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Diocese of Portsmouth

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1 February

St Anne Line

Martyr

MEMORIAL

only in RINGWOOD

She was the daughter of William Heigham of Dunmow, Essex, a gentleman of means and an ardent Calvinist. When she and her brother announced their intention of becoming Catholics they were both disinherited and driven from home. In 1585 Anne married Roger Line, also a convert, and lived for a time in his home town of Ringwood, now in the Diocese. Shortly after their marriage he was arrested for attending Mass and imprisoned. After a short confinement he was allowed to go into exile in Flanders, where he died in 1594.

Anne became housekeeper to Fr John Gerard SJ, who had established a house in London offering refuge to priests. She took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in order to be more completely dedicated to her work. After Fr Gerard's escape from the Tower in 1597, Anne moved to another house which became a rallying-point for neighbouring Catholics.

On 2 February 1601 Fr Francis Page was saying Mass in the house when priest-catchers broke in to arrest him. Fr Page quickly unvested and slipped into a hiding place prepared for him by Anne, but the altar prepared for the service was still visible. Although Fr Page subsequently escaped, Anne was arrested with two other laypeople and tried at the Old Bailey on 26 February 1601. She was so weak that she was brought to trial in a chair. She told the court that, far from regretting having concealed a priest, her only grief was that she "could not receive a thousand more". She was sentenced to hang the next day at Tyburn. Anne executed immediately before two priests, Fr Roger Filcock SJ and Fr Mark Barkworth OSB, though as a woman she was spared the disemboweling that they endured. At the scaffold she repeated what she had said at her trial, declaring loudly to the bystanders: "I am sentenced to die for harbouring a Catholic priest, and so far I am from repenting for having so done, that I wish, with all my soul, that where I have entertained one, I could have entertained a thousand."

Anne Line was beatified by Pope Pius XI on 15 December 1929, and canonised by Pope Paul VI on 25 October 1970 as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, whose joint feast is celebrated on 4 May (formerly on 25 October). Anne is also commemorated in the national calendar for England and Wales on 30 August, sharing the celebration with Ss Margaret Clitherow and Margaret Ward. In Ringwood she is traditionally commemorated on 1 February, the day before her arrest.



Entrance Antiphon

Here is a true martyr who shed her blood for Christ; her judges could not shake her by their menaces, and so she won through to the kingdom of heaven.

Opening Prayer

All-powerful, ever-living God,
you gave Saint Anne Line the courage
to witness to the gospel of Christ,
even to the point of giving her life for it.
By her prayers
help us to endure all suffering for love of you
and to seek you with all our hearts,
for you alone are the source of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

God of love,
pour out your blessings on our gifts
and make our faith strong,
the faith which Saint Anne professed by shedding her blood.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:5)

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we are renewed by the mystery of the Eucharist.
By imitating the fidelity of Saint Anne
and by our patience
may we come to share the eternal life you have promised.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

3 March

St Vignal

Abbot

MEMORIAL

only in ALDERNEY

Vignal is a patois corruption of the Latin Guingualeus, itself a translation of the French Guéno!é or Guignole, from the Anglo-Saxon Winwaloe / Winwallus / Winwalloc. There are some fifty variants of his name, which survives in the dedication of some churches in Brittany, Cornwall and Monmouthshire. St Vignal was born about the year 460, possibly in Plouguin, to Fracan, a prince of Dumnonia [Brittany] and his wife Gwen Teirbron ["Gwen the Triple-Breasted"]. He became the first Abbot founder of the Abbey of Landévennec, just south of Brest, and died there on 3 March 532. He is supposed to have assisted St Sampson and St Magloire in evangelising the Bailiwick of Guernsey, which includes Alderney, in the 6th century. Some relics were preserved at Montreuil-sur-Mer and in St Peter's, Ghent, and until the 19th century his tomb was visible in the church at Landévennec.



The feet of the statue of St Guéno!é (Guignole) in the chapel at Prigny (Loire Atlantique) are pierced with needles by local girls who hope in this way to find their soulmates

Entrance Antiphon

(Isaiah 59:21, 56:7)

My words that I have put into your mouth, says the Lord, will never be absent from your lips, and your gifts will be accepted on my altar.

Opening Prayer

God of mercy,
you gave our fathers the light of faith
through the preaching of Saint Vignal.
May we who glory in the name of Christian
show in our lives the faith we profess.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
may the gifts your people bring
in memory of Saint Vignal
bring us your gifts from heaven.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(Mk 10:45)

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
may this pledge of eternal salvation
which we receive on the feast of Saint Vignal
be our help now and always.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

19 April

St Alphege

Martyr

MEMORIAL

only in WINCHESTER

Ælfheah or Alphege was born in 954, reputedly at Weston near Bath. Early in life, apparently against his mother's wishes, he became a monk of Deerhurst, near Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire. Seeking a quiet, more meditative life, he then moved back to Weston and lived as an anchorite in a cell on Lansdown Hill; but the peace and solitude he was seeking eluded him as people flocked to Weston to hear his wise words. He was noted for his piety and austerity.

St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury from 959 to 988, persuaded Alphege to become of Bath Abbey. Due to Dunstan's influence again, Alphege was elected Bishop of Winchester in 984 and consecrated on 19 October that year. While bishop he was largely responsible for the installation of a large organ in the Cathedral, audible from over a mile away and said to require 24 men to operate the bellows. He also built and enlarged the city's churches, and promoted not only the cult of St Swithun but also Swithun's predecessor St Æthelwold.

Following a Viking raid in 994, a peace treaty was agreed with one of the invaders, Olaf Tryggvason. Besides receiving danegeld, Olaf converted to Christianity. Alphege confirmed Olaf in his new faith and may have played a part in the treaty negotiations.

In 1006 Alphege succeeded Ælfric as Archbishop of Canterbury, taking St Swithun's head with him as a relic to the new location. He journeyed to Rome to receive his pallium but was robbed on the way. While at Canterbury he promoted the cult of St Dunstan, and introduced new practices into the liturgy.

In 1011 the Danes again invaded England and laid siege to Canterbury from 8 to 29 September. Through an act of treachery, Alphege was taken prisoner and held captive for seven months. He refused to allow a ransom to be paid for his release and as a result was killed on 19 April 1020 at Greenwich. He was first buried in St Paul's Cathedral and in 1023 his body was moved to Canterbury by King Canute. He was canonized by Pope Gregory VII in 1078.



St Alphege being asked for advice when Archbishop of Canterbury

Entrance Antiphon (cf. 4 Ezra 2:35)

Light forever will shine on your saints, O Lord, alleluia.

Opening Prayer

Lord,
fill your Church with the Spirit
that gave Saint Alphege courage
to lay down his life for his people.
By his prayers
may your Spirit make us strong
and willing to offer our lives
for our brothers and sisters.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept this offering of praise and peace
in memory of your martyr, Saint Alphege.
May it bring us your forgiveness
and inspire us to give you thanks
now and always.

Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 12:24-25)

I tell you solemnly: unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single grain;
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we receive your gifts from heaven
at this joyful feast.
May we who proclaim at this holy table
the death and resurrection of your Son
come to share his glory
with all your holy martyrs.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

26 April

Blessed Robert Anderton and William Marsden

Priests and Martyrs

MEMORIAL

only in ISLE OF WIGHT parishes

Robert Anderton (c. 1560- 1586) was born in either Lancashire or the Isle of Wight or, according to some, the Isle of Man. He graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1578. Shortly after he went abroad and converted to Roman Catholicism. He entered the English College at Rheims in 1580 and there met William Marsden, a Lancashireman. The two were ordained priest together.

