

St. Boniface of Tarsus

Holy Church thus commemorates, in her Office, the bravery of this generous-hearted Martyr:

“Boniface was a citizen of Rome, and had held criminal intercourse with a rich lady, by name Aglaë. He afterwards was so grieved for this immoral conduct, that, by way of penance, he devoted himself to the looking for and burying the bodies of Martyrs. In one of his travels, he left his companions; and finding, on arriving at Tarsus, that many were being put to divers tortures for the Christian Faith, he approached them, kissed their chains, and did all in his power to urge them to bear patiently the short labor of sufferings which were to be followed by eternal rest. For this he was seized, and his flesh was torn by iron hooks. Sharp reeds were also thrust up his finger-nails, and melted lead was poured into his mouth. His only exclamation, in the midst of these tortures, was: ‘I give thee thanks, Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God!’ He was then put, head foremost, into a cauldron of boiling pitch; and when

he was taken out, and found to be unhurt, the judge, in a fit of anger, ordered him to be beheaded. During his execution, a great earthquake was felt; whereupon, many of the pagans were converted to the Faith of Christ our Lord. On the day following, his companions, who were in search of him, were told that he had suffered martyrdom. They bought his body for five hundred pieces of silver; and having embalmed and shrouded it, they had it taken to Rome. All this was made known, by an Angel, to Aglaë, who had also devoted herself to penance and good works. She, therefore, went to meet the Martyr’s relics. She build a church, which was named after the Saint, and in which he was buried on the Nones of June (June 5th). The Martyr’s soul passed into heaven on the day before the Ides of May (May 14th), at Tarsus, a city of Cilicia, under the Emperors Diocletian and Maximian.”

The Angels rejoiced more at thy conversion, O Boniface, than at the fidelity of the ninety-nine just; but their joy was redoubled, when they found that heaven gained, in thee, not only a Penitent, but a Martyr too. Receive, also, the congratulations of holy Church, which celebrates the memory of thy victory. Rome is still in possession of thy holy Relics, which repose in the Church on Mount Aventine, where once stood the house of her that imitated thy repentance. In both her and thee, we have a proof of the infinite mercy of Jesus, who called the two sinners from spiritual death to the life of grace. Have compassion, O holy Martyr, on those poor sinners, whom this Easter has not yet brought back to their Redeemer. The *Alleluia* has resounded through the whole universe, and yet it has failed to rouse them from their sleep of sin. Pray for their resurrection. Their days are numbered; and perhaps they are not to see another Easter. Yet do we hope in the divine Mercy, which has shown us its power by making thee and Aglaë to be vessels of election. We therefore unite our prayers with thine, O Boniface, that our Lord may grant a resurrection to our Brethren.

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger O.S.B. (1805-1875).



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

MAY 14:

**St. Boniface of Tarsus,
Martyr**
(after Ascension)

Prayers at the Foot of the Altar
(see red Missal, pp. 10-13)

Introit (Psalm 63 : 3)

PROTEXISTI ME, Deus, a convéntu malignántium, allelúia: a multitudíne operántium iniquitátem, allelúia, allelúia. *Ps. ibid.* 2. Exáudi, Deus, oratióne meam cum deprecor: a timóre inimíci éripe ánimam meam. *V.* Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. — Protexisti ...

THOU HAST protected me, O God, from the assembly of the malignant, alleluia: from the multitude of the workers of iniquity, alleluia, alleluia. *Psalm.* Hear, O God, my prayer, when I make supplication to Thee: deliver my soul from the fear of the enemy. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — Thou hast ...

Collect

DA, QUÆSUMUS, omnipotens Deus: ut, qui beáti Bonifátii Mártiris tui sollémnia cólimus, ejus apud te intercessiόνibus adiuvémur. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

GRANT, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that, keeping the festival of Thy blessed Martyr, Boniface, we may be helped by his intercession with Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

Lesson (Wisdom 5 : 1–5)

STABUNT justí in magna constántia advérsus eos, qui se angustiavérunt, et qui abstulérunt labóres eórum. Vidéntes turbabúntur timóre

THEN SHALL the just stand with great constancy against those that have afflicted them and taken away their labors. These seeing it, shall be troubled with terrible

fear, and shall be amazed at the suddenness of their unexpected salvation, saying within themselves, repenting, and groaning for anguish of spirit: These are they whom we had some time in derision and for a parable of reproach. We fools esteemed their life madness and their end without honor; behold how they are numbered among the children of God, and their lot is among the Saints.

