

26 October

**Alfred the Great
King of the West Saxons,
Scholar 899**

God, our maker and redeemer, we pray you of your great mercy and by the power of your holy cross to guide us by your will and to shield us from our foes: that, after the example of your servant Alfred, we may inwardly love you above all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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26 October

**Alfred the Great
King of the West Saxons, Scholar**

Born in the year 849, Alfred was the King of the West Saxons who effectively brought to an end the constant threat of Danish domination in the British Isles. He came to the throne at the age of twenty-two, and after establishing peace set about bringing stability to both Church and State. He gave half of his income to founding religious houses which themselves acted as Christian centres for education, care of the sick and poor and respite for travellers. He was a daily attender at Mass and himself translated many works into the vernacular. He evolved a legal code based on common sense and Christian mercy. His whole life was marked by the compassion of Christ. He died on this day in the year 899.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

28 October

Simon and Jude Apostles

When all is made new, and the Christ is on his throne of glory, you will sit on the twelve thrones to judge the tribes of Israel.

You did not choose me but I chose you and I appointed you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that shall last.

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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28 October

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Simon and Jude were named among the twelve apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Simon is called, 'the Zealot', probably because he belonged to a nationalist resistance movement opposing the Roman occupation forces. There is no indication in the gospels whether Simon moved from the Zealot party to be a follower of Christ, or on the other hand, if he became a supporter of that group after the resurrection, seeing it as a response to God's call to proclaim the Kingdom.

Luke describes Jude as the son of James, while the Letter of Jude has him as a brother of James, neither of which negates the other. It seems he is the same person as Thaddæus, which may have been a last name. Owing to the similarity of his name to that of Judas Iscariot, Jude was rarely invoked in prayer and it is likely that because of this, interceding through him was seen as a final resort when all else failed. He became known, therefore, as the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.

The two apostles are joined together on 28 October because a church which had recently acquired their relics was dedicated to their memory in Rome on this day in the seventh century.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

BIBLE SUNDAY

We thank you, Lord, for the collected works
of your word. Grant us patience to read,
time to digest and wisdom to understand.

Amen.