After ordination they set sail for England, but were caught in a storm. They prayed that they would be allowed to die on land rather than at sea. Driven ashore on the Isle of Wight by the storm, they were immediately arrested by the authorities. In court at Winchester, they pleaded that they had not violated the law by landing in England, since their landing had been involuntary. They defended their faith and the Pope and acknowledged that they had come to exercise their ministry and reconcile people to God and the Church. This led to their being taken to London, where they were asked to take the Oath of Supremacy, acknowledging Elizabeth as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. They acknowledged the queen as their lawful queen in all secular affairs but refused to swear the Oath. As this was a treasonable offence under the Second Act of Supremacy, they were condemned to death, returned to the Isle of Wight near the place where they had landed, and were hung, drawn and quartered on 25 April 1586.

They were beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1929.



Memorial to Robert Anderton and William Marsden on the Isle of Wight

Entrance Antiphon

(Mt 25:34)

Come, you whom my Father has blessed: inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

Opening Prayer

Father,
you gave your martyrs, Blessed Robert Anderton and William Marsden,
the courage to die
in witness to Christ and the gospel.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
give us the humility to believe
and the courage to profess
the faith for which they gave their lives.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we celebrate the death of your holy martyrs.
May we offer the sacrifice
which gives all martyrdom its meaning.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(Apoc 2:7)

Those who are victorious I will feed from the tree of life, which grows in the paradise of my God,
alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
at this holy meal
we celebrate the heavenly victory
of your martyrs, Blessed Robert and William.
May this bread of life
give us the courage to conquer evil,
so that we may come to share
the fruit of the tree of life in paradise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

28 April

St Louis Marie de Montfort

Priest

MEMORIAL

only in ROMSEY

Born at Montfort-sur-Meu, Brittany, on 31 January 1673, Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort spent his childhood in the nearby village of Iffendic. At the age of 12 he entered the Jesuit College of St Thomas Becket in Rennes. Becoming aware of a call to priesthood, he commenced studies in philosophy and theology at the College before moving to the seminary of St-Sulpice in Paris towards the end of 1693.

Ordained in 1700, he spent many years devoting himself to the care of the poor and the sick and traveling round northwestern France preaching missions. In 1712 he founded the Company of Mary, an association of missionary priests, and in 1715 in La Rochelle the institute of Montfort sisters known as the Daughters of Wisdom, formerly known as the La Sagesse. Worn out by hard work and sickness, he died on 28 April 1716 at the age of 43, having been a priest for only 16 years. He was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 and canonized by Pope Pius XII on 27 July 1947.

Louis de Montfort was well-known for his devotion to Our Lady, and for the large number of hymns and canticles that he wrote. The Montfort sisters established a house in Romsey in 1894, followed by the Montfort Fathers in 1910, the first of their houses in England.



Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 15:5-6)

The Lord is my inheritance and my cup; he alone will give me my reward. The measuring line has marked a lovely place for me; my inheritance is my delight.

Opening Prayer

Lord God,
you kept Saint Louis de Montfort
faithful to Christ's pattern of poverty and humility.
May his prayers help us to be faithful to our calling
and bring us to the perfection you have shown us in your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

God of all mercy,
you transformed Saint Louis
and made him a new creature
in your image.
Renew us in the same way
by making our gifts of peace acceptable to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(cf. Mt 19:27-29)

I solemnly tell you: those who have left everything and followed me will be repaid a hundredfold and will gain eternal life.

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
may we
who are strengthened by the power of this sacrament
learn from the example of Saint Louis to seek you above all things
and to live in this world as your new creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

19 May

Dedication of the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist Portsmouth

SOLEMNITY *in the Cathedral*

FEAST *in all other churches*

The celebration of the Dedication of the Cathedral has taken place in July and October at different times in the history of the diocese. In order not to conflict with other celebrations, it is now celebrated on 19 May, the anniversary of the founding of the Diocese in 1882. The actual anniversary day of the dedication of the Cathedral is 1 July.

Two Mass formularies are provided, one for the solemnity (see following page) and the other for the feast (see page 15). The readings are common to both.



SOLEMNITY
in the Cathedral

Entrance Antiphon (Ps 67:36)

Greatly to be feared is God in his sanctuary; he, the God of Israel, gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

The Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

Father,
each year we recall the dedication of this church to your service.
Let our worship always be sincere
and help us to find your saving love in this church.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

From the Common of the Dedication of a Church (anniversary), especially the following:

1st Reading Ez 43:1-2.4-7 (Lectionary Vol II, p. 1395, no. 4)
I saw the glory of the Lord fill the Temple.

Responsorial Psalm 1 Chron 29:10-12. R/ v. 13 (p. 1396)
R/ We praise your glorious name, O Lord.

2nd Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9 (p. 1402, no. 4)
So that you too may be living stones making a spiritual house.

Gospel Acclamation Ez 37:27 (p. 1405, no. 4)
*I shall make my home among them, says the Lord;
I will be their God,
they shall be my people.*

Gospel Jn 4:19-24 (p. 1405)
True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

The Profession of Faith is said

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
as we recall the day you filled this church
with your glory and holiness,
may our lives also become
an acceptable offering to you.

Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Preface of the Dedication of a Church (Roman Missal [2011] p. 1093)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For in this visible house that you have let us build
and where you never cease to show favour
to the family on pilgrimage to you in this place,
you wonderfully manifest and accomplish
the mystery of your communion with us.
Here you build up for yourself the temple that we are
and cause your Church, spread throughout the world,
to grow ever more and more as the Lord's own Body,
till she reaches her fullness in the vision of peace,
the heavenly city of Jerusalem.

And so, with the countless ranks of the blessed,
in the temple of your glory we praise you,
we bless you, and proclaim your greatness, as we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (1 Cor 3:16-17)

You are the temple of God, and God's spirit dwells in you. The temple of God is holy; you are that temple.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we know the joy and power
of your blessing in our lives.
As we celebrate the dedication of this church,
may we give ourselves once more to your service.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Mass formulary for celebration of the Feast outside the Cathedral, see following page

FEAST
outside the Cathedral

Entrance Antiphon (Apoc 21:2)

I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, like a bride adorned in readiness for her husband.

The Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

either

God our Father,
from living stones, your chosen people,
you built an eternal temple to your glory.
Increase the spiritual gifts you have given to your Church,
so that your faithful people may continue to grow
into the new and eternal Jerusalem.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

or

Father,
you called your people to be your Church.
As we gather together in your name,
may we love, honour and follow you
to eternal life in the kingdom you promise.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

From the Common of the Dedication of a Church (anniversary), especially the following:

1st Reading Ez 43:1-2.4-7 (Lectionary Vol II, p. 1395, no. 4)
I saw the glory of the Lord fill the Temple.

Responsorial Psalm 1 Chron 29:10-12. R/ v. 13 (p. 1396)
R/ We praise your glorious name, O Lord.

2nd Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9 (p. 1402, no. 4)
So that you too may be living stones making a spiritual house.

