

## This Month's Liturgy; May 2022

Because we celebrated Easter relatively late this year, this whole month of May is spent in Eastertide and so we will be getting used to the return of the **Alleluia**, the singing of the praise of the Lord for his good gifts. We continue in this season to read from the Acts of the Apostles which is almost the *'what happened next'* after the events of that momentous Passover weekend at Jerusalem. The proclamation of the risen Christ (*why look among the dead for one who is alive?* Luke chapter 24, verse 5) leads to the various ways in which individuals and communities translate that proclamation into their every-day living; what difference does it make to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus for the way in which we live our lives – or perhaps better to bring it closer to home, how I live **my** life?

On May 25<sup>th</sup> we in the seminary keep the feast of the Venerable Bede, our patronal feast. It is a case of seeing how this Benedictine monk of Northumbria, who lived some 1400 years ago, can both inspire and guide us today in our christian living. Bede lived all his life in the confines of a monastery and so there is a sense in which we can say 'I don't live in a monastery so Bede has nothing to say to me'. That would be a mistake, I think; the experience of Christian disciples in all generations and in all periods of our tradition and history can and will teach us if we ask the question; 'Why did he or she live so generously in service of their Lord and his people?' The answer is simple – yet oh so difficult. Bede lived in this way because he thought that this was a good and fruitful and life-enhancing way of making use of the gifts with which he has been graced by God! He understood that his gifts – which for Bede was great intellect and a skill in languages - were not given simply for himself, but for the glory of God and the good of others.

Bede translated this deep-seated gratitude for God's goodness into a living witness, day in day out, in the life of his monastic community. What about me, what about you? how can we translate our gratitude to God into whole hearted and generous living in the service of the community in which I live?

I wish you a happy continuation of the Easter Season

***Father Philip***