

Northern Saints

episode three notes

Paulinus

Paulinus was a missionary from Rome who, after moving to England, found himself in Royal courts impressing pagan leaders. He then baptised the King of Northumbria, Edwin and his High Priest, Coifi. This led to a succession of Christian kings finding faith in Jesus

Paulinus gave up a life of wealth to become a missionary from Rome to England. Do you have any examples of extreme sacrifice to follow the call of God?

Moving from Rome to England in 601AD would have been a huge cultural shock. How do you think a Christian missionary can translate the gospel to the people of rural England?

It is easy to think all missionaries are incredibly successful and never hit problems. Some of those converted under St Paulinus' teaching returned to paganism, some went on to establish abbeys. How should we view success as evangelists in God's Kingdom?

Evangelism is a scary word in the church. It brings up all kinds of mixed and unhelpful imagery for most of us so we find the whole concept off putting.

At the time of St Paulinus, there was an urgency behind their work. Why was this? Are we missing some of that in 2020's UK?

How do you find the idea of evangelism personally? What have been examples of helpful models of evangelism in your own life?

Do you think of yourself as evangelistic? How has it felt when you have shared your faith with someone? Do you have any tips for others in the group who may struggle with this?

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St Paulinus is the only one of our spiritual giants in this series not originally from the North. He seems to have been adopted by the North so much that he became the first bishop of York and was welcomed into the differing royal families of the north when the British Isles was split into 5 different kingdoms.

Is everyone in the group originally from the North? What about parents and grandparents? How do you feel the North has benefitted and been enriched from people making home here and genuinely becoming part of its makeup?

Did you know just what a spiritual legacy the North has? How does that identity change how you feel about the North?

What are some of your favourite things about living in the North? How do you think that helps churches flourish here?

Spend the rest of your time together dreaming together ideas of how to release evangelists like Paulinus to share the message of the gospel in our everyday lives and how we as churches can welcomes those that the evangelists bring in!