

1.15 Encounter with the King at Richborough

What Augustine *does* once he arrives in Kent

(This calls for a boldness he might not always have felt within himself.)

1. **He brings a *positive message* the King**
2. The Ven. Bede wrote: “Augustine sent to Ethelbert to say that he had come from Rome bearing the best of news, namely the sure and certain promise of eternal joys in heaven and an endless kingdom with the living and true God to those who receive it.” Bede: *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
3. **He brings an *Icon of Christ*** – “bearing before them a silver cross and an icon, “the likeness of our Lord and Savior painted on a board”,
4. **He also *laments* as he and his companions arrive in Canterbury**
As the monks approached the city, they sang this prayer -
“We pray Thee, O Lord, in all Thy mercy, that Thy wrath and anger may be turned away from this city and from Thy holy house, for we are sinners.
Alleluia.”
5. **He continues to strike the necessary balance between *vision* and *community*:**
Augustine extends and enlarges Bertha’s **Church of St Martin’s** so it can serve as both the mission’s headquarters, and
- as a venue fit for a king’s baptism.
6. **He brings the Sacrament of the Word** – ‘Augustine’s Gospels’
7. **He lives a simple, monastic life:**
- Once in Canterbury, Bede tells us that the monks “began to emulate the life of the Apostles and the primitive Church.”
- He writes,
“They were constantly at prayer; they fasted and kept vigils; they preached the word of life to whomsoever they could...They practiced what they preached, and were willing to endure any hardship, and even to die for the truth which they proclaimed.”

So successful was Augustine’s tactical leadership of his mission, and so quickly was the English conversion accomplished, that within a year Rome was emboldened to send a second wave of resources and reinforcements.

1.40 Quiet space for personal reflection

Reflective Prayer

What is the positive message that you want to proclaim to ‘people of power’ where it affects your community of Faith?

What would you want to reflect on further, concerning your *identity* and your *leadership* - from the three faces of the *Christ the World Ruler* Icon?

2.10 Fourth Reflection - Legacy