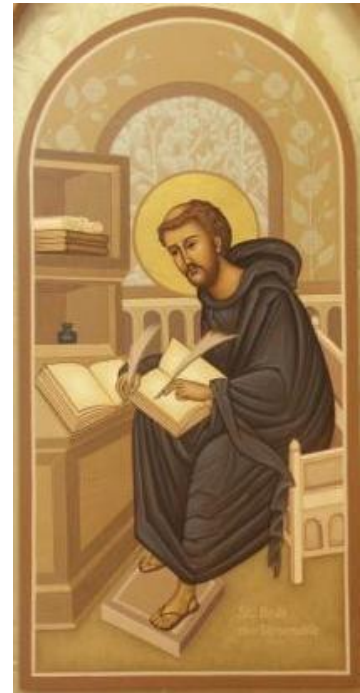


Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 24th May)

25th May

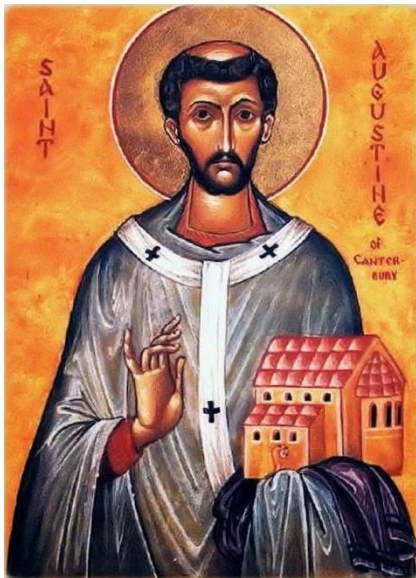
Saint Bede - *doctor of the church, religious*

The name Bede suggests that he was from an Anglo-Saxon and noble family probably around AD731. It seems he was born on lands belonging to the monastery at Jarrow. At the age of seven, he was sent to its sister abbey at Monkwearmouth, where he remained for the rest of his life: though it is not certain that intended to become a Benedictine monk from the outset. He was ordained deacon at about the age of nineteen (well below the canonical age); and priest at about the age of thirty. He wrote prolifically and also seems to have been a person of influence travelling around the North of England to various important centres and locations. He died on Ascension Day (26th May) AD735. Most of his relics now lie in Durham Cathedral, whither they were translated from Jarrow when his cult developed in the tenth century. Today, he is mostly remembered for his *Historia Ecclesiastica*. He is often called **the Venerable Bede**.



26th May

Saint Augustine of Canterbury - *bishop*



We know very little about Saint Augustine's early life. In AD595, he was the prior of a monastery in Rome when Pope S Gregory the Great chose him to lead a mission to Christianise England. He turned back once, but the Pope made him try again and he arrived in England in AD597. He was very successful, baptizing thousands once King Aethelberht of Kent had been converted. In the same year, Augustine was created the first Archbishop of Canterbury. Augustine died in AD604, but the mission continued slowly creeping northwards. Eventually it encountered the Celtic Church in the North. The two traditions clashed and the differences had to be resolved at the Synod of Whitby (AD664); it was at this point that England turned to Roman obedience (though many local traditions persisted). After his death, Augustine quickly came to be venerated as a saint. A shrine was established in the Abbey Church at Canterbury; but it was suppressed at the Reformation and the relics lost.