

Henry I (1100-1135) and his Struggle with the Church

- The Pope in particular was trying to exert his authority on the rulers of Europe. In 1075, Pope Gregory VII had issued a Papal Bull "Dictatus Papae"
- Throughout Europe there was a struggle between the Church and Monarchs for power. One area over which they argued was called '**The Investiture Contest**'
- Henry believed that as King he should **appoint all the Archbishops** and bishops in England and personally hand over the **ring and crozier** (crook) at their investiture ceremony.
- When someone was made a bishop he became a landowner. Henry also believed that all clergy were his feudal subjects (vassals) and therefore they should do **homage** to him for the lands they held.
- While Anselm was absent, Henry I had invested several bishops.
- To gain popularity Henry invited Anselm back from exile in Normandy.
- However, Anselm believed that the **Pope had the best right** to appoint Bishops. It was a Church matter, not the King's.
- At first, the matter could not be resolved and in 1103 Anselm returned to exile. Henry decided to keep the revenues of Canterbury.
- In 1105, Pope Pascal II intervened and threatened to excommunicate Henry and any Bishops who had been invested by Henry.
- In 1106, Henry and Anselm met at **Bec** in Normandy and a **compromise** was reached. Henry agreed that he would no longer insist on appointing Bishops and Anselm agreed that all Bishops should swear an oath of fealty to Henry.
- This matter was resolved mainly because both Henry and Anselm had the greatest of respect for each other.



Anselm's Seal

The Dictatus Papae 1075 issued by Pope Gregory VII

- 1: The Roman Church was founded by God alone.
- 2: Only the Pope (Bishop of Rome) is by law called Universal.
- 3: The Pope is the only person allowed to depose (remove) or reinstate Bishops.
- 4: That a Papal Legate may sit in judgement over any bishop, even if he is of lower rank and may depose them if needed.
- 5: The Pope may depose people in their absence.
- 6: The Pope may depose Kings and Emperors.
- 7: That no council can be called 'General' without his permission.
- 8: That only God can judge the Pope. The Pope is God's representative on Earth.
- 9: No-one should criticize anybody who appeals to the Pope.
- 10: The Roman Catholic Church has never made a mistake, nor as the Bible says will it ever do so! (Luke Ch22 v 32)
- 11: The Pope may depose Bishops without calling a Council.
- 12: The Pope can absolve the subjects of a wicked King or Emperor from their fealty to them.