

Saint Bartholomew
(Apostle)
24 August



About Saint Bartholomew

Not a great deal is known about Saint Bartholomew. We do know that he was from Cana in Galilee. He is named in the lists of the twelve apostles in the Synoptic Gospels, but is referred to by the name Nathaniel in Saint John's Gospel. He is also mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the disciples waiting for the descent of the Holy Spirit. Tradition tells us that after the Ascension he preached the Gospel in India or Armenia and died as a martyr there. It is believed he was skinned alive and beheaded in Albanaopolis, on the west coast of the Caspian Sea. He is the patron saint of tanners because he lost his skin during his martyrdom.

How does the life of Saint Bartholomew apply to our lives today?

Whilst we do not know a lot of information about the life of Saint Bartholomew, we do know that he was an apostle and a committed follower of Christ. So much so, he died for the faith as a martyr. He also travelled beyond his home to preach the Gospel to people who did not know about Christ.

So, we in this day and age can be committed to our faith in Christ, living and preaching the Gospel, so that people will know that we are authentic followers of Christ and would like the world to be a better place because we would like Christ's presence to permeate the world.

Collect

Strengthen in us, O Lord, the faith,
by which the blessed Apostle Bartholomew
clung wholeheartedly to your Son,
and grant that through the help of his prayers
your Church may become for all the nations
the sacrament of salvation.
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.

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Gospel

John 1:45-51

You will see heaven laid open, and the Son of Man

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,

'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law,
the one about whom the prophets wrote:
he is Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth.'

'From Nazareth?' said Nathanael

'Can anything good come from that place?'

'Come and see' replied Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming he said of him,

'There is an Israelite who deserves the name, incapable of deceit.'

'How do you know me?' said Nathanael.

'Before Philip came to call you,' said Jesus

'I saw you under the fig tree.'

Nathanael answered,

'Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel.'

Jesus replied,

'You believe that just because I said: I saw you under the fig tree.

You will see greater things than that.'

And then he added

'I tell you most solemnly, you will see heaven laid open and,
above the Son of Man, the angels of God ascending and descending.'

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Antiphon

I confer a kingdom on you,
just as my Father has conferred one on me,
that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, says the Lord.

Hymn for the Feast of Saint Bartholomew

Nathaniel the apostle,
also called Bartholomew,
was invited to meet Jesus
by Philip, a man he knew.

"We have found the one whom Moses
wrote about in Sacred Law.
Come and see him," Philip told him,
"come and see the man I saw."

"He is Jesus, son of Joseph,
from Naz'reth in Galilee."
"Nothing good can come from that place,"
said Nathaniel scornfully.
Jesus said to Nathaniel,
"You were under the fig tree.

There is no deceit within you,
that is what I clearly see."

Nathaniel was astounded,
"You are Son of God," said he.
Jesus said, "I have convinced you,
but **greater things you will see."**

Just as Nathaniel was led,
to discover Christ the Lord
may we lead our friends and neighbours
to know God's eternal Word.

Tune: Merton
Text: 87.87

Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

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