Gospel Acclamation Ez 37:27 (p. 1405, no. 4)
*I shall make my home among them, says the Lord;
I will be their God,
they shall be my people.*

Gospel

Jn 4:19-24 (p. 1405)

True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

The Profession of Faith is said

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
receive our gifts.
May we who share this sacrament
experience the life and power it promises,
and hear the answer to our prayers.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Preface of the Dedication of a Church (Roman Missal [2011] p. 1096)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your benevolence you are pleased
to dwell in this house of prayer
in order to perfect us as the temple of the Holy Spirit,
supported by the perpetual help of your grace
and resplendent with the glory of a life acceptable to you.

Year by year you sanctify the Church, the Bride of Christ,
foreshadowed in visible buildings,
so that, rejoicing as the mother of countless children,
she may be given her place in your heavenly glory.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (1 Cor 3:16-17)

Like living stones, let yourselves be built on Christ as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.

Prayer after Communion

Father,
you make your Church on earth
a sign of the new and eternal Jerusalem.
By sharing in this sacrament
may we become the temple of your presence
and the home of your glory.

Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

28 May

Blessed Margaret Pole

Martyr

MEMORIAL

only in CHRISTCHURCH and HAVANT

Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, was born at Castle Farley, near Bath, on 14 August 1473, and was related to Henry VII. Her father was George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, and her mother Isabel, eldest daughter of the Earl of Warwick. She was married in 1491 by Henry to Sir Richard Pole, who died in 1505 leaving here with five children, the fourth of whom, Reginald, was to become a cardinal and Archbishop of Canterbury. He was the indirect cause of her martyrdom, since he left the country when Henry VIII broke with Rome and criticized the king publicly. As a result, a number of his relatives, including his mother, would be executed for treason.

In November 1538 Margaret was arrested and held by the Earl of Southampton at Cowdray Park, Midhurst, where she was subjected to all sort of indignities. In May of the following year Thomas Cromwell had her moved to the Tower of London where for nearly two years she was “tormented by the severity of the weather and insufficient clothing” and refused to take the Oath of Succession. On 28 May 1541 (some authorities say 27 May) she was beheaded at the Tower by a “clumsy novice” executioner, and was buried at the Tower in the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Along with 53 other martyrs she was beatified by Leo XIII on 29 December 1896.

Before her imprisonment she lived at Warblington Castle, near Havant.



Portrait of an unknown sitter, traditionally thought to be Blessed Margaret Pole, 8th Countess of Salisbury

Entrance Antiphon

Here is a true martyr who shed her blood for Christ; her judges could not shake her by their menaces, and so she won through to the kingdom of heaven.

Opening Prayer

All-powerful, ever-living God,
you gave Blessed Margaret Pole
the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ
even to the point of giving her life for it.
By her prayers,
help us to endure all suffering for love of you
and to seek you with all our hearts,
for you alone are the source of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

God of love,
pour out your blessings on our gifts
and make our faith strong,
the faith which Blessed Margaret
professed by shedding her blood.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:5)

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, we are renewed
by the mystery of the eucharist.
By imitating the fidelity of Blessed Margaret, your martyr,
and by our patience,
may we come to share the eternal life you have promised.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

15 July

St Swithun

Bishop, Principal Patron of the City of Winchester

SOLEMNITY

in WINCHESTER and churches dedicated to St Swithun

MEMORIAL

in other churches

Little is known of St Swithun's life. Born in Wessex, his name is sometimes spelled 'Swithin'. He died on 2 July 862, though the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says 861. He left orders that his body was not to be buried within the church but outside in a "vile and unworthy place".

Egbert, King of Wessex, chose Swithun as his chaplain and entrusted to him the education of his son Æthelwulf, who succeeded to the throne in 839. Æthelwulf appointed Swithun Bishop of Winchester in 852 and during the ten years of his episcopate he became famous for his charitable gifts and for his activity in the building of churches. He is reputed to have accompanied King Alfred to Rome in 856.

His body was moved from its almost unknown grave into the Old Minster at Winchester on 15 July 971, and this day became his feastday. His transferral was preceded and followed by numerous miracles. His body was probably later split between a number of smaller shrines. His head was certainly detached and taken to Canterbury Cathedral, while one his arms found a resting place in Peterborough Abbey. His main shrine was transferred to the present (then new) Norman cathedral of Winchester in 1093. His remains were installed on a 'feretory platform' above and behind the high altar (the feretory chapel still exists). His shrine became a great focus for pilgrims, and the cathedral's retrochoir was built in the early 13th century to accommodate the large numbers of people wishing to visit his shrine and enter the 'holy hole' beneath him. His shrine was moved into the retrochoir in 1476. It was demolished in 1538 during the 'English Reformation', and a modern representation was placed on the site by the Dean and Chapter in 1962.



Statue of St Swithun (Stavanger Cathedral, Norway)

Entrance Antiphon

(Lk 4:18)

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has anointed me. He sent me to bring good news to the poor, and to heal the brokenhearted.

The Gloria is said (when celebrated as a solemnity)

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
in Saint Swithun your Bishop
you gave a light to your faithful people.
You made him a pastor of the Church
to feed your sheep with his word
and to teach them by his example.
Help us by his prayers
to keep the faith he taught
and follow the way of life he showed us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

From the Common of Pastors, Lectionary vol. II, p. 1472, especially the following:

1st Reading Is 61:1-3 (p. 1477, no 6)
The Lord has anointed me and sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5.21-22.25.27. R/ v. 2 (p. 1478)
R/ I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

2nd Reading 2 Tim 1:13-14; 2:1-3 (p. 1490, no 11)
Guard this precious thing with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14 (p. 1500, no 12)
*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.*

Gospel Jn 21:15-17 (p. 1500)
Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.

The Profession of Faith is said (when celebrated as a solemnity)

Prayer over the Gifts

Father of mercy,
we have these gifts to offer in honour of Saint Swithun
who bore witness to your mighty power.

May the power of the eucharist
bring us your salvation.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Preface of Holy Pastors (Roman Missal [2011] p. 640) **or of Saints** (p. 632)

Communion Antiphon (Mt 28:20)

I, the Lord, am with you always until the end of the world.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
may the mysteries we receive
prepare us for the eternal joys
Saint Swithun won by his faithful ministry.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

*Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People, Roman Missal [2011] p. 726, no. 28 (p. 719, no. 18 when
celebrated as a solemnity)*

16 July

St Helier

Martyr

MEMORIAL

only in JERSEY

St Helier was a 6th-century ascetic and hermit. He was born to pagan parents in Tongeren in what is now Belgium. His wanderings led him across Normandy to the monastic community of St Marculf at Nantus (now Nanteuil, St-Marcouf-de-l'Isle). However, the contemplative life did not bring him the peace that he sought, and he was sent with St Romard to Jersey where he settled on a tidal island, today known as the Hermitage Rock, next to L'Islet. He was killed on the beach there by robbers or infidel barbarians, traditionally in AD 555.

While he is known in Jersey as the saint who brought Christianity to the Island, in Normandy and Brittany he is better known as a healing saint. Today he is invoked for diseases of the skin and eyes.



*The face of St Helier as sculpted on the 1978 monument
of La Croix de la Reine in St Helier, Jersey*

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 36:39)

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord. He is their strength in time of need.

