

## Monday Eastertide week 7

**Monday 25 May 2020, St. Bede the Venerable, Doctor of the Church.**

*“In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia.”* (Entrance antiphon for today, the memorial of St. Bede) , St. Bede (673-735) is one of those saints of whom many people have heard, because of the impact that he made on the Church in England more than thirteen hundred years ago. He was educated and then lived in the neighbouring monasteries at Wearmouth and Jarrow all his life. At that time, the North East was a great centre of learning and there was a large collection of Christian books including the writings of the fathers of the Church, as well as copies of the Bible (remember, all books were then hand written, so were extremely valuable and rare). St. Bede is famous for his work on the history of the Church and his work provides an excellent contemporary witness to the faith in this so called “dark ages” of the Church. However, as the antiphon says, He was filled with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding and also wrote at least 25 commentaries on the Scriptures and translations of the Gospels. It is for all this that he is known as a doctor of the Church. (A doctor of the Church is someone whose teaching has contributed to our understanding of the mystery of salvation.) Although St. Bede spent most of his life alone in his cell, He was united to Christ in love, and so he could say with Jesus, “I am not alone because the Father is with me” (Jn. 16:33). Let us with St. Bede say this prayer:

*“I pray to you, noble Jesus, that as you have graciously granted me joyfully to imbibe the words of your knowledge, so you will also of your bounty grant me to come at length to yourself, the fount of all wisdom, and to dwell in your presence for ever.”*

Carol Ann Harnett 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020