

Saint George
(Martyr)
23 April



About Saint George (? - c.303)

Saint George was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel) in about the year 303, during the persecution of Diocletian. Like many saints in the early Church, the only certain fact we have about him is that he died a martyr. His cult spread quickly through both the East and the West. There are many legends which surround Saint George which came about centuries after his death. For example, the legend of Saint George slaying a dragon was included in a collection of saints' stories in the thirteenth century.

In artworks Saint George is represented as a soldier on a white horse, slaying a dragon while carrying a white shield with a red cross. This red cross on a white background is known as Saint George's Cross and is on the flags of several countries including England and those countries that have the Union Jack as part of their National Flag such as Australia and New Zealand.

What can we learn from Saint George's life?

The only concrete fact we have about Saint George is that he died a martyr and was willing to remain faithful to Christ until the bitter end. He did not change his mind when things got uncomfortable for him. So it is with us, we must remain faithful to Christ in our lives, in good times and in bad. We must also remain faithful to family and friends in good times and in bad.

The teaching of Christ must always be what we live by even when it is inconvenient to do so.

Collect

Extolling your might, O Lord,
we humbly implore you,
that, as Saint George imitated the Passion of the Lord,
so he may lend us ready help in our weakness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit

he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit

he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,

by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,

but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me

is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,

and they are burnt.

If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will

and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples.'

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Antiphon

If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him;
if we persevere, we shall also reign with him, Alleluia.

A Hymn for Memorial of Saint George

O Great Saint George who did extol
the might of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
following Him in life and death
and so you gained heaven's reward.

A faithful follower of Christ
who lived your life by what He taught:
not bending to the Emp'ror's rule,
nor earthly things which count for naught.

Saint George, like you we need to hear
the words of Christ and His great call
to bear fruit while living on earth
in every task both great and small.

Saint George, like you may we be fixed
on Christ, who saved us from our sin,
that after living here on earth
our life in heaven may begin.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
Tune: LM Old 100th

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