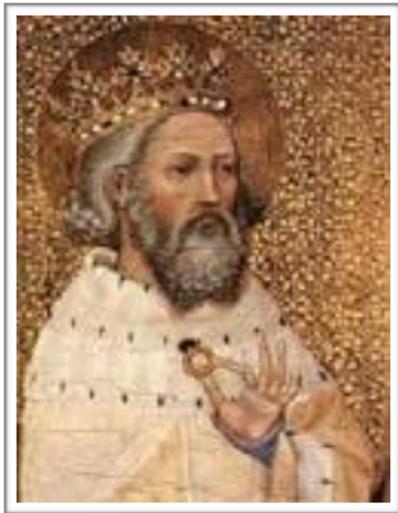


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EDWARD CONFESSOR  
- KING AND SAINT.



Edward the Confessor (1003 – 66) is the only King of England ever to be canonised. This Anglo-Saxon King of England was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey, who at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second,

Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made King of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.

As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous

cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the original Westminster Abbey - a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

On Saturday 13th October, St. Edward's Day, Bishop Jonathan will celebrate Mass at St. Edward's Shrine in Westminster Abbey as part of the National Pilgrimage to St. Edward's

Shrine. Some of us from St. Martin's are going up to London to be part of this National Pilgrimage and join with all who have sought St. Edward's prayers for over a thousand years.



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...