



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

St. Wulstan

St Wulstan (also written as Wulfstan and Wolstan), born c.1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire, lived through one of the most challenging periods of English history. He was consecrated Bishop of Worcester on 8th September 1062. Just four years later England would be conquered by the Normans. The Norman Conquest was devastating. Those who resisted were dealt with harshly and often with ruthless violence. Many lost their lands and positions of power and influence. Normans were appointed to replace them.



The miracle at the tomb of St. Edward the Confessor

William the Conqueror soon began to meddle in the affairs of the Church, but a miracle at the tomb of Edward the Confessor saved Wulstan from being removed from his see. The story is related in the Golden Legend (The GOLDEN LEGEND or LIVES of the SAINTS, compiled by Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa, 1275 First Edition Published 1470, ENGLISHED by WILLIAM CAXTON, First Edition 1483, vol 6). *Note: Quote includes archaic spellings.*

William's appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, Lanfranc, called Wulstan to Westminster and ordered him to resign to be replaced by one more worthy. Wulstan replied: *Forsooth father, I know well that I am not worthy to have this dignity, ne am not sufficient to occupy so great a charge, for I knew well mine unconning at such time when I was elect thereto, but I was compelled by our holy father the pope, and by good king Edward, and sith it pleaseth the council that I shall resign, I shall gladly resign, but not to you, but to him that compelled me to take it.*

He then went straight to the tomb of S. Edward with his cross in his hand, and he said to S. Edward, as he had then been alive: *O thou holy and blessed king, thou knowest well*

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that I took this charge on me against my will, but by constraint of the pope and thee I obeyed to take it, and it now so is that we have a new king, new laws, and giveth new sentences, in reproving thee of thine error for so much as thou gavest it to me, simple and unconning man, and me, for the presumption that I would consent to take it. That time thou mightest well have been beguiled, for thou wert a frail man, but now thou art joined to God, whereas thou mayst not be deceived. Thou gavest to me the charge, and to thee I here resign it again. And with that he fixed his staff into the hard stone of his tomb, saying: Take this and give it to whom it pleaseth thee. And the hard stone that lay upon his tomb resolved by miracle, and received his cross or pastoral staff, and held it so fast that it might not be taken out by man's hand. Then he put on the cowl of the monks.



William the Conqueror

Then Wulstan the servant of God meekly obeyed with great reverence unto the archbishop, and went unto the tomb whereas the staff stood fast fixed in the stone, and kneeling down saying: O blessed saint of God, I here meekly submit me to thy sentence to whom sometime thou gavest and chargedst me unworthy with this staff. If it so please thee that thine old sentence abide, then restore to me again this pastoral staff, and if it please to thee to change it, so show to us whom thou wilt shall take it. And this said he set his hand humbly and with great reverence on the staff, and anon the hard stone resolved, and let the staff to go out, as it had been soft earth or clay.

And when they that stood about him saw this great miracle they wept for joy in giving out largely tears, and asked him forgiveness, giving laud and praising unto Almighty God and to this holy saint king Edward. And ever after, king William had great devotion to visit the tomb of his cousin, S. Edward, and did great cost toward the making of his shrine.

Feast day: January 19th

Lanfranc sent the Bishop of Rochester to collect Wulstan's staff, but when he came he set hand on it and pulled at it, but the stone held it so fast that he might not move it, wherefore he was sore abashed, and came to Lanfranc, and told to him of this miracle. Then the king and Lanfranc were abashed and came both in their persons to see this thing, and there made their prayers. And after, with great reverence Lanfranc assayed and set hand on the staff for to have pulled it out, but it would not move.

Then the king and the archbishop were sore afraid, and repented them, and sent for to seek Wulstan, whom they found among the monks and brought him tofore the king and the archbishop, who anon kneeled down and asked forgiveness. And Wulstan meekly kneeled down and prayed them not so to do to him, and humbly and meekly pardoned them and prayed the archbishop humbly to bless him. Then Lanfranc went to this holy man Wulstan and said: Brother, thy rightful simplicity hath been but little set by among us, but our Lord hath made thy righteousness to shine like as a day-star. But, brother, we have trespassed and erred in judging the good to be evil and the evil good, but our Lord God hath araised the spirit of S. Edward which hath made void all our sentences, and thy simpleness is allowed tofore God. Wherefore come hither to thy king and ours, S. Edward, and receive again thy staff which he hath denied to us, for we suppose he will deliver it to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 4th after the 7pm Mass there will be an open house in Honour of First Saturday.

October 5th: First Saturday Day of Prayer and Family Activities in Honour of the Blessed Virgin from 10.45 am until 5pm.

PLEASE NOTE: NEW MASS TIMES

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close,
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Weekly Schedule *

		Ordo	Cathedral	St Winefride's	Mass Intention
Sun	15 Sep	XIV Sunday after Pentecost, Comm. Seven Sorrows of the BVM.		*11.15 Mass	Private Intention
* Sunday September 15 th at 3.15pm Sunday Mass at St. Wulstan's, Little Malvern.					
Mon	16 Sep	St. Cornelius Pope and St. Cyprian Bishop, Martyrs, III class, Com. of Ss. Euphemia Virgin, Lucy and Geminianus Martyrs.	7.30am Mass		Private Intention
Tue	17 Sep	Commemoration of the Impression of the sacred Stigmata of St. Francis Confessor, Comm.	7.30am Mass	6.30pm Confessions 7pm Mass	Private Intention Private Intention
Wed	18 Sep	Ember Wednesday, Comm. St. Joseph of Cupertino	7.30am Mass		Private Intention
Thu	19 Sep	St. Januarius Bishop and Companions Martyrs, III class.	7.30am Mass 11am Holy Hour		Private Intention
Fri	20 Sep	Ember Friday, Comm. of St. Eustace and Companions	7.30am Mass	6.30pm Confessions 7pm Mass	Private Intention Private Intention
Sat	21 Sep	St. Matthew Apostle and Evangelist, II class, Comm. Ember Saturday.		10.45 Confessions *11.15 Mass	Private Intention
Sun	22 Sep	XV Sunday after Pentecost		*11.15 Mass	Private Intention

* Changes to usual schedule: Please note changes to Mass times at St Winefride's.