

= Honorius of Canterbury =

Honorius ( died 30 September 653 ) was a member of the Gregorian mission to Christianize the Anglo @-@ Saxons from their native Anglo @-@ Saxon paganism in 597 AD who later became Archbishop of Canterbury . During his archiepiscopate , he consecrated the first native English bishop of Rochester as well as helping the missionary efforts of Felix among the East Anglians . Honorius was the last to die among the Gregorian missionaries .

= = Early life = =

A Roman by birth , Honorius may have been one of those chosen by Pope Gregory the Great for the Gregorian mission to England , although it seems more likely that he was a member of the second party of missionaries , sent in 601 . It is not known if his name was given to him at birth or if he chose it when he became archbishop .

= = Archbishop = =

In 627 , Honorius was consecrated as archbishop by Paulinus of York at Lincoln . Honorius wrote to Pope Honorius I asking the pope to raise the see of York to an archbishopric , so that when one archbishop in England died , the other would be able to consecrate the deceased bishop 's successor . The pope agreed , and sent a pallium for Paulinus , but by this time , Paulinus had already been forced to flee from Northumbria . When Paulinus , after the death of King Edwin of Northumbria in October 633 , fled Northumbria , he was received by Honorius and appointed to the bishopric of Rochester . The papal letter is dated to June 634 , and implies that news of Edwin 's death had not reached the pope . This evidence may mean that the traditional date of Edwin 's death may need to be moved to October 634 . The papal letter may also mean that the traditional date of consecration for Honorius may need re @-@ dating , as the long gap between 627 , when he is said to have been consecrated , and 634 , when he finally received a pallium , is much longer than usually found . It may be that Honorius was consecrated closer to 634 . The papal letter to Honorius is given in the Ecclesiastical History of the medieval writer Bede .

Honorius consolidated the work of converting the English by sending Felix , a Burgundian , to Dunwich after Felix came to the archbishop and made known his desire to go to East Anglia as a missionary . Honorius may have consecrated Felix as the first bishop of East Anglia or Felix may have already have been consecrated on the continent . The dating of this episode is unclear , but it is probably close to 631 . It is possible that King Sigeberht of East Anglia , who converted to Christianity while he was in exile on the continent , had already met Felix and was behind Felix 's journey to Honorius . As well as his help to Felix , Honorius consecrated the first Anglo @-@ Saxon bishop , Ithamar of Rochester , and his successor was also a native of England .

Honorius had few conflicts with the Irish missionary efforts , and admired Aidan , one of the leading Irish clergy .

= = Death and legacy = =

Honorius died on 30 September 653 , the last of the Gregorian missionaries . He was buried at the Church of St. Augustine 's in Canterbury . He was later revered as a saint , with his feast day being 30 September . His relics were translated to a new tomb in 1091 , and around that same time a hagiography of his life was written by Goscelin . In the 1120s his relics were still being venerated at St Augustine 's .