# The Catholic Church and Monasticism



Image: Gregory the Great in *Dialogi* (early 12<sup>th</sup> century)

## Oboedientia, ae (f.)

Obedience

Comes from verb "oboedia" > to obey, yield obedience to, to be subject to, to serve

Original mean in Greek "universal" or "general"

# Catholic?

Used to distinguish "orthodox" Christians from "heterodox" Arians

"Catholic Church" in 6th century = all Christians who practice accepted form of Christianity as determined by church councils (like Council of Nicaea, 325)

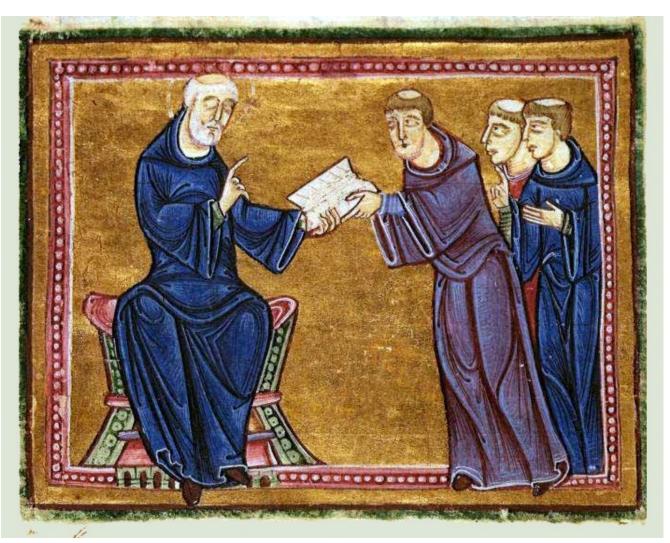


### Obedience



#### Monasticism

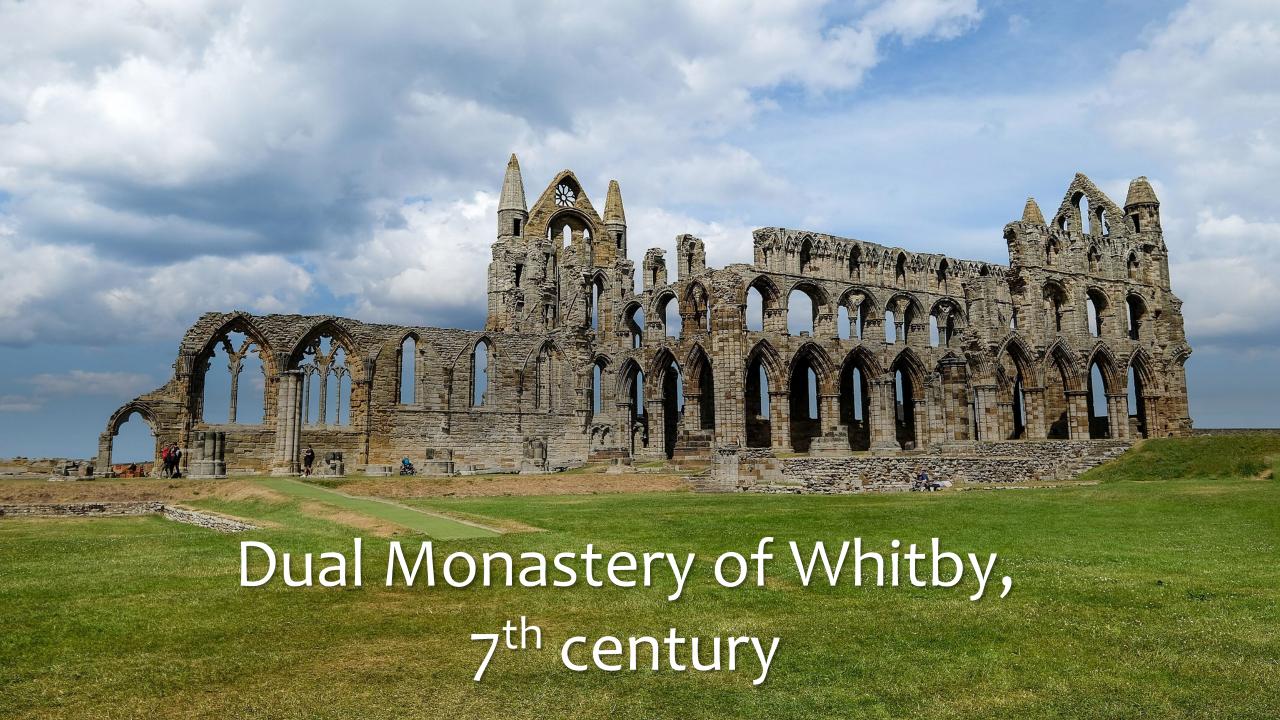
- Monos = one or alone
- St. Anthony of Egypt (251-356)
- Hermits
- Monastic communities and cooperative living



