

Wednesday 13 January 2021

St Hilary of Poitiers



Hilary was born at the beginning of the fourth century. He was elected Bishop of Poitiers in 350. He fought strongly against Arianism and was exiled by the Emperor Constantius to Phrygia where he learnt Greek theological thought. He was sent back to Gaul in 360 labelled a “mischief maker” by the heretics because they couldn’t get the better of him. He wrote hymns that taught The Faith - a practice he learnt from Eastern Church. His works are full of wisdom and learning, directed to the strengthening of the Catholic faith and the right interpretation of Scripture. He died in 367. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1851. In England he gives his name to the “Hilary Term” of universities and courts of law which begin on or about his Feast Day

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon Ps 36: 30-31

The mouth of the just man utters wisdom,
and his tongue tells forth what is just;
the law of his God is in his heart.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we may rightly understand and
truthfully profess
the divinity of your Son,
which the Bishop Saint Hilary taught with
such constancy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

1st reading: Letter to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Christ too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God’s religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

Responsorial Ps Psalm 104(105):1-4,6-9

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the
peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.
He, the Lord, is our God:
his judgements prevail in all the earth.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

