

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 30th August)

31st August



Saint Aidan - *bishop, religious*

We do not know when Aidan was born. He was an Irish monk, who played a key part in establishing Christianity in Northumbria. He was originally a monk at Saint Columba's monastery on Iona, but he established the priory on Lindisfarne and became its first bishop: though he travelled tirelessly in pursuit of his mission. He worked at this task closely with King (Saint) Oswald. Towards the end of his life, the missionary work saw some retreat. He died on 31st August AD651 in Bamburgh Church. He was interred under the priory he had founded on Lindisfarne.

3rd September

Saint Gregory the Great - *doctor of the Church, bishop*

Gregory was born around AD540. He was Bishop of Rome (Pope) from 3rd September AD590 until his death on 12th March AD604. In this country he is particularly remembered because he sent Saint Augustine to convert England. He was of an aristocratic family. He tried the monastic life for a short while, but soon returned to public life. He was an able administrator and quite a prolific theological author. He also undertook a great revision of the Roman Liturgy, the influence of which is still with us.

