

Today is the memorial of St. Ambrose, who lived in the fourth century.

He was a Roman governor based in the city of Milan. On the death of the bishop of Milan in 374 AD, Ambrose was sent to settle the crowd down - as there was a dispute as to whether the bishop should be an Arian or a Catholic.

The Arians believed that Jesus Christ was not the second Person of the Trinity; but was a lesser, created being that God had raised up.

Ambrose was known to be Catholic in his belief, and the crowd turned and began to chant for him to be appointed the bishop of Milan.

This was awkward, since at that time, Ambrose wasn't even baptized.

Ambrose fled the crowd, but while hiding in a colleague's house - was eventually turned over and with a week was baptized, ordained, and consecrated bishop.

Ambrose is considered one of the four Latin doctors of the Church - the others being Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great. It was Ambrose, whose preaching so impressed Augustine as to lead him to the Faith.

Today's readings speak first of God's grace providing strength to the weary; and in the Gospel, Our Lord encourages us to come to Him and find rest.

Let us not grow weary in our Advent devotions; but persevere in prayer. Let us turn to God for our strength and know that Christ desires to lighten our burden.