

Wed 12 Jan. St Benet Biscop. Mass at 10.30 at SMMs



Biscop (Baducing) was born in 628 and was a nobleman of the court of King Oswy of Northumbria. His desire to enter the monastic life took him on two pilgrimages to Rome. He joined the Community at Lerins, off the coast of France and took the name Benedict. Though only there two

years and with many visits to other monasteries to learn their rules he was asked to return to England with Theodore, the new Archbishop of Canterbury. He stayed with Theodore for two years before coming to Wearmouth where with King Egfrith's help he founded two monasteries - Wearmouth in 674 and Jarrow in 682. Benet continued to visit the continent and brought back many books, making his monasteries leading centres of learning. He brought the art of glass making to our land. He brought Peter the Papal cantor to teach plainsong to his monks. By the time of his death in 690 his two monasteries were really important centres of learning and culture.

Thu 23 Jan. St Hilary. Mass at 9.30 at GS and 19.30 at SMMs



Hilary was born in 315 and was brought up as a pagan and married young. He converted to Christianity. He was elected Bishop of Poitiers in France in 350. He fought strongly against Arianism and was exiled to Phrygia

(Asia Minor) by the Emperor Constantius (a follower of Arius). Hilary's works are full of wisdom and learning, directed to the strengthening of the Catholic faith and the right interpretation of Scripture. He was sent back to Poitiers in 360 labelled as a 'mischief maker' because he was constantly upsetting the Arians by declaring the true Faith rather than their faith. He died in Poitiers 367. He was declared a Doctor of the Church as late as 1851.

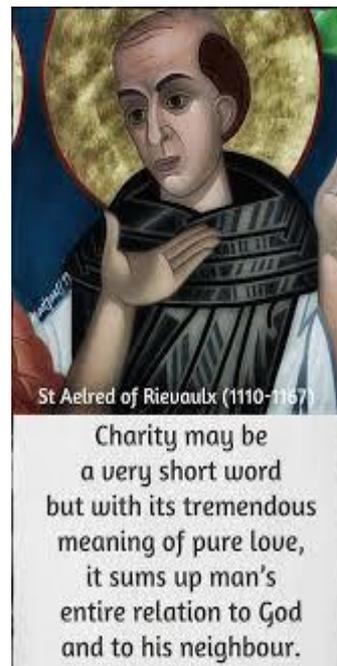
Sun 9 Jan. The Baptism of The Lord. Mass at. 9.30 at GS and 10.30 at SMMs



After thinking about babies and families for the Christmas season. It is a great leap to come to the Baptism of the Lord, an event that took place when he was 30 years old. Jesus had been given his name when he was a few days old. Today celebrates the beginning of his ministry of preaching and healing. His naming was very

much a family affair but this is very public. Jesus is trying to find out what His Father wants of Him and He comes from Nazareth to the banks of the Jordan, where his cousin, John is baptising with water. Jesus asked to be baptised and on coming out of the water God said "This is my son, the beloved: my favour rests on him." So now we are with Christ on his journey to the cross and resurrection.

Tue 11 Jan. St Aelred of Rievaulx. Mass at 14.30 at GS



Aelred was born in 1110, the son of a priest and was educated at Durham and in the household of King David of Scotland. In 1134 he visited the newly founded Cistercian abbey at Rievaulx, and was so attracted to the place and its life that he chose to become a monk there, and was eventually elected Abbot. He is remembered for his gift of friendship, for

his sensitive and gentle rule, and for his enduringly popular spiritual writings, especially that on friendship. He died at Rievaulx in 1167.