Alleluia

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. *Ÿ.* (*Psalm 88:6*) The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord: and Thy truth in the Church of the Saints. **Alleluia.** (*Ps. 20:4*) Thou hast set on his head, O Lord, a crown of precious stones. Alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 20: 20–23)

AT THAT TIME, Jesus said to his disciples: I am the true vine: and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He will take away: and every one that beareth fruit, He will purge it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now you are clean, by reason of the word which I have spoken to you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abide in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing. If any one abide not in Me, he shall be cast forth as a branch and shall wither, and they shall gather him up and cast him into the fire: and he burneth. If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you shall ask whatever you will, and it shall be done unto you.

horribili, et mirabuntur in subitacione insperata salutis, dicentes intra se, paenitentiam agentes, et praeventiam spiritus gementes: Hi sunt, quos habuimus aliquando in derisum, et in similitudinem improperii. Nos insensati vitam illorum aestimabamus insaniam, et finem illorum sine honore: ecce quomodo computati sunt inter filios Dei, et inter sanctos sors illorum est.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. *Ÿ.* Confitebuntur caeli mirabilia tua, Domine: etenim veritatem tuam in ecclesia sanctorum. Alleluia. *Ÿ.* Posuisti Domine, super caput ejus coronam de lapide pretioso. Alleluia.

IN ILLO TEMPORE: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Ego sum vitis vera: et Pater meus agricola est. Omnem palmitem in me non ferentem fructum, tollet eum: et omnem, qui fert fructum, purgabit eum, ut fructum plus afferat. Jam vos mundi estis propter sermonem, quem locutus sum vobis. Manete in me: et ego in vobis. Sicut palmes non potest ferre fructum a semetipso, nisi manserit in vite: sic nec vos, nisi in me manseritis. Ego sum vitis, vos palmites: qui manet in me, et ego in eo, hic fert fructum multum: quia sine me nihil potestis facere. Si quis in me non manserit, mittetur foras sicut palmes, et ardescet, et colligent eum, et in ignem mittent, et ardet. Si manseritis in me, et verba mea in vobis manserint: quodcumque volueritis, petetis, et fiet vobis.

Offertory (Psalm 88: 6)

CONFITEBUNTUR caeli mirabilia tua, Domine: et veritatem tuam in ecclesia sanctorum, alleluia, alleluia.

MUNERIBUS nostris, quaesumus, Domine, precibusque susceptis: et caelestibus nos munda mysteriis, et clementer exaudi. Per Dominum nostrum ...

THE HEAVENS shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the church of the saints, alleluia, alleluia.

Secret

RECEIVE, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our offerings and prayers, and cleanse us by these heavenly Mysteries, and mercifully hear us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

Preface for Ascension

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, aequum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeternus Deus: per Christum Dominum nostrum. Qui post resurrectionem suam omnibus discipulis suis manifestus apparuit, et ipsis cernentibus est elevatus in caelum, ut nos divinitatis suae tribueret esse participes. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia caelestis exercitus, hymnum gloriae tuae canimus, sine fine dicentes: — *Sanctus.*

IT IS TRULY meet and just, right and for our salvation, at all times and in all places to give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: through Christ our Lord. Who after His Resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in the sight of them all was taken up into heaven, that He might make us sharers in His own Divinity. And therefore, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to Thy glory, evermore saying: — *Sanctus.*

Communion (Psalm 63: 11)

LATABITUR justus in Domino, et sperabit in eo: et laudabuntur omnes recti corde, alleluia, alleluia.

REFECTI participatione muneris sacri, quaesumus, Domine, Deus noster: ut, cujus exsequimur cultum, intercedente beato Bonifatio Martyre tuo, sentiamus effectum. Per Dominum ...

THE JUST shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him: and all the upright in heart shall be praised, alleluia, alleluia.

Postcommunion

REFRESHED by partaking of Thy holy Gift, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, that through the intercession of blessed Boniface, Thy Martyr, we may experience fruits of that which we worship. Through ...