

**31 August**

**Aidan  
Bishop of Lindisfarne,  
Missionary, 651**

Everlasting God, you sent the gentle  
Bishop Aidan to proclaim the gospel in  
this land: grant us to live as he taught, in  
simplicity, humility and love for the poor;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**31 August**

**Aidan  
Bishop of Lindisfarne,  
Missionary**

One of Columba's monks from the monastery of Iona, Aidan was sent as a missionary to Northumbria at the request of King Oswald, who was later to become his friend and interpreter. Consecrated Bishop of Lindisfarne in 635, Aidan worked closely with Oswald and became involved with the training of priests. From the island of Lindisfarne he was able to combine a monastic lifestyle with missionary journeys to the mainland where, through his concern for the poor and enthusiasm for preaching, he won popular support. This enabled him to strengthen the Church beyond the boundaries of Northumbria. He died on this day in the year 651.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**3 September**

**Gregory the Great  
Bishop of Rome,  
Teacher of the Faith, 604**

Merciful Father, who chose your Bishop  
Gregory to be a servant of the servants of God:  
grant that, like him, we may ever long to serve  
you by proclaiming your gospel to the nations,  
and may ever rejoice to sing your praises;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**3 September**

**Gregory the Great,  
Bishop of Rome,  
Teacher of the Faith.**

Gregory was born in 540 the son of a Roman Senator. As a young man he pursued a governmental career, and in 573 was made Prefect of the city of Rome. Following the death of his father, he resigned his office, sold his inheritance, and became a monk. In 579 he was sent by the Pope to Constantinople to be his representative to the patriarch. He returned to Rome in 586, and was himself elected Pope in 590. At a time of political turmoil, Gregory proved an astute administrator and diplomat, securing peace with the Lombards. He initiated the mission to England, sending forty monks from his own monastery to re-found the English Church. His writings were pastorally orientated. His spirituality was animated by a dynamic of love and desire for God. Indeed, he is sometimes called the 'Doctor of desire'. For Gregory, desire was a metaphor for the journey into God. As Pope, he styled himself 'Servant of the servants of God' – a title which typified both his personality and ministry. He died in 604.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*