

7th December - Ambrose-Bees



Ambrose was a bishop in Milan, an Italian city now famous for fashion and an icon of chic. However, Ambrose tried to live a simple life and gave money to the poor. When he was a baby a swarm of bees passed over his cradle and briefly settled on his face, they left little Ambrose unharmed but with a drop of honey on his lips. He is now the patron saint of bees and beekeepers.

Honey bees have been on Earth for 30 million years. Honey bees have complicated social interaction and can communicate the distance and direction of flowers by dancing. It is also believed that the manufacture of honey is learnt rather than instinctive behaviour, as younger bees only make honey after watching older bees do it. Many crops relied on by humans are pollinated by bees. Recently many bee populations have been dramatically declining and it is thought that human chemical use is one factor in this. Not only is this a tragedy for its own sake, it could have a serious impact on food production.