



St. Edward the Confessor

Born: 1003 at Islip, Oxford, England

Died: 5 January 1066 of natural causes, interred at the Abbey of Saint Thomas Becket, body incorrupt

Canonized: 1161 by Pope Alexander III

Patronage: difficult marriages, English royal family, kings, separated spouses, Sestriere, Italy

Born a prince, the son of King Ethelred II and Queen Emma; half-brother to King Edmund Ironside and King Hardicanute. When his father was unseated by Danish invasion. Edward and his brother were sent to Denmark to be quietly killed, but the officer in charge took pity on the boys, and sent them to Sweden, and from there they went to the King of Hungary to be raised and educated. Edward's interests were in things religious. When grown, the brothers moved to Normandy and waited their chance to return to England.

In 1035 Edward and Alfred tried to regain the crown of England, but they were turned back, Alfred was killed, and Edward returned to Normandy. He returned to England again in 1042, and was chosen king by acclamation, ascending the throne on 3 April. Edward gained a reputation as just and worthy of the kingship, and the people of England supported him.

During his reign Edward repulsed invasion, helped restore the King of Scotland to his throne, remitted unjust taxes, and was noted for his generosity to the poor and strangers, and for his piety and love of God. He married to satisfy his people, but he and the queen remained chaste. Reported to have the power to heal by touch. Built churches, including Westminster Abbey.