Opening Prayer

Lord,
may the victory of your martyr,
Saint Helier, our brother in Christ,
strengthen our faith.
May his prayers
give us a firm hope in you.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

*Readings of the day***Prayer over the Gifts**

Lord,
accept the gifts of your people
as we honour the suffering and death
of your martyr, Saint Helier.
As the eucharist gave him strength in persecution
may it keep us faithful in every difficulty.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 8:35)

Whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel, says the Lord, will save it.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, keep this eucharist effective within us.
May the gift we receive
on this feast of the martyr, Saint Helier,
bring us salvation and peace.

Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

28 July

St Sampson

Bishop

MEMORIAL

only in GUERNSEY

St Sampson (or Samson) was born in Wales about the year 496, to parents of noble birth. He was placed in the care of St Illtyd at the abbey of Llantwit Major, and subsequently became Abbot of Caldey. He traveled widely to Ireland, Cornwall, the Scilly Isles, Guernsey and Brittany, where he finally settled, founding the monastery of Dol, where he is buried along with his cousin St Magloire. He was ordained a bishop in 521, and died in 564 or 565.



Icon of St Sam(p)son of Dol-de-Bretagne

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord chose these holy men for their unfeigned love, and gave them eternal glory. The Church has light by their teaching.

Opening Prayer

Lord,
look with love on the church in Guernsey.
Through the apostolic zeal of Saint Sampson
you gave us the beginnings of faith:
through his prayers keep alive our Christian love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, accept the gifts your people bring
on this feast of Saint Sampson.
Give us purity of heart
and make us pleasing to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:15)

No longer shall I call you servants, for a servant knows not what his master does. Now I shall call you friends, for I have revealed to you all that I have heard from my Father.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
as we share in your gifts,
we celebrate this feast of Saint Sampson.
We honour the beginnings of our faith
and proclaim your glory in the saints.
May the salvation we receive from your altar
be our unending joy.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

3 August

St Ethelwold

Bishop

MEMORIAL

only in ABINGDON and WINCHESTER

Together with St Dunstan, Ethelwold (or Æthelwold) ranks as one of the great figures of 10th-century monastic reform. Born in Winchester sometime between 904 and 909, he spent his youth at the court of King Athelstan. He became Prior of Glastonbury and in 955 received from King Ædred the Abbey of Abingdon which he re-established. On 29 November 963 he was ordained Bishop of Winchester by St Dunstan. There he installed monks in the cathedral, and restored the two Winchester foundations of the New Minster and Nunnaminster. He also restored the monasteries at Milton (Dorset) and Chertsey, and made new foundations at Ely, Peterborough and Thorney (East Anglia), in the course of which he made himself unpopular with secular clergy who were turned out of monasteries to make way for genuine monks.

He was a renowned scholar, compiling the Regularis Concordia and translating the Rule of Benedict into Old English. He used some of the wealth he accumulated to build new churches and was a great patron of ecclesiastical art. He died on 1 August 984 at Beddington in Surrey, and was buried in the Old Minster at Winchester. After a miraculous cure attributed to him some twelve years later, his body was moved from the crypt to the choir and he was recognized as a saint, though never formally canonized. An arm and a leg apparently were taken to the Abbey at Abingdon before the 12th century.



Entrance Antiphon

(1 Sam 2:35)

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest; he will do what is in my heart and in my mind, says the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Lord God,
you counted St Ethelwold among your holy pastors,
renowned for faith and love which conquered evil in this world.
By the help of his prayers
keep us strong in faith and love
and let us come to share his glory.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept the gifts your people offer you
on this feast of St Ethelwold.
May these gifts bring us
your help for which we long.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 10:10)

I came that you may have life, and have it to the full, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,
you give us the body and blood of your Son.
May the salvation we celebrate
be our undying hope.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

14 August

St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Priest and Martyr

MEMORIAL

Maximilian Kolbe was born Raymund Kolbe on 8 January 1894 in Zdúnska Wola, Poland (actually part of the Russian Empire at the time). His father was an ethnic German and his mother of Polish origins. In 1907 he and his elder brother Francis decided to join the Conventual Franciscans and went to the junior seminary in Lwów. He was allowed to enter the novitiate in 1910. First vows followed in 1911 and final vows in 1914. In the meantime, he had been sent to Krakow in 1912 and then to Rome in the same year. He earned a doctorate in philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1912 and a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical University of St Bonaventure in 1919. He was ordained a priest in Rome in 1918.

In 1919 he returned to the newly-independent Poland where he was very active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, whose name he had selected as one of his names in religion. He founded two monasteries, a seminary, a radio station, and several other organizations and journals. In 1930 he left to spend six years as a missionary in Japan. While there he founded a monastery, a seminary and a newspaper.

Back in Poland, he sheltered refugees during the Second World War, including 2000 Jews whom he hid from the Nazis in one of his monasteries. On 17 February 1941 he was arrested by the Gestapo, and on 28 May was transferred to the concentration camp at Oswiecim (Auschwitz) as prisoner no 16670. At the end of July, three men escaped, and the camp commandant selected ten men to starve to death as a reprisal. When one of the selected men cried out "My wife! My children!", Kolbe volunteered to take his place. After two weeks of dehydration and starvation, Kolbe was the only one left alive. In order to clear the bunker, the guards gave Kolbe a lethal injection of carbolic acid on 14 August. His remains were cremated the following day, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Beatified as a confessor by Paul VI in 1971, he was canonized as a "martyr of charity" by John Paul II on 10 October 1982, with the man whose life had saved in attendance.

He is one of the ten 20th-century martyrs whose statues appear above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey. Patron saint of drug addicts, families, journalists, political prisoners and the pro-Life movement, he was declared by John Paul II "the patron saint of our difficult century".



Entrance Antiphon (Mt 25:34)

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord: I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did for me.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
you filled your priest and martyr,
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
with zeal for your house
and love for his neighbour.
Through the prayer of this devout servant of Mary Immaculate,
grant that in our efforts to serve others for your glory
we too may become like Christ your Son,
who loved his own in the world even to the end,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings from the Common of Pastors: for Missionaries (Lectionary vol. II, pp. 1476, 1485, 1494, 1495, 1496), or the Common of Martyrs (p. 1450)

Prayer over the Gifts

We offer these gifts to you, Lord God,
with the prayer that,
inspired by the example of Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
we may learn to offer our very lives to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:13)

There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friend.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus,
renewed by your body and blood,
we pray that the same fire of charity
which Saint Maximilian Kolbe drew from this eucharistic banquet
may also inflame our hearts with heroic love for others.

You live and reign for ever and ever.

26 August

Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God

Priest

MEMORIAL

only in READING parishes and NORTH HINKSEY

Dominic Barberi was born of peasant farming stock near Viterbo, Italy, on 22 June 1792. In 1814 he joined the Passionist Congregation, initially as a lay brother but then as a candidate for priesthood. He was ordained on 1 March 1818.

At first he taught in Rome, and was successively rector, provincial consultor and provincial. In 1840 he was sent to Belgium to head a new foundation near Tournai. He came to England in 1841, and from 1842 in the space of eight years he founded four Passionist houses, and preached missions and retreats all over the country. In October 1845 he received John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church. Broken finally by his labours, he died at Reading on 27 August 1849, aged 57. He is buried in St Anne's Church, St Helen's, Merseyside.

He was beatified by Paul VI on 23 October 1962 during the Second Vatican Council.



Common of Pastors: for Missionaries, (Roman Missal [2011] p. 1142, or

Entrance Antiphon (Is 52:7)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the man who brings good tidings of peace, joy and salvation.

