

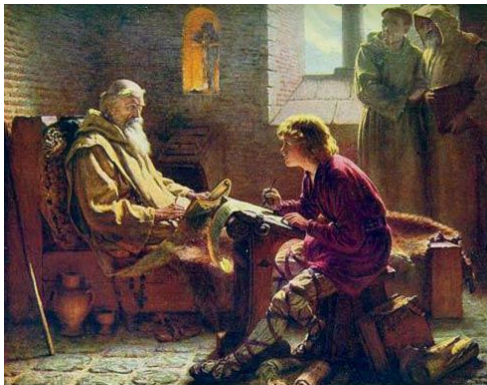
*May 25*

*- Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709*



Aldhelm (c.639–709) was one of the most learned men of his time. Thought to be related to West Saxon kings and educated at Malmesbury under the Irish scholar Maildubh, he also studied briefly at the Canterbury school flourishing under Archbishop Theodore and Abbot Hadrian after 669. A distinguished scholar, teacher, ecclesiastically energetic, appointed abbot of Malmesbury c.675, and first bishop of Sherborne c.705, Aldhelm founded monasteries, built churches, and a surviving letter shows him writing to Geraint, king of Dumnonia, urging conformity with the Roman observance of Easter. He comments on being weighed down ‘with the burdens of pastoral care’ and ‘great tumultuous uproars in secular affairs’. Yet it is said he would sing, minstrel-like, to attract passers-by in order to preach to them.

*- Bede, Priest, Monk of Jarrow, 735*



Bede, a Doctor of the Church, was born in 672 in Northumberland and lived his whole life in this region in the vicinity of the monastery of Jarrow, where he was to spend all but seven years of his life. Bede was dedicated to God at the tender age of seven as an oblate at a time when the custom of dedicating children to the monastic life was widely practiced. St. Bede labored for the remainder of his life in the scholarly work of a monk, toiling away in the scriptorium at Jarrow, copying and explicating the Sacred Scriptures. Though remembered primarily by medievalists as a historian for his history on the English Church, Bede considered himself first a Scripture scholar and a scribe whose job it was to make known the wisdom of the Scriptures.