

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 12th October)

12th October

Saint Wilfrid - *bishop*



Wilfrid was born around AD633. He was a Northumbrian noble, who entered the religious life on Lindisfarne before travelling to continue his studies in Canterbury, Gaul and Rome. He returned in about AD660 to become the Abbot of Ripon. At the Synod of Whitby, he advocated adopting Roman usages and was later appointed Bishop of Northumbria. Political turmoil saw him deprived of his see for a time, but he was restored in AD668. Further vicissitudes saw him imprisoned for a while before being exiled; and he spent a while as a bishop in Mercia. His monasteries at Ripon and Hexham were finally restored to him and he died in AD709/10.

13th October

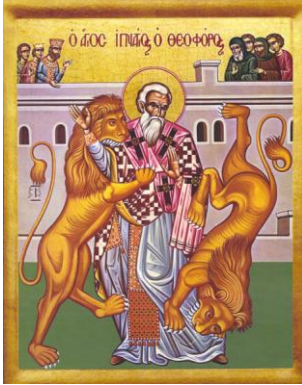
Saint Edward - *confessor, king*

Usually known nowadays as *Edward the Confessor*, he was the English king, who supposedly offered the English throne to William of Normandy (the Conqueror). He was born in 1003 and ruled from 1042 until his death in 1066. In this context, being a confessor suggests a life of simplicity and piety, which would have embraced martyrdom, had he been called upon so to do. It is difficult to say how much this was his choice rather than imposed upon him by powerful nobles, who effectively ran the country. He pioneered the building of Westminster Abbey as a royal church; and he is buried here. His was one of the few shrines not to be desecrated at the time of Henry VIII's reformation.



17th October

Saint Ignatius of Antioch - *martyr, bishop*



Ignatius is known to us only really through his writings. He was a second century Bishop of Antioch. He is one of the *Apostolic Fathers*, who authored texts in the decades following the first generation of Christianity. He was probably born within twenty or thirty years of the Resurrection; and his works give us an important glimpse into the theology of the time. He was arrested during a persecution of Christians, probably in the time of the Emperor Trajan. For some reason (maybe he was a Roman citizen appealing to the Emperor) he was taken to Rome for his execution. We do not know the date or even the year of his martyrdom; but it was some time in the early to mid second century.

18th October

Saint Luke - *Evangelist*

Saint Luke is traditionally identified as the author of the Gospel, which bears his name and also the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. He was likely an associate of Saint Paul with whom much of the latter volume is concerned: it seems that he was with Paul in Rome whilst the latter was under house arrest (II Timothy 4: 11). It may be that Luke was a gentile convert to Christianity. Tradition has it that he lived to the age of eighty-four.