Opening Prayer

Father,
you chose Blessed Dominic as a minister of your love
so that his teaching and example
helped many to find pardon and peace
in the unity of your Church.
Grant that we may follow in the same way of love
and so gain an eternal reward.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day, or from the Common of Pastors: for Missionaries (Lectionary vol. II, pp. 1476, 1485, 1494, 1495, 1496)

Prayer over the Gifts

Grant to all of us, Lord,
a fullness of charity
as lived by your priest Blessed Dominic.
So may this sacrifice we offer
fully effect our reconciliation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:4-5)

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you, says the Lord; he who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Our strength is renewed at your table, Lord,
so we ask you,
through the merits and prayers of Blessed Dominic,
to bring all wanderers
into the one fold of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

20 September

St Andrew Kim Taegon

Priest and Martyr

Ss Paul Chong Hasang and Companions

Martyrs

MEMORIAL

At the beginning of the 17th century through the efforts of several laypersons, the Christian faith reached Korea. There a strong and vital community flourished under lay leadership until 1836, when, in secret, missionaries from France, members of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, entered the country. During the persecutions of 1839, 1846, 1866 and 1867 one hundred and three members of the Christian community gave their lives as martyrs. Leaders among these witnesses to the faith were the first Korean priest, Andrew Kim Taegon, and the lay apostle, Paul Chong Hasang. Among the other martyrs were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were laity, men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people and the elderly. All suffered greatly for the faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church in Korea with their blood as martyrs.

Andrew Kim Taegon, also known as Butterfly King, was born on 21 August 1821. He was baptized at the age of 15, and studied in a seminary in Macau. He was ordained a priest in 1845 in Shanghai. On 16 September 1846, aged 25, he was beheaded near Seoul on the Han River. Beatified on 5 July 1925, he was canonized by John Paul II on 6 May 1984.

Paul Chong Hasang was born in 1794 or 1795. A talented and educated lay person, he was the son and nephew of two of the first Korean converts. He had been due to be ordained when a persecution broke out. He died on 22 September 1839 at the age of 45. He was canonized by John Paul II on 6 May 1984.



Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, and keep a festival in honour of Saint Andrew and Saint Paul and their companions. Let us join with the angels in joyful praise to God.

Opening Prayer

O God,
you have created all nations
and you are their salvation.
In the land of Korea
your call to Catholic faith formed a people of adoption,
whose growth you nurtured
by the blood of Andrew, Paul, and their companions.
Through their martyrdom and their intercession
grant us strength
that we too may remain faithful to your commandments
even until death.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings from the Common of Martyrs (Lectionary vol II, p. 1450)

Prayer over the Gifts

All-powerful God,
in your goodness accept these gifts we offer
and through the intercession of your holy martyrs
grant that our own loves will become a sacrifice acceptable to you
for the salvation of the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Mt 10:32)

Whoever acknowledges me before the world, I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we have been nourished in this celebration of your holy martyrs
with the food that gave them strength.
Grant that we too will remain loyal to Christ
and labour in your Church for the salvation of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

12 October

St Wilfrid

Bishop

MEMORIAL

*only in parishes of PORTSMOUTH, HAVANT, ISLE OF WIGHT, AND SOLENT Pastoral Areas
and in BISHOP'S WALTHAM*

Born in Northumbria in about 633, Wilfrid was educated at Lindisfarne, then in Canterbury, Gaul and Rome. He returned to Northumbria in about 660, and became abbot of the newly-founded monastery at Ripon. In 664 he acted as spokesman for the Roman "party" at the Council of Whitby, and is famous for his speech advocating that the Roman method of calculating the date of Easter should be adopted. As a result he was appointed Bishop of Northumbria, based in York. After a series of disputes concerning, among other things, the division of the diocese, he retired to Selsey in Sussex where he was active in missionary work and founded a see. Reinstated as Bishop of Northumbria in 686, he was forced into exile again five years later. The disputes continued, and eventually Wilfrid died near Oundle in 709 and was buried at Ripon. His achievements as a missionary, founder of churches and monasteries, and as a man of remarkable persistence and decision, made him famous in his day and greatly venerated after his death.



*A window in the south wall of the chancel in St Wilfrid's chapel, Church Norton,
part of the parish of Selsey in Sussex*

Entrance Antiphon

(Is 59:21; 56:7)

My words that I have put into your mouth, says the Lord, will never be absent from your lips, and your gifts will be accepted on my altar.

Opening Prayer

God of mercy,
you gave our fathers the light of faith
through the preaching of Saint Wilfrid.
May we who glory in the Christian name
show in our lives the faith we profess.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
may the gifts your people bring
in memory of Saint Wilfrid
bring us your gifts from heaven.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(Mk 10:45)

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, may this pledge of our eternal salvation
which we receive on this feast of Saint Wilfrid
be our help now and always.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

23 October

St Ethelflæda

Virgin

MEMORIAL

only in ROMSEY

Ethelflæda was the daughter of Æthelwold of Wessex. She joined the Abbey of Romsey under the abbacy of Morwenna, and eventually became abbess herself. She practised an austere life, and on her death was buried in the Abbey beside St Morwenna.



Romsey Abbey, dedicated to St Mary and St Ethelflæda

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 15:5-6)

The Lord is my inheritance and my cup; he alone will give me my reward. The measuring line has marked a lovely place for me; my inheritance is my great delight.

Opening Prayer

Lord,
in your Abbess Ethelflæda
you give an example of the gospel lived to perfection.
Help us to follow her
by keeping before us the things of heaven
amid all the changes of this world.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

God of all mercy,
you transformed Saint Ethelflæda
and made her a new creature in your image.
Renew us in the same way
by making our gifts of peace acceptable to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(cf. Mt 19:27-29)

I solemnly tell you: those who have left everything and followed me will be repaid a hundredfold and will gain eternal life.

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
may we who are strengthened by the power of this sacrament
learn from the example of Saint Ethelflæda
to seek you above all things
and to live in this world as your new creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

24 October

St Magloire

Bishop

MEMORIAL

only in GUERNSEY and SARK

Magloire was of Irish origin and was educated at Llantwit Major by St Iltyd. Together with his fellow pupil St Sampson he went to Brittany, and became Abbot of one of Sampson's monasteries at Dol. After some years he retired to Sark, where he founded a monastery and died about 575. His remains were translated first to Léhon and later to Paris at the time of the Viking invasions.



Abbey of St Magloire at Léhon, Brittany

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord chose these holy men for their unfeigned love, and gave them eternal glory. The Church has light by their teaching.

Opening Prayer

Lord,
look with love on the Church in Guernsey and Sark.
Through the apostolic zeal of Saint Magloire
you gave us the beginnings of our faith;
through his prayers, keep alive our Christian love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept the gifts your people bring
on this feast of Saint Magloire.
Give us purity of heart
and make us pleasing to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:15)

No longer shall I call you servants, for a servant knows now what his master does. Now I call you friends, for I have revealed to you all that I have heard from my Father.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
as we share in your gifts
we celebrate this feast of Saint Magloire.
We honour the beginnings of our faith
and proclaim your glory in the saints.
May the salvation we receive from your altar
be our unending joy.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

30 October

Blessed Roger Dicconson

Priest

Blessed John Slade, Ralph Milner, Laurence Humphreys and James Bird

Martyrs

FEAST
in WINCHESTER

MEMORIAL
in other Hampshire parishes

Among the many English martyrs who died for their Catholic faith, five suffered in Winchester.

