

= Paulinus of York =

Paulinus (died 10 October 644) was a Roman missionary and the first Bishop of York . A member of the Gregorian mission sent in 601 by Pope Gregory I to Christianize the Anglo @-@ Saxons from their native Anglo @-@ Saxon paganism , Paulinus arrived in England by 604 with the second missionary group . Little is known of Paulinus ' activities in the following two decades .

After some years spent in Kent , perhaps in 625 , Paulinus was consecrated a bishop . He accompanied Æthelburg of Kent , sister of King Eadbald of Kent , on her journey to Northumbria to marry King Edwin of Northumbria , and eventually succeeded in converting Edwin to Christianity . Paulinus also converted many of Edwin 's subjects and built some churches . One of the women Paulinus baptised was a future saint , Hilda of Whitby . Following Edwin 's death in 633 , Paulinus and Æthelburg fled Northumbria , leaving behind a member of Paulinus ' clergy , James the Deacon . Paulinus returned to Kent , where he became Bishop of Rochester . He received a pallium from the pope , symbolizing his appointment as Archbishop of York , but too late to be effective . After his death in 644 , Paulinus was canonized as a saint and is now venerated in the Eastern Orthodox , Roman Catholic , and Anglican Churches .

= = Early life = =

Paulinus was a monk from Rome sent to the Kingdom of Kent by Pope Gregory I in 601 , along with Mellitus and others , as part of the second group of missionaries sent to convert the Anglo @-@ Saxons to Christianity . He was probably an Italian by birth . The second group of missionaries arrived in Kent by 604 , but little is known of Paulinus ' further activities until he went to Northumbria .

Paulinus remained in Kent until 625 , when he was consecrated as bishop by Justus , the Archbishop of Canterbury , on 21 July . He then accompanied Æthelburg , the sister of King Eadbald , to Northumbria where she was to marry King Edwin . A condition of the marriage was that Edwin had promised that he would allow Æthelburg to remain a Christian and worship as she chose . Bede , writing in the early 8th century , reports that Paulinus wished to convert the Northumbrians , as well as provide religious services to the new queen .

There is some difficulty with Bede 's chronology on the date of Æthelburg 's marriage , as surviving papal letters to Edwin urging him to convert imply that Eadbald only recently had become a Christian , which conflicts with Bede 's chronology . The historian D. P. Kirby argues that Paulinus and Æthelburg must therefore have gone to Northumbria earlier than 624 , and that Paulinus went north , not as a bishop , but as a priest , returning later to be consecrated . The historian Henry Mayr @-@ Harting agrees with Kirby 's reasoning . Another historian , Peter Hunter Blair , argues that Æthelburg and Edwin were married before 625 , but that she did not go to Northumbria until 625 . If Kirby 's arguments are accepted , then the date of Paulinus ' consecration needs to be changed by a year , to 21 July 626 .

Bede describes Paulinus as " a man tall of stature , a little stooping , with black hair and a thin face , a hooked and thin nose , his aspect both venerable and awe @-@ inspiring " .

= = Bishop of York = =

Bede relates that Paulinus told Edwin that the birth of his and Æthelburg 's daughter at Easter 626 was because of Paulinus ' prayers . The birth coincided with a foiled assassination attempt on the king by a group of West Saxons from Wessex . Edwin promised to convert to Christianity and allow his new daughter Eanflæd to be baptised if he won a victory over Wessex . He did not fulfill his promise immediately after his subsequent military success against the West Saxons however , only converting after Paulinus had revealed the details of a dream the king had before he took the throne , during his exile at the court of King Rædwald of East Anglia . In this dream , according to Bede , a stranger told Edwin that power would be his in the future when someone laid a hand on his head . As Paulinus was revealing the dream to Edwin , he laid his hand on the king 's head , which was the

proof Edwin needed . A late seventh @-@ century hagiography of Pope Gregory I claims that Paulinus was the stranger in the vision ; if true , it might suggest that Paulinus spent some time at Rædwald 's court , although Bede does not mention any such visit .

It is unlikely that it was supernatural affairs and Paulinus ' persuasion alone that caused Edwin to convert . The Northumbrian nobles seem to have been willing and the king also received letters from Pope Boniface V urging his conversion . Eventually convinced , Edwin and many of his followers were baptised at York in 627 . One story relates that during a stay with Edwin and Æthelburg at their palace in Yeavering , Paulinus spent 36 days baptising new converts . Paulinus also was an active missionary in Lindsey , and his missionary activities help show the limits of Edwin 's royal authority .

Pope Gregory 's plan had been that York would be England 's second metropolitan see , so Paulinus established his church there . Although built of stone , no trace of it has been found . Paulinus also built a number of churches on royal estates . His church in Lincoln has been identified with the earliest building phase of the church of St Paul in the Bail .

Among those consecrated by Paulinus were Hilda , later the founding abbess of Whitby Abbey , and Hilda 's successor , Eanflæd , Edwin 's daughter . As the only Roman bishop in England , Paulinus also consecrated another Gregorian missionary , Honorius , as Archbishop of Canterbury after Justus ' death , some time between 628 and 631 .

= = Bishop of Rochester = =

Edwin was defeated by the Welsh and died at the Battle of Hatfield Chase , on a date traditionally given as 12 October 633 . One problem with the dating of the battle is that Pope Honorius I wrote in June 634 to Paulinus and Archbishop Honorius saying that he was sending a pallium , the symbol of an archbishop 's authority , to each of them . The pope 's letter shows no hint that news of Edwin 's death had reached Rome , almost nine months after the supposed date of the battle . The historian D. P. Kirby argues that this lack of awareness makes it more likely that the battle occurred in 634 .

Edwin 's defeat and death caused his kingdom to fragment into at least two parts . It also led to a sharp decline in Christianity in Northumbria when Edwin 's immediate successors reverted to paganism . Although Paulinus ' deacon , James , remained in the north and struggled to rebuild the Roman mission , Edwin 's widow decided to return to Kent . Paulinus went with her , taking Edwin and Æthelburg 's son and daughter , as well as one of Edwin 's grandsons . The two boys went to the continent for safety , to the court of King Dagobert I. Æthelburg , Eanflæd , and Paulinus remained in Kent , where Paulinus was offered the see , or bishopric , of Rochester , which he held until his death . Because the pallium did not reach Paulinus until after he had left York , it was of no use to him .

= = Death and veneration = =

Paulinus died on 10 October 644 at Rochester , where he was buried in the sacristy of the church . His successor at Rochester was Ithamar , the first Englishman consecrated to a Gregorian missionary see . After Paulinus ' death , Paulinus was revered as a saint , with a feast day on 10 October . When a new church was constructed at Rochester in the 1080s his relics , or remains , were translated (ritually moved) to a new shrine . There also were shrines to Paulinus at Canterbury , and at least five churches were dedicated to him . Although Rochester held some of Paulinus ' relics , the promotion of his cult there appears to have occurred after the Norman Conquest . He is considered a saint by the Roman Catholic Church , the Anglican Communion , and the Orthodox Church .

Paulinus ' missionary efforts are difficult to evaluate . Bede implies that the mission in Northumbria was successful , but there is little supporting evidence , and it is more likely that Paulinus ' missionary efforts there were relatively ineffectual . Although Osric , one of Edwin 's successors , was converted to Christianity by Paulinus , he returned to paganism after Edwin 's death . Hilda , however , remained a Christian , and eventually went on to become abbess of the influential Whitby Abbey . Northumbria 's conversion to Christianity was mainly achieved by Irish missionaries brought

into the region by Edwin 's eventual successor , Oswald .