex church. An old man begged alms from him. The King had no money but gave the beggar a ring off his finger. Soon afterwards two pilgrims were lost in the Holy Land. An old man helped them and, on being told they came from England, he said to them that he was St John the Evangelist and that they should give the ring back to Edward and tell him that in 6 months he would join St John in heaven.

-Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

First Reading: Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Responsorial Psalm:91: Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly

Reflection: Anglo-Saxon Saints (6) St.

Edward the Confessor: This series has so far traced the lives and legacies of Anglo-Saxon saints of the 7th-8th centuries. St Edward the

Confessor was born in Islip, Oxfordshire, more than 200 years later in 1003, the son of Ethelred the Unready. Because of Danish ascendancy in England, Edward, aged 10, was sent to Normandy to be brought up by his uncle, the duke. King Canute, the Dane, who had married Edward's widowed mother, Emma of Normandy, died in 1035. His illegitimate son, Harold Harefoot, seized power. Harefoot died just before an invasion from Denmark by Hardicanute his brother and the rightful heir. Hardicanute was then accepted as king. Edward's life meanwhile is described in the Catholic Encyclopaedia in this way: *"Early misfortune thus taught Edward the folly of ambition, and he grew up in innocence, delighting chiefly in assisting at Mass and the church offices, and in association with religious, whilst not disdaining the pleasures of the chase, or recreations suited to his station."* In 1042 Hardicanute died suddenly. Edward, then almost 40, was called back from Normandy and acclaimed King. It is said that even the Danish invaders welcomed him on account of his gentle, saintly nature.

Edward's 23 year reign was an unusual time of peace after the preceding turbulence. The King's only involvement in warfare was to repel a Welsh invasion and to help Malcolm, King of Scotland, deal with the usurper Macbeth. At the behest of his nobles Edward married Editha, daughter of the Earl of Godwin - and sister of the future King Harold, defeated by William the Conqueror - on condition that the marriage remained chaste. Edward was lacking in personal ambition, generous in almsgiving and did not impose taxes on his people. It is said that while exiled in Normandy he had vowed that should he return safely to England he would make a pilgrimage to Rome. However, he found it impossible to leave once he had the burden of office. The Pope released him from his vow on condition that Edward founded a new monastery to St Peter in England. Edward constructed a new Westminster Abbey to replace the existing Saxon church. It was consecrated