Roger Dicconson (sometimes spelled Dickenson) was an “undercover priest”, secretly celebrating Mass and the sacraments all over England. He was born and raised in Lincoln, studied in Rheims and was ordained there in 1583. At first he worked in Winchester but was arrested and deported. He came back to work in Worcestershire. Returning to Winchester in 1591, he was arrested while celebrating Mass. He was hung, drawn and quartered alongside Ralph Milner and Laurence Humphreys on 7 July 1591.

John Slade was a native of Manston, Dorset and was educated at New College, Oxford. A schoolmaster, he was arrested in June 1582 and imprisoned along with Blessed John Body (see 3 November, below). They were tried in Winchester, and again in Andover in 1583, and from John Slade was taken back to Winchester, where he were hung, drawn and quartered on 2 November 1583. He was beatified by Pius XI in 1929.

Ralph Milner was brought up in Flacsted, Hampshire. A practicing Anglican, he converted to Catholicism and was arrested on the very day of his First Communion. His imprisonment was hardly rigorous, for during it he found the opportunity to do much charitable work in the country. Arrested with Roger Dicconson, he was hung, drawn and quartered alongside Dicconson and Laurence Humphreys on 7 July 1591.

Laurence (sometimes spelled Lawrence) Humphreys was born in Hampshire in 1571. He converted to Catholicism at the age of 18 and worked as a catechist. He was arrested after falling ill and uttering insulting language about Queen Elizabeth while in a state of delirium. Condemned to death, he made a public profession of faith on the scaffold. He was executed in 1591 and beatified by Pius XI in 1929.

James Bird (sometimes known as Byrd or Beard) was born in 1574 in Winchester where his father held public office. He became a Catholic in 1584. Arrested in 1592, he was executed for his faith on 25 March that year and beatified by Pius XI in 1929.



St Peter's Church, Winchester, in the snow

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 33:20-21)

Many are the sufferings of the just, and from them all the Lord has delivered them. The Lord preserves all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

If this day is kept as a feast, the Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

All-powerful God,
you have given us this celebration of the Winchester Martyrs:
Roger Dicconson, John Slade, Ralph Milner, Laurence Humphreys and James Bird.
We ask you, by their intercession,
exchange our weakness for your strength
and lead us from this earthly life
into the eternal life you promise us.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word *(if this day is kept as a feast)*

From the Common of Martyrs, Lectionary vol. II, p. 1450, especially the following:

1st Reading 2 Mac 7:1-2.9-14 (no. 3, p. 1452)
We are prepared to die rather than break the laws of our ancestors.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 123:2-5.7-8. R/ v. 7 (p. 1453)
Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:10 (no. 1, p. 1466)
*Happy are those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Gospel Mt 10:17-22 (p. 1466)
*You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake,
to bear witness before them and the pagans.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept the gifts we bring
to celebrate the feast of your martyrs.
May this sacrifice free us from sin
and make our service pleasing to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface II of Holy Martyrs (Roman Missal [2011] p. 638) *if this day is kept as a feast*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you are glorified when your Saints are praised;
their very sufferings are but wonders of your might:
in your mercy you give ardour to their faith,
to their endurance you grant them resolve,
and in their struggle the victory is yours,
through Christ our Lord.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth
sing a new song in adoration;
and we, with all the host of Angels,
cry out, and without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:13)

No one has greater love, says the Lord, than those who lay down their life for their friends.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we eat the bread from heaven,
and become one body in Christ.
Never let us be separated from his love
and help us follow your martyrs
by having the courage to overcome all things through Christ,
who loved us all,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

3 November

Blessed John Body

Martyr

FEAST
in ANDOVER

MEMORIAL
in other Hampshire parishes

John Body (sometimes spelled Bodey) was born in Wells, Somerset, in 1549, and was a student of Winchester College and New College, Oxford. He became a Fellow in 1568, but was deprived of his fellowship in June 1576. Thereupon he went abroad to study civil law at Douay College, and returned to England in February 1578. Arrested in 1580, he was kept in iron shackles in Winchester gaol, and was condemned to death in Winchester in April 1583 along with Blessed John Slade, a schoolmaster (see 30 October, above). The verdict was considered unsafe, and both were tried again in Andover on 19 August 1583 and the death sentence confirmed. John Body was hung, drawn and quartered in Andover on 2 November 1583. He was beatified by Pius XI in 1929.



St John the Baptist Church, Andover

Entrance Antiphon

Here is a true martyr who shed his blood for Christ; his judges could not shake him by their menaces, and so he won through to the kingdom of heaven.

If this day is kept as a feast, the Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

All-powerful, ever-living God,
you gave Blessed John Body
the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ
even to the point of giving his life for it.
By his prayers help us to endure all suffering for love of you
and to seek you with all our hearts,
for you alone are the source of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word *(if this day is kept as a feast)*

From the Common of Martyrs, Lectionary vol. II, p. 1450, especially the following:

1st Reading Eccles 51:1-18 (no 6, p. 1456)
You have redeemed me, true to the greatness of your mercy and of your name.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 123: 5-7.7-8. R/ v. 7 (p. 1457)
Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.

Gospel Acclamation James 1:12 (no 2, p. 1467)
*Happy the man who stands firm when trials come.
He has proved himself,
and will win the crown of life.*

Gospel Mt 10:28-33 (p. 1467)
Do not be afraid of those who kill the body.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept these gifts we present in memory of Blessed John Body;
for no temptation could turn him away from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface I of Holy Martyrs (Roman Missal [2011] p. 636) *if this day is kept as a feast*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the blood of your blessed martyr John,
poured out like Christ's to glorify your name,
shows forth your marvellous works,
by which in our weakness you perfect your power
and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness,
through Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Powers of heaven,
we worship you constantly on earth,
and before your majesty
without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:5)

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we are renewed by the mystery of the eucharist.
By imitating the fidelity of Blessed John, your Martyr,
and by our patience,
may we come to share the eternal life you have promised.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

14 November

Blessed Hugh Cook Faringdon

Abbot

Blessed John Eynon and John Rugge

Priests, Martyrs

FEAST

in READING parishes

MEMORIAL

in other Berkshire parishes

Born Hugh Cook, he adopted the surname Faringdon when he became a Benedictine monk, sometime before 1500. Although Faringdon is the name of a town in Berkshire (now Oxfordshire) to the northwest of Reading, he later adopted the arms of the Cook family of Kent and so presumably had some connection with them. He is believed to have been educated within Reading Abbey, and later served as sub-chamberlain of the community.

He was elected (the last) Abbot of Reading Abbey in 1520, and served as a Justice for the Peace and on various governmental commissions in the country of Berkshire between 1526 and 1538. In 1539 he was indicted for high treason, and imprisoned in the Tower of London for two months. He was taken back to the abbey and hung, drawn and quartered in front of the gatehouse on 14 November 1539 along with John Eynon (Oynon), vicar of St Giles' in the Reading and the abbot's chief councillor, and John Ruggie (Rugg, Rugke, Rogke) a prebendary of Chichester Cathedral who had retired to the abbey in Reading. All three were beatified by Leo XIII in 1895.



Blessed Hugh Faringdon



Shrine to Blessed John Eynon in St Giles' Church, Reading

Entrance Antiphon

Here are true martyrs who shed their blood for Christ. Their judges could not shake them by their menaces and so they won through to the kingdom of heaven.

