**7 November**

**Willibrord of York**

**Bishop, Apostle of Frisia 739**

God, the Saviour of all, you sent your Bishop

Willibrord from this land to proclaim the good

news to many peoples and confirm them in their

faith: help us also to witness to your steadfast

love by word and deed so that your Church may

increase and grow strong in holiness; through

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Church of England

**7 November**

**Willibrord of York**

**Bishop, Apostle of Frisia**

Willibrord was born in Northumbria and educated at Ripon but the main part of his life was dedicated to his missionary work in Frisia and northern Germany. He built many churches, inaugurated bishoprics and consecrated cathedrals: the Cathedral of Utrecht, with a diocesan organisation based on that of Canterbury, is his most well-known foundation. Together with his younger contemporary, Boniface, he began a century of English Christian influence on continental Christianity. Alcuin described him as venerable, gracious and full of joy, and his ministry as based on energetic preaching informed by prayer and sacred reading.

He died on this day in 739 and was buried at Echternach monastery in Luxembourg, which he founded.

He is the Patron Saint of the Netherlands.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**8 November**

**The Saints and Martyrs of England**

God, who the glorious company of the redeemed

adore, assembled from all times and places of your dominion: we praise you for the saints of our own

land and for the many lamps their holiness has lit;

and we pray that we also may be numbered at last

with those who have done your will and declared

your righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**8 November**

**The Saints and Martyrs of England**

The date when Christianity first came to the British Isles is not known, but there were British Bishops at the Council of Arles in the year 314, indicating a Church with order and worship. Since those days, Christians from these lands have shared the message of the good news at home and around the world. As the world-wide fellowship of the Anglican Communion has developed, incorporating peoples of many nations and cultures, individual Christian men and women have shone as beacons, heroically bearing witness to their Lord, some through a simple life of holiness, others by giving their lives for the sake of Christ.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**10 November**

**Leo the Great,**

**Bishop of Rome,**

**Teacher of the Faith 461**

God our Father, who made your servant,

Leo strong in the defence of the faith:

fill your Church with the spirit of truth

that, guided by humility and governed

by love, she may prevail against the

powers of evil; through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.

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**10 November**

**Leo the Great,**

**Bishop of Rome,**

**Teacher of the Faith**

Leo the Great became Pope in the year 440 and twice proved his bravery in saving the citizens of Rome from the invading barbarians. He was an eloquent and wise preacher, using simple gospel texts to proclaim the Christian faith. His administrative skills were unrivalled and he used the resources of the Church for the good of the people. Rather than further confuse Christians by entering into the controversy over the person of Christ, Leo spoke simply of the humility of Christ who was divine and human in his compassion, uniting biblical images in prayer rather than dividing in debate. Leo died on this day in the year 461.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**11 November**

**Martin of Tours**

**Bishop**   **c.397**

God all powerful, who called Martin from

the armies of this world to be a faithful

soldier of Christ: give us grace to follow

him in his love and compassion for the

needy, and enable your Church to claim

for all people their inheritance as children

of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**11 November**

**Martin, Bishop of Tours**

Born in about the year 316 in Pannonia (in modern-day Hungary), Martin was a soldier in the Roman army and a Christian. He found the two rôles conflicted and, under the influence of Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers he founded a monastery in Hilary’s diocese in the year 360, the first such foundation in Gaul. The religious house was a centre for missionary work in the local countryside, setting a new example where, previously, all Christian activity had been centred in cities and undertaken from the cathedral there. In 372, Martin was elected Bishop of Tours by popular acclaim and he continued his monastic lifestyle as a Bishop, remaining in that ministry until his death on this day in the year 397.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*