

Our School Saint

St. Edward the Confessor



St. Edward the Confessor was a man of great prayer - rather like a crowned monk. He was hailed throughout his life as a gentle, loyal and devoted king.

A confessor is a saint who suffers for his faith but is one step short of martyrdom. Edward suffered for his faith by resisting the temptations of the world. He lived off the income of his own lands and reached out to the poor.

He was born in Islip, near Oxford, probably in 1005. He was the son of King Ethelred and his Norman queen, Emma. The family spent several years in exile in Normandy after the Danish invasion of 1013. Ethelred was briefly reinstated as king but after his death in 1016, the Danes once again seized the crown. England was ruled by Canute until his death in 1035. During King

Canute's rule Edward vowed to make a pilgrimage to St Peter's in Rome if he managed to return safely to his kingdom.

In 1042, Edward succeeded Canute's son on the throne, however Edward found it impossible to leave his subjects to make the pilgrimage to Rome. Eventually the Pope released him from his vow on the condition he founded a monastery and dedicated it to St Peter. In accordance with the Pope's wishes, Edward built a new cathedral in Norman style to replace the Saxon church at Westminster. The cathedral became known as Westminster Abbey.

Edward was believed to have the power to heal. He began the royal custom of touching ill people to cure them. The tradition continued for nearly 700 years until the reign of Queen Anne. Edward's supporters insisted he was a deeply religious, patient and peaceful ruler who resisted war and revoked unjust taxes.

Legend has it that Edward was riding to a ceremony at a chapel dedicated to St John the Evangelist in Essex when a beggar asked for alms. Edward had no money with him so he took off his ring and handed it to the poor man instead.

A few years later two English pilgrims were travelling through the Holy Land and became stranded. They were helped by an old man who told them he was St John the Evangelist. He was carrying the ring Edward had given to the beggar some years previously. He asked the pilgrims to return it to the king telling him that in six months he would meet St John in heaven.

Edward the Confessor died on January 5 1066. He was made a saint in 1161 and his body was laid to rest at Westminster Abbey in 1163.

In the centuries that followed many sick people came to kneel at the shrine and ask to be healed

Our Class Saints

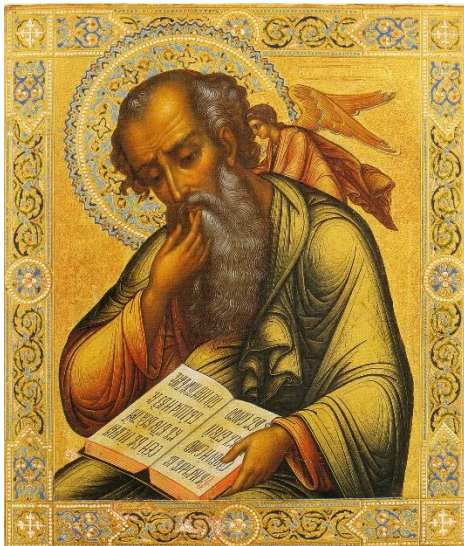
Pre-school and Nursery: St Joseph



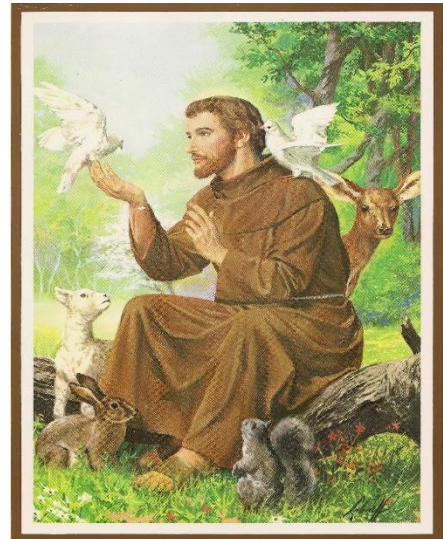
Reception is: St Therese of Lisieux



Year one: St John the Apostle.



Year Two: St Francis of Assisi



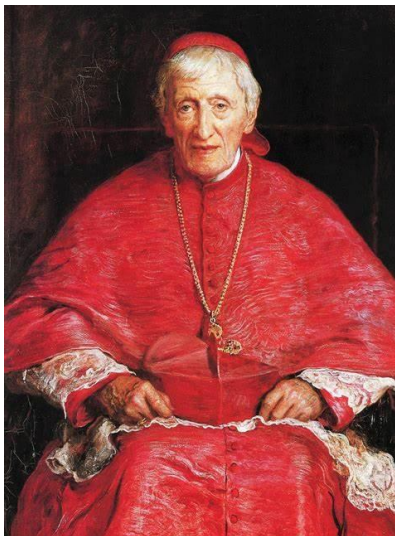
Year Three: **St Bernadette**



Year Four: **St Catherine of Siena**



Year Five: **Saint John Henry Newman**



Year Six: **Saint Patrick**