If this day is kept as a feast the Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

All-powerful, ever-living God,
you gave Blessed Hugh and his companions
the courage to suffer death for the unity of your Church.
By their prayers
help us to endure all suffering for love of you
and to seek you with all our hearts
for you alone are the source of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word *if this day is kept as a feast*

From the Common of Martyrs, Lectionary vol. II, p. 1450, especially:

1st Reading 2 Chron 24:18-22 (no 1, p. 1450)
Zechariah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 30:3-4.6-8.16-17. R. v. 6 (p. 1450)
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel Acclamation John 17:19 (no 7, p. 1470)
*I consecrate myself for their sake, says the Lord,
so that they too may be consecrated in truth.*

Gospel John 17:11-19 (p. 1470)
The world hated them.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept these gifts we present
in memory of Blessed Hugh and his companions
for no temptation could turn them away from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface II of Holy Martyrs (Roman Missal [2011] p. 638) *if this day is kept as a feast*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you are glorified when your Saints are praised;
their very sufferings are but wonders of your might:
in your mercy you give ardour to their faith,
to their endurance you grant them resolve,
and in their struggle the victory is yours,
through Christ our Lord.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth
sing a new song in adoration;
and we, with all the host of Angels,
cry out, and without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:5)

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we are renewed by the mystery of the eucharist.
By imitating the fidelity of Blessed Hugh and his companions
and by our patience
may we come to share the eternal life you promised.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

16 November

St Edmund of Abingdon

Bishop, Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese

SOLEMNITY

St Edmund Rich was born at St Edmund's Lane, Abingdon, on 20 November, probably in the year 1175. His father was a rich merchant, hence the surname (which he never in fact used himself). Under the influence of his mother he led an ascetic life. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and became a teacher in about 1200 or a little earlier. For six years he lectured on mathematics and dialectics, apparently dividing his time between Oxford and Paris, and winning distinction for his part in introducing the study of Aristotle. He is the first known Oxford Master of Arts, and the place where he taught was eventually renamed St Edmund Hall.

Between 1205 and 1210 he changed direction, studying theology and being ordained a priest. He took a doctorate in divinity, and soon won fame as a lecturer on theology and as an extemporaneous preacher. Some time between 1219 and 1222 he was appointed vicar of the parish of Calne in Wiltshire and Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, and finally became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1233. He was a notable and effective reforming Bishop. His love for discipline and justice aroused opposition, and he found himself ranged against Rome as champion of the national Church. Eventually, like his predecessors St Thomas Becket and Stephen Langton, he retired to Pontigny, where he is buried. He died at Soisy-Bouy on 16 November 1240.

His cultus was especially marked at Abingdon, and at Catesby where his sisters were both nuns. Edmund was canonised in 1246, and is the Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese of Portsmouth.



Illustration of St Edmund of Abingdon from the Nuremberg Chronicle, 1493

Entrance Antiphon (1 Sam 2:35)

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, says the Lord.
He will do all that is in my heart and mind.

or

Saint Edmund, poor and humble in this world,
enters the kingdom of heaven rich by the grace of God.

The Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

God of justice,
by whose inspiration Saint Edmund was vigilant
for the cause of integrity in public office
and discipline in religious life,
grant, we pray you,
that your Church may have that same spirit of constancy,
and be fearless in proclaiming
the righteousness that you demand of all.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

from the Common of Pastors (Lectionary vol. II, p. 1472), especially the following:

1st Reading Jeremiah 1:4-9 (p. 1478, no. 7)
Go now to those to whom I send you.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 7-8. 10 R/ v. 3 (p. 1479)
*Proclaim the wonders of the Lord
among all the peoples.*

2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 (p. 1487, no. 5)
He has given us the qualifications to be the administrators of this new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14 (p. 1500, no. 12)
*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.*

Gospel John 21:15-17 (p. 1500, no. 12)
Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.

The Profession of Faith is said

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
we bring you the same gift that Saint Edmund offered.
Accept it as you accepted his struggle for truth and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface of Holy Pastors (Roman Missal [2011] p. 640)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For, as on the festival of Saint Edmund you bid your Church rejoice,
so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life,
teach her by his words of preaching,
and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,
sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (Mt 24:46-47)

Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes;
truly, I tell you, he will set him over all his possessions.

Prayer after Communion

Father,
at your altar we are sustained and fed
in the communion of all your people.
May the faith of Saint Edmund
inspire us in our Christian life,
for he put his hope in the same Lord
who gave us this eucharist.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People

Adapt from Roman Missal [2011] pp. 719 or 726

1 December

St Edmund Campion

Priest and Martyr

MEMORIAL

only in BERKSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE parishes

Edmund Campion was born in London on 24 January 1540. He was educated at Christ's Hospital and St John's College, Oxford. Despite qualms of conscience over his Catholic beliefs, he was ordained an Anglican deacon. He left in Oxford in 1569 and spend four years in and around Dublin. In 1571 he left Ireland for Douai in the Low Countries, where he was reconciled with the Catholic Church and entered the English College founded by William Allen. He received a Bachelor of Divinity and minor orders, and was ordained a subdeacon.

In 1573 he travelled to Rome and was admitted to the Society of Jesus. Since there was not yet an English province, he was assigned to the Austrian province and began his novitiate in Brunn, Moravia. He was ordained deacon and priest by the Archbishop of Prague and celebrated his first Mass on 8 September 1578. He had already been teaching for over four years at the Jesuit College in Prague, and this now continued for a further 18 months.

In 1580 Campion entered England in the guise of a jewel merchant, and arrived in London on 24 June. Papers written over the next 18 months (including the famous Campion's Brag) meant that he was a wanted man, constantly eluding capture. He preached at Lyford Grange, Berkshire, on 14 July 1581 and the next day was arrested and taken to the Tower of London, where he was held for several months and tortured three times on the rack. He was finally condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered, allegedly for plotting against the Queen, and died in London alongside Fathers Ralph Sherwin and Alexander Briant on 1 December 1581.

Campion was beatified by Leo XIII on 9 December 1886, and canonised as one of the Forty Martyrs in 1970 by Paul VI. Ropes used in his execution are now kept at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire.



Entrance Antiphon

Here is a true martyr who shed his blood for Christ; his judges could not shake him by their menaces, and so he won through to the kingdom of heaven.

Opening Prayer

All-powerful, ever-living God,
you gave Saint Edmund Campion
the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ
even to the point of giving his life for it.
By his prayers help us to endure all suffering for love of you
and to seek you with all our hearts,
for you alone are the source of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
accept these gifts we present in memory of Saint Edmund,
for no temptation could turn him away from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:5)

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we are renewed by the mystery of the eucharist.
By imitating the fidelity of Saint Edmund
and by our patience
may we come to share the eternal life you have promised.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

5 December

St Birinus

Bishop

MEMORIAL
in OXFORDSHIRE parishes

Ss Birinus and Hedda

Bishops

MEMORIAL
only in WINCHESTER

Birinus was a Frank, had been ordained a bishop in Genoa. He was sent to Wessex by Pope Honorius I, arriving in 634 at the port of Hamwic, now in the St Mary's area of Southampton. His mission was to convert the West Saxons. He baptized the West Saxon king Cynegils, probably in 635. The king granted him the See of Dorchester, where he established a church. He is reputed to have baptised the king's son and his grandson (and to have been godfather to the latter). During his 15-year apostolate, he founded churches across Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. He died on 3 December 649, and it is thought that his relics were later taken to Winchester, the capital of Wessex, when the See was moved from Dorchester to Winchester by St Hedda.

