

was still working, dictating the end of a translation of St John's Gospel, on the day of his death in 735. The Gospel translation finished, he died in his cell singing Glory be to the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Bede was buried at Jarrow, his remains later being removed to Durham, where they are now in the Galilee Chapel of the Cathedral. Bede's reputation, particularly as a scriptural commentator, spread rapidly through Europe, greatly assisted by the school founded at York by his pupil Archbishop Egbert, then by the learned monk, Alcuin, a native of York and student at the school. Alcuin was asked by Charlemagne to become head of the Palatine School at Aachen, where he introduced English learning methods and hugely influenced the development of Western European Catholicism. In 1899 Bede was made one of the only 36 Doctors of the Church, those saints whose writings are considered to have special doctrinal authority. Modern scholars have praised the *Historia Ecclesiastica* e.g. as one of the "small class of books which transcend all but the most fundamental conditions of time and place..". A recent historian said that Bede was "the first and greatest of England's historians". Bede was called 'Venerable' within two generations of his death. Nobody is sure why. Legend has it that a monk left a gap in Bede's epitaph, having written: "Hac sunt in fossa Bedae . . . ossa" ("in this ditch lie the bones of Bede"). *The next morning Angels had inserted the word "Venerabilis".* -Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? When those who do evil draw near, they stumble and fall.

First Reading: Genesis 3: 9-15

Responsorial Psalm:129: Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 3: 20-35

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my saving strength.



Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Anglo-Saxon Saints (5) St. Bede:

St. Bede the Venerable was born in about 672 in Jarrow. At age 7 he was entrusted to the care of the monastery

of St Peter at Monkwearmouth and by the age of 13 he was moved to the new associated monastery of St Paul in Jarrow. He became a deacon aged 19 and ordained a priest at 30. The information we have on his life essentially appears in his most famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* ("the *Historia Ecclesiastica*"). He wrote: "...I have spent the whole of my life within that monastery devoting all my pains to the study of the Scriptures, and amid the observance of monastic discipline and the daily charge of singing in the Church, it has been ever my delight to learn or teach or write." It appears that he spent his entire existence, save for some visits to York and Lindisfarne, writing, praying and otherwise serving God in the monastery at Monwearmouth/Jarrow.

From the British Library website we are told that Bede wrote many biblical commentaries and the lives of three saints, including St Cuthbert. He composed a historical martyrology, a list of martyrs and saints arranged in calendar order of their feast days. Bede's further works include treatises on orthography (spelling conventions), poetic metre and scientific subjects, such as *De temporum ratione* (On the reckoning of time) which explains the use of calendars, the meaning of the Zodiac and the calculation of Christian holy days. *De natura rerum* (On the nature of things) is described as an encyclopaedic text, collecting contemporary theories about a wide range of subjects, including cosmology, time and arithmetic. Bede's most celebrated writing is, of course, the *Historia Ecclesiastica*, written about the age of 59. It relates the story of the establishment and spread of Christianity in England and the emergence of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

The Catholic Encyclopaedia says that one of his disciples, Cuthbert (not the saint), wrote "I can with truth declare that I never saw with my eyes or heard with my ears anyone return thanks so unceasingly to the living God." Bede