

Saint Boniface  
(Bishop and Martyr)  
Friday 5 June 2020



## Saint Boniface

Saint Boniface was a member of a Benedictine Monastery in Devon (England) in about 675. He was elected as abbot but resigned so that he could become a missionary. The pope gave him the name Boniface and sent him to Germany, where served as a bishop for thirty years. He was sent there to evangelise the Germanic peoples.

He was ordained a bishop and given wide-ranging papal commissions throughout Germany and Gaul. He founded monasteries and established dioceses, presided at synods and maintained close associations with various emperors.

He is remembered as a determined missionary and as a church worker and reformer whose worked shaped the way for the future of the Church in Europe.

He was martyred by a band of pagans during Mass on Pentecost Sunday 754.

### What lesson can we learn from Saint Boniface's life?

Boniface left the comfort of his homeland and went to a foreign land where he did not know the people and probably did not speak their language either. He did not let those barriers prevent him from doing God's work and setting up parishes and organizing the Church.

In this time of COVID-19 with various government restrictions in place it can be so easy to become consumed by what we cannot do that we cannot see the creative possibilities that lie right before our eyes. Let us use this time to find new ways of spreading Christ's name in the world and try out new activities to broaden our horizons, interests and network of friends and our prayer life.

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Collect

May the Martyr Saint Boniface be our advocate, O Lord,  
that we may firmly hold the faith  
he taught with his lips and sealed in his blood  
and confidently profess it by our deeds.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel John 10:11-16

Jesus said:

**'I am the good shepherd:**

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.  
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd  
and the sheep do not belong to him,  
abandons the sheep and runs away  
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,  
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;  
this is because he is only a hired man  
and has no concern for the sheep.

**'I am the good shepherd;**

I know my own and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep.  
And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,  
and these I have to lead as well.  
They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock,  
and one shepherd.'

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Antiphon Mark 8: 35

Whoever loses his life for the sake of the Gospel  
will save it, says the Lord.

Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Boniface

Apostle to the people  
in Gaul and Germany,  
you did not seek the high place  
but lowly you would be.  
As you left your own homeland  
to preach and to proclaim  
to those Germanic people  
**and to make known Christ's name.**

Go out to every nation,  
baptize them in my name,  
was what the Lord commanded,  
and what you did proclaim.  
May we who live in this age  
**find ways to tell God's news**  
of his eternal love to  
a world that is confused.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono 76.76D

Music links to the Scripture Readings for the Memorial

[You are the Light](#) - Sarah Hart  
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