Hedda (Haeddi) was educated at Whitby, and ordained bishop in 676 by Theodore of Canterbury. He was appointed Bishop of the West Saxons, and moved his See from Dorchester to Winchester, which transformed it not only into the ecclesiastical centre of the kingdom but also for a time its capital. He died in 705.



St Birinus (stained-glass window in the Abbey Church of St Birinus, Dorchester-on-Thames)



St Guthlac being ordained by St Hedda

Entrance Antiphon

(Is 59:21; 56:7)

My words that I have put in your mouth, says the Lord, will never be absent from your lips, and your gifts will be accepted on my altar.

Opening Prayer

God of mercy,
you gave our fathers the light of faith
through the preaching of Saint Birinus (Saints Birinus and Hedda).
May we who glory in the name of Christian
show in our loves the faith we profess.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord,
may the gifts your people bring
in memory of Saint Birinus (Saints Birinus and Hedda)
bring us your gifts from heaven.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

(Mk 10:45)

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
may this pledge of our eternal salvation
which we receive on this feast of Saint Birinus (Saints Birinus and Hedda)
be our help now and always.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

8 December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese

SOLEMNITY

The Proper texts for this Mass are to be found in the Roman Missal [2011] pp. 1075-78

Liturgy of the Word

Lectionary, vol. 2, pp. 1289-91

10 December

St Swithun Wells

Martyr

MEMORIAL

only in HAMPSHIRE parishes

Swithun Wells was born in about 1536 in Brambridge, near Winchester. For many years he was a schoolmaster at Monkton Farleigh in Wiltshire. During this period he attended Protestant services, but in 1583 was reconciled to the Catholic Church. In 1585 he went to London, where he purchased a house in Gray's Inn Lane.

In 1591 [St] Edmund Gennings was celebrating Mass in Wells's house when the priest-hunter Topcliffe burst in with his officers. Wells was not present at the time, but his wife Alice was and she was arrested along with Gennings, another priest named [St] Polydore Plasden, and three laymen. On his return, Wells was immediately arrested and imprisoned. At his trial he said that he had not been present at the Mass but wished he had been.

He was sentenced to die by hanging, and was executed outside his own house on 10 December 1591, just after Edmund Gennings. His wife Alice was reprieved and died in prison in 1602.

St Swithun Wells was canonised by Paul VI on 25 October 1970 as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales.



St Swithun Wells: modern statue in St Etheldreda's, Holborn

Entrance Antiphon

Here is a true martyr who shed his blood for Christ; his judges could not shake him by their menaces, and so he won through to the kingdom of heaven.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
by your grace Saint Swithun Wells taught his generation the power of Christ's Passion.
May we learn from him to place our hope in you alone
and to remain faithful in every trial.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings of the day

Prayer over the Gifts

God of love,
pour out your blessing on our gifts
and make our faith strong,
the faith which Saint Swithun Wells professed
by shedding his blood.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:5)

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, we are renewed by the mystery of the eucharist.
By imitating the fidelity of Saint Swithun Wells
and by our patience
may we come to share the eternal life you have promised.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

29 December

St Thomas of Canterbury (Thomas a Becket)

Bishop and Martyr

Patron of the pastoral clergy of England and Principal Patron of the City of Portsmouth

SOLEMNITY

*only in PORTSMOUTH parishes
(elsewhere, a feast)*

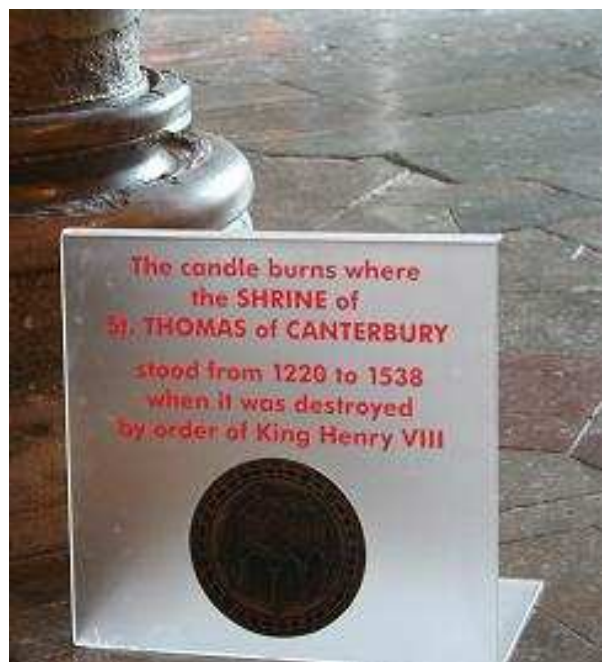
Becket was born in Cheapside, London, on 21 December, either about 1118 or in 1120 (later tradition). His parents were of Norman ancestry. From the age of 10 he studied at Merton Priory, and was later sent to a grammar school in London, possibly at St Paul's Cathedral. His father having fallen on hard times, Becket was forced to find work as a clerk, and eventually ended up in the household of Theobald of Bec, by that time Archbishop of Canterbury. Theobald sent him to Europe to study Canon Law, and appointed him Archdeacon of Canterbury and to several other ecclesiastical benefices. He was so successful at these that Theobald recommended him to Henry II to be Lord Chancellor. He was appointed in 1155.

In succession to Theobald he was named Archbishop of Canterbury in May 1162. He was accordingly ordained priest on 2 June of that year and consecrated as Archbishop the following day. A series of rifts between him and the King led to him fleeing to the Continent in October 1164, where he spent two years in the Abbey at Pontigny. He eventually returned to England in 1170. Further disputes followed, and Thomas was killed by four knights on 29 December 1170, possibly as a result of a misunderstanding of the King's wishes. His brains were scattered on the pavement.

There was an enormous public reaction to his death, and little more than two years after, on 21 February 1173, he was canonised by Alexander III. His cult spread rapidly across Europe during the late Middle Ages.



Martyrdom of St Thomas



Place of martyrdom in Canterbury Cathedral

Entrance Antiphon

(1 Sam 2:35)

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest; he will do what is in my heart and in my mind, says the Lord.

The Gloria is said

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
you granted your martyr, Saint Thomas of Canterbury,
the grace to give his life willingly for the freedom of your Church.
By his prayers
make us willing to renounce our life in this world for Christ
so that we may find it in heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

From the Common of Martyrs, Lectionary vol. 2, p. 1450, or Pastors, p. 1472, but especially pp. 1376-78

Prayer over the Gifts

God of all mercy,
you transformed Saint Thomas
and made him a new creature in your image.
Renew us in the same way
by making our gifts of peace acceptable to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface I of Holy Martyrs (Roman Missal [2011], p. 636)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the blood of your blessed martyr Thomas,
poured out like Christ's to glorify your name,
shows forth your marvellous works,
by which in our weakness you perfect your power
and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness,
through Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Powers of heaven,
we worship you constantly on earth,

and before your majesty
without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon (Jn 15:16)

You have not chosen me; I have chosen you. Go and bear fruit that will last.

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
may we who share this holy meal
follow the example of Saint Thomas
in faithfully serving you
and caring for all in need.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

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