

THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

There is a legend that comes down to us

from the early days of Christianity in England.

One of those helping to spread Christianity among the druids

was a monk named Wilfred (later saint Wilfred).

One day, surrounded by a group of his converts,

he struck down a huge oak tree,

which, in the druid religion, was an object of worship.

As the oak tree fell to the earth, it split into four pieces,

and from its center there grew a young fir tree,

pointing a green spire toward the sky.

the crowd gazed in amazement.

Wilfred let his axe drop, and turned to speak.

“this little tree shall be your holy tree tonight.

it is the wood of peace, for your houses are built of the fir.

it is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen.

see how it points toward the heavens.

let this be called the tree of the Christ child.

gather about it, not in the wilderness, but in your homes.

there it will be surrounded with loving gifts

and rites of kindness.”

**and to this day, that is why the fir tree is one of
our loveliest symbols of Christmas.**