

Mai 25th: St. Bede, the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Gospel text (Mt 11:25-30): At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

“You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike”

Fr. Antoni CAROL i Hostench
(Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain)

Today the Lord invites us to enter the school of His humble Heart, and He does so with words full of comfort: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28). On the feast of Saint Bede the Venerable (672–735), this Gospel takes on a special light, since his life was a faithful response to this call of Jesus to humility and littleness.

Bede was a monk, a scholar, a historian, and above all a contemplative of the Word. From a very young age he embraced the monastic life and, as he himself writes, “devoted to the study of the Scriptures, I made it my effort to observe the discipline of the rule and the daily duty of singing in the church.” His life unfolded in the apparent simplicity of the cloister, yet his soul was anchored in the gentle yoke of the Master.

The wisdom he handed on was the fruit of the Spirit revealed to the humble. Jesus Himself proclaimed: “I give praise to you, Father (...), for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike” (Mt 11:25). Bede is one of those little ones to whom God revealed the mysteries of His Kingdom. He did not seek human greatness, yet he was great in holiness, in wisdom, and in love for the Church. His humility is reflected in his final earthly moment: he died singing the “Gloria,” surrendering his spirit in praise.

Pope Leo XIII—who declared him a “Doctor of the Church”—said of him: “He was a perfect model of union

between learning and piety, between study and prayer.” In this way, Saint Bede teaches us that authentic Christian knowledge is born of humility and is directed to the glory of God.

His intellectual work was not a mere academic exercise, but a humble service to the Christian community: “In order to live eternally, we do not need to cheat death, but to serve life, by caring for others in this, our time together” (Leo XIV). This wisdom resounds in the life of Bede, who served the life of the Church with his pen, his preaching, and his silent love.