
Holy Trinity Geneva



Wednesday 4th September 2024
Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
Saint Birinius, Apostle of Wessex 650
Modern English, Common Worship



Saint Birinius baptises King Cynegeil

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

The priest introduces the theme for the day's eucharist.

Today we commemorate Saint Birinius, the Apostle of Wessex. This might well be described as a learning opportunity for me as I knew nothing about this saint until his commemoration on 4th September arrived in the calendar. So we will explore together. Meanwhile, this is a week of many commemorations that I don't simply want to pass by, so I mention them all, and we will re-visit them in our intercessions.

From Monday : the twentieth century Martyrs of Papua New Guinea; Pope Francis will be visiting the country of Papua New Guinea Sept. 6-9 as part of an 11-day, multi-country papal mission. But he won't be the first pope to set foot on the South Pacific island nation — Pope John Paul II visited the island twice, in 1984 and 1995.

Papua New Guinea (PNG), situated on the eastern half of an island in the southwestern Pacific, is home to nearly 9 million people. (The other side of the island consists of two Indonesian provinces.) Considered one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world, PNG is made up of hundreds of ethnic groups indigenous to the island, with 851 Indigenous languages spoken in the country.

Nearly the entire island is made up of Christians, with 26% of the population being Catholic.

John Paul II visited Papua New Guinea for the first time in May 1984 and paid tribute to the strength of Catholicism on the island. During his papal visit, he celebrated Masses for vocations, for the sick, and for evangelization. He also addressed the youth, the bishops, and the clergy, religious people and laity.

In his [Mass for vocations](#) at Port Moresby Stadium, in the capital of Papua New Guinea, John Paul II highlighted the history of the missionaries who arrived to the island, bringing the Catholic faith.

"At this moment, my thoughts turn in a particular way to the missionaries: to those who first brought Christ's message to these islands and to those who continue to serve here today," he said on May 7, 1984. "It is not possible to recount the whole story of the Gospel in Papua New Guinea, but I wish to pay homage to the sacred history of evangelization."

The Pope recalled the first attempt at evangelization by the Marists in 1847, who were forced to leave. They were followed five years later by the PIME missionaries, but they too were forced to leave after three years of work on the island.

It wasn't until the arrival of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1882 that the island experienced a new era of "uninterrupted evangelization," John Paul II explained.

Tuesday, St Gregory the Great; and Friday this week; Allen Gardiner, Missionary, Founder of the South American Mission Society, died in 1851.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

Let us pray...
Everlasting God,
You have sent your messengers
To carry the good news of Christ.
Into the world.
Grant that we who this day commemorate Birinius,
Apostle of the West Saxons,
May know like him the hope of the gospel in our hearts
And show forth its light in all our ways.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading : Isaiah 49. 1 - 6

The Servant of the Lord

49 Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver.

³ He said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendour."
⁴ But I said, "I have laboured in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God."
⁵ And now the LORD says—
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength—
⁶ he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm : 67

1 God be gracious to us and bless us ♦
and make his face to shine upon us,
2 That your way may be known upon earth, ♦
your saving power among all nations.
3 *Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.*
4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.
5 *Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.*
6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦
and God, our own God, will bless us.
7 God will bless us, ♦
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Alleluia, praise the Lord all you preachers of the Word,
Praise him and magnify him forever, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel : Luke 10. 1 - 9

The holy Gospel is written in the gospel according to St. Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Mission of the Seventy

Now the Lord appointed also seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily - Canon Alan Amos

See [St Berin, Apostle of Wessex – Wessex Society](#)

Summary : Saint Birinius

Birinius was born in the mid sixth century, probably of northern European origin, but he became a priest in Rome. Feeling called by God to serve as a missionary, he was consecrated bishop, and sent to Britain by the pope. He intended to evangelize inland where no Christian had been before but, arriving in Wessex in 634, he found such prevalent idolatry that he looked no further to begin work. One of his early converts was King Cyneigils and thereafter he gained much support in his mission, as well as the town of Dorchester near Oxford for his See. He died in about the year 650 having earned the title 'Apostle of the West Saxons'.

[From "*Exciting Holiness.*"]

Intercessions

We give thanks for the beauty of the natural world, and pray for all those who are seeking to limit the effects of global warming. We pray especially for climate scientists, that their knowledge may be respected and attended to by political leaders.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who live in the holy land, for Jews and Christians and Muslims and those of other faiths and those who have no faith. We pray especially for the people of Gaza and the people of Israel at this time, praying for an end to violence and for the release of those held as hostages in Gaza. We pray for those working for world peace at this time.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us remember the people of Ukraine, and the people of Russia, praying that a way may be found to bring this war to an end. We pray for all other peoples who live with conflict and distress.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick who are known to us, and those caring for them, especially for Christine Damary, Chris Talbot, Irene Tretheway, Joan Tye, Annemarie Hester, Louise Cellier, André Vivas, Timothy Creffield, Tianna Dagher, Edith Tanner, Livia Varju, Brenda Hand, Valerie Offord, Phil Thomas, Diana Mason, Robin Bailey, Judi Cianci, Ruth Wyler, Germain, Samuel Kalibala, Joyce McNulty, Trevor Thomas, Diana Dickinson, Denise Muhlethaler, Maya Mortimer, Rosabelle de Silva, Silvio -Morson, Anna Porraccin, Valerie Slessor, Frances Boo, Jenny Syrathev, George Thomasz, Lorensz Ranasinghe.

May the Lord bless and strengthen them through the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Among the faithful departed, we pray for Claire Ross and Jean Belveze. May they rest in peace **and rise in glory with the saints.** And we pray for their families and friends and those who mourn.

The Peace

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you (Isaiah 55.12)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit

The table is prepared.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (CW Prayer G)

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord!
As a mother tenderly gathers her children
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends,
and taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take eat: this is my body which is given for you

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us into the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember Lord your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace .

Bring us at the last with Birinius, with the martyrs of Papua New Guinea, with Blessed Mary the Mother of the Lord, and with all those dear departed ones whom we remember today, to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:
Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

Let us prepare ourselves to make our spiritual communion.

We offer and present to you, Lord our heavenly Father, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice; grant that being present together in heart and mind at this holy communion we may now be filled with your heavenly blessing through the redeeming grace of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ... [short pause]

Lord Jesus Christ, in outward signs of bread and wine you have made known your presence among us; as we unite with one another from the places where we are, may your communion be fulfilled in us now through the work of the life-giving Holy Spirit. Amen.

Post Communion Prayers

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us like your servant Birinius
faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God give us grace to rejoice with the saints in Christ's redeeming love, and to follow him daily in our lives,
and may the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.