**12 October**

**Wilfrid of Ripon**

**Bishop, Missionary 709**

Almighty God, who called our forebears to the

light of the gospel by the preaching of your servant Wilfrid: help us, who keep his life and labour in remembrance, to glorify your name by following

the example of his zeal and perseverance; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**12 October**

**Wilfrid of Ripon,**

**Bishop, Missionary**

Wilfred, or Wilfrith, was born in Northumbria in about the year 633. He was educated at the monastery of Lindisfarne, but disapproved of what he judged to be their Celtic insularity. He journeyed to Canterbury and then to Rome. He spent three years at Lyons where he was admitted as a monk. He was appointed Abbot of Ripon and took with him the Roman monastic system and Benedictine Rule, which he immediately introduced. At the Synod of Whitby, his dominance was largely responsible for the victory of the Roman party over the Celts and, when he was elected Bishop of York, he went to Compiègne to be consecrated by twelve Frankish bishops rather than risk any doubt of schism by being ordained by Celtic bishops. There were upsets first with Chad and then with Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury, but the Roman authorities took his side and he was eventually restored to his See. After further disputes, he resigned the See of York and became Bishop of Hexham, spending his remaining years at Ripon. His gift to the English Church was to make it more clearly a part of the Church universal, but his manner and methods were not such as to draw people close to him at a personal level. He died on this day in the year 709 and was buried in Ripon.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**12 October**

**Elizabeth Fry**

**Prison Reformer**

Elizabeth Gurney was born at Earlham in Norfolk

in 1780. At the age of twenty, she married Joseph

Fry, a London merchant and a strict Quaker. She

was admitted as a minister in the Society of Friends

and became a noted preacher. The appalling state

of the prisons came to her notice and she devoted

much of her time to the welfare of female prisoners

in Newgate. In 1820 she took part in the formation

of a night shelter for the homeless in London. She travelled all over Europe in the cause of prison reform. She was a woman of a strong Christian and

evangelistic impulse and this inspired all her work.

She died on this day in 1845.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**12 October**

**Edith Cavell**

**Nurse**

Edith Cavell was born into a clergy family at Swardeston in 1865. After life as a governess, she trained as a nurse, ending up working with the Red Cross in Belgium in 1907. On the outbreak of the First World War, she became involved in caring for the wounded on both sides. She refused repatriation and then began smuggling British soldiers from Belgium into Holland. In 1915 she was arrested and brought to trial. Protecting those who worked with her, she was sentenced to death and executed by firing squad on this day in the year 1915. She went to her death calmly, forgiving her executioners, convinced she had been doing her duty as a Christian.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**13 October**

**Edward the Confessor,**

**King of England, 1066**

Sovereign God, who set your servant Edward

upon the throne of an earthly kingdom and

inspired him with zeal for the kingdom of heaven:

grant that we may so confess the faith of Christ

by word and deed, that we may, with all your saints, inherit your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

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**13 October**

**Edward the Confessor,**

**King of England, 1066**

Edward was born in 1002, the son of the English King Ethelred and his Norman wife, Emma. Living in exile during the Danish supremacy, he was invited back to England in 1042 to become King, and was heartily welcomed as a descendant of the old royal line. However, his reign was a balancing act between the influences of stronger characters at his court or overseas, sustained by Edward’s diplomacy and determination. Edward’s reputation for sanctity was built on his personal, more than his political qualities. He was concerned to maintain peace and justice in his realm, to avoid foreign wars, and to put his faith into practice. He was generous to the poor, hospitable to strangers, but no mere pietist. Having vowed as a young man to go on pilgrimage to Rome should his family fortunes ever be restored, he later felt it irresponsible to leave his kingdom, and was permitted instead to found or endow a monastery dedicated to St Peter. Edward chose the Abbey on Thorney Island, by the river Thames, thus beginning the royal patronage of Westminster Abbey. He died on 5 January 1066 and his remains were translated to a new shrine in the Abbey on this day in 1162.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**15 October**

**Teresa of Avila,**

**Teacher of the Faith, 1582**

Merciful God, who by your Spirit raised up your servant

Teresa of Avila to reveal to your Church the way of

perfection: grant that her teaching may awaken in us

a longing for holiness, until we attain to the perfect union

of love in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and for ever.

Amen.

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**15 October**

**Teresa of Avila,**

**Teacher of the Faith**

Teresa was born into an aristocratic Spanish family in 1515. Following her mother’s death, she was educated by Augustinian nuns and then ran away from home to enter a Carmelite convent when she was twenty. After initial difficulties in prayer, her intense mystical experiences attracted many disciples. She was inspired to reform the Carmelite rule, and assisted by St John of the Cross, she travelled throughout Spain founding many new religious houses for men as well as women. Her writings about her own spiritual life and progress in prayer towards union with God include *The Way to Perfection* and *The Interior Castle,* which are still acclaimed. She knew great physical suffering and died of exhaustion on 4 October 1582. Her feast is on 15 October because the very day after her death, the reformed calendar was adopted in Spain and elsewhere and eleven days were omitted from October that year.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**17 October**

**Ignatius**

**Bishop, Martyr c 107**

Feed us, O Lord, with the living bread and make us

drink deep of the cup of salvation that, following the teaching of your Bishop Ignatius and rejoicing in the faith with which he embraced a martyr’s death, we

may be nourished for that eternal life for which he longed; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**17 October**

**Ignatius,**

**Bishop of Antioch, Martyr**

Ignatius was born probably in Syria in about the year AD35 and was either the second or third Bishop of Antioch, the third largest city in the Roman Empire. Nothing is known of his life except his final journey under armed escort to Rome, where he was martyred around the year 107. In the course of this journey, he met Polycarp in Smyrna and wrote a number of letters to various Christian congregations which are among the greatest treasures of the primitive Church. In the face of persecution he appealed to his fellow Christians to maintain unity with their Bishop at all costs. His letters reveal his passionate commitment to Christ, and how he longed ‘to imitate the passion of my God’.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*