

of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle and bishops in the diocese are always consecrated on his anniversary.

Cuthbert was buried at Lindisfarne Priory. After his death his tomb attracted pilgrims and he came to be regarded as a miracle worker. His relics were made available for prayer. Eleven years later when Cuthbert's coffin was opened for the declaration of his sainthood, it is reported that his body was incorrupt. Unsurprisingly many more pilgrims followed. In 793 the Vikings attacked and in the late 9th century the Lindisfarne monastery was finally abandoned, Cuthbert's body having been moved to the mainland, and finally settling at Durham. In 1104 it was decided to place Cuthbert's body in a shrine in the new Durham Cathedral. The Durham Benedictine monks opened the coffin. Again the body is reported to have been incorrupt. There he remained as a continuing place of pilgrimage until the Reformation when the shrine was dismantled and the body (still said to be incorrupt) was hidden by the monks and buried in a simple grave behind the Cathedral's High Altar. In 1827 the grave was reopened revealing only a skeleton. Objects from the coffin were removed and can now be seen in the Cathedral Treasury. The bones were re-interred. In Northumberland eider ducks are known as "Cuddy Ducks", since Cuthbert was said to have protected and tamed them during his years as a hermit.

-Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 2: 1-11

Responsorial Psalm: 103: Response: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13

SEQUENCE

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20: 19-23

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

Communion Antiphon: They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.



Pentecost Sunday, Cycle B, 2024

Weekly Reflection: Anglo-Saxon Saints (2) St

Cuthbert: St Cuthbert was born in about 634 A.D in the north of Northumbria which then included part of Southern Scotland. His parents were wealthy. He was raised in the [Celtic] Catholic faith. In the evening of 31st August 651 he was in charge of some sheep when he saw what he believed to be a light coming to earth and returning with a human soul to heaven. This

date was the night when St Aidan had died. Cuthbert spent some time as a soldier but then determined to enter the monastery at Melrose, founded by Aidan. When aged about 30 he became Prior (number two to the Abbot). In 661 a plague struck Melrose. It killed the Abbot and Cuthbert succeeded him. He then helped plague victims while carrying out his missionary work in the countryside, evangelising the people. When in 664 the Synod of Whitby decided to follow the Roman, rather than the Celtic, practice of calculating Easter, the Lindisfarne monks went back to Iona. After that Cuthbert, who accepted the decision in favour of Rome, though raised in the Celtic rite, also became the prior of Lindisfarne. Cuthbert remained there for some 10 years, a popular and outgoing person, it is said. He was renowned for his gentleness and tact, his devotion to the Mass and to the task of educating people in the Roman rite.

At about the age of 40, Cuthbert felt the vocation to become a hermit, fighting evil through a life dedicated to solitude. He built a hermitage on Inner Farne. People visited him from time to time in search of guidance and spiritual healing. In the 680s the King and Church asked Cuthbert to leave his hermit life and become a bishop. It was not something he wished to do, and he resisted for some time, but he eventually agreed and was active as a travelling bishop, following the example of Aidan. At York he was consecrated Bishop of Lindisfarne at Easter 685. After a couple of years he felt that his life was coming to an end and he returned to his Inner Farne hermitage where he died on 20th March 687. 20th March is his feast day. He is the patron saint