#### The Benedictine Rule (530)

By Benedict of Nursia (480-550)

- Prayer, reading, and work
- Poverty, chastity, and obedience



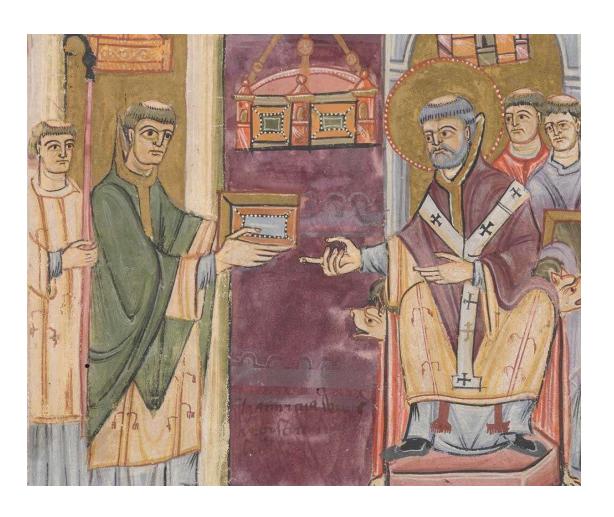


# Pope Gregory I "The Great" (r. 590-604): Pastoral Care

- The Book of Pastoral Care
  - Standard of clerical behaviour and practice
  - Responsibilities of priests and bishops
- Servus servorum Dei
  - "servant of the servants of God"
- "The Guidance of souls is the arts of all arts"

#### Settlements of Angles, Saxons and Jutes in Britain in about 600 Lothian Celtic peoples Northumbrians Deira Angles Galloway Saxons Jutes sea, swamp or alluvium Humber Estuary Middle Angles Angles South Folk East Middle Saxons Saxons West Saxons Surrey Kent South Saxons **ENGLISH CHANNEL**

#### Pope Gregory I: Conversion

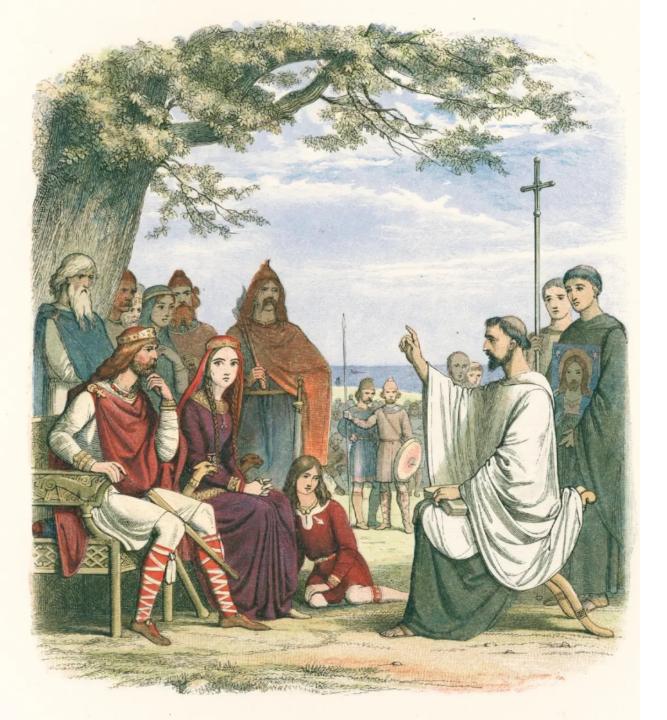


Augustine to British Isles → 596



Bede, Ecclesiastical History of the English People (Historia 731 ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum) Letter to Abbot Mellitus (page 48)

- What actions does Gregory suggest the missionaries take? Why do you think he encourages them to do these things?
- What impression does this letter give us about Gregory's perception of the English?
- What does this letter tell us about Gregory's perception of his own role as shepherd to those that are eventually converted?



Augustine preaching to King Ethelbert of Kent and his wife Bertha

Image: James Doyle, mid-19<sup>th</sup> c.

#### Gregory's Plan in the British Isles

- Establish metropolitan sees in York and Canterbury
- Controlled by Archbishop who received powers from the pope
- Establish hierarchy of:

