

All Saints Visitors at St James Nov 1, 2020

Sister Sheila

I am Sister Sheila, an Anglican Nun. I worked with the poor in Saint John.

When I was 53, I heard God calling me to leave the safe convent in Toronto and to work with poor people in Saint John, New Brunswick. I didn't know what to expect when I stepped off the train in 1936.

Sister Mary soon joined me. Every day we walked to restaurants all over town, asking for food to put in our huge basket for the poor.

Every Christmas we held a dinner for old and lonely people to bring them a little Christmas Cheer.

We 2 sisters lived in the poor neighbourhoods with the people we helped. Wherever we lived we always set up a chapel and said our prayers 6 times a day.

I visited women in jail. Some people told the women in jail that they were going to hell. I took them puzzles, oranges, flowers and hoped to win their friendship. I wanted to help them find the way to Heaven.

I did this work with the poor in Saint John for 30 years until the end of my life. Some people here today may remember me.



Another Visitor for All Saints at St James

St. Hilda

I am St. Hilda born in 614 in Anglo-Saxon England. I became a Christian when I was 13 years old. Later I became a nun and lived with other nuns and monks.

I began in a convent on the River Wear in the north of England. Here, with a few companions, I learned Celtic monasticism, which Bishop Aidan brought from Iona from Scotland.

I was later in charge of a religious community called Whitby Abbey and was called the Abbess. Both men and women lived at the abbey, but separately in little huts of 2 or 3 people. We all worshipped together.

Under my rule the abbey became famous. We spent a lot of time studying the Bible because we believed God speaks to us through it. Five of the monks from our Abbey became bishops.

Character

I was a woman of great energy, a skilled administrator and teacher. As a landowner I employed many to care for sheep and cattle, farming, and woodcutting. I gained such a reputation for wisdom that kings and princes asked my advice. [However, I also had a concern for ordinary folk such as Cædmon. He was a herder at the monastery, who was inspired in a dream to sing verses in praise of God. I recognized his gift and encouraged him to develop it.

Synod of Whitby

King Oswiu of Northumberland chose my monastery as the location for the Synod of Whitby, the first synod or gathering of the Church in his kingdom. He invited churchmen from far away to attend. Most of those present, including myself, accepted the King's decision to adopt the Roman method of calculating Easter, establishing Roman practice in Northumbria.

The historian Bede wrote that

"All who knew me called me mother because of my outstanding devotion and grace".



Our 3rd visitor for All Saints at St James
St Joseph of Cupertino, Patron Saint of Pilots
St Joseph of Cupertino

I am Saint Joseph of Cupertino. I was a Franciscan Friar, who lived a life forged through humility, voluntary mortification, and obedience. After I became an ordained priest I would often levitate in the middle of Mass. One Christmas as carols were being sung, I soared to the high altar and knelt in the air, in ecstatic prayer. I was deemed disruptive by my religious superiors and Church authorities, and eventually I was confined to a small cell, forbidden from joining in any public gathering of the community. Eventually I was arrested on charges of witchcraft and placed under observation by the Papal Inquisition. Eventually I was taken to Orisimo where I died in 1663. In 1767 I was declared the patron saint of Airtravellers, Pilots and the learning disabled by Pope Pius VI.

