

Month of August

THE 8TH DAY

AFTERFEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Commemoration of **Our Fathers among the Saints** **Emilian, Bishop of Cyzicus, the Confessor, &** **Colmán, Bishop of Lindisfarne,**

Founder & Abbot of the Monasteries on Inisbofin & at Mayo

N.B.: This service is written in such a way as to facilitate combining it with the hymns of the Transfiguration of the Lord and St. Emilian the Confess, Bishop of Cyzicus.

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 of St. Emilian (see in the Menaion), and 3 of the holy hierarch Colmán, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "What shall be call you..."—

How now shall we all praise Colmán, who was great among hierarchs and renowned among ascetics, who mortified the passions of the flesh and saw to the needs of the poor? Glorious indeed were his virtues and attainments; wherefore, we beseech him earnestly.

What shall we call the most eminent Colmán, who, zealous for the ways of his fathers in the Faith, cherished yet more the unity of brethren in Christ; who was full of love for God and neighbor, yet withdrew from the world, seeking the peace that passeth all understanding?

What shall we say of the wondrous Colmán, who when dissension arose among his brethren, set them apart from one another, lest the enemy of salvation prevail over them; and who as a peace-maker is shown to be a son of God, with Whom he reigneth forever on high.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Doxasticon of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

Aposticha stichera of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion).

Glory..., Now & ever...: Doxasticon of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

Troparion of the saint, in Tone IV—

Clinging faithfully to Christ thy Master, O blessed Colmán, thou didst flee all the corruption of the world, and, having crucified thy flesh with all its passions and lusts, thou didst willingly take up the hierarchal yoke, ploughing the field of the Church with the Gospel, and bringing forth a great spiritual harvest. And when thou didst lay down thy labors for the sake of peace, thou didst establish safe havens for the salvation of men's souls, for which cause, O God-bearer, we glorify thee with fitting praises.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Troparion of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the feast, twice; Glory..., that of St. Colmán; Now & ever..., that of the feast, once.

After the kathismata, the sessional hymns of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion).

Canon II of the Transfiguration, the composition of John the Monk, with 6 troparia, including the irmos; that of St. Emilian, with 4 troparia (for both, see in the Menaion); and that of the holy hierarch Colmán, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "England and Ireland both honor Colmán", in Tone II—

Ode I

Irmos: Traversing the deep, the people of Israel sang unto Him Who is mighty in the strength of His arm, and Who crushed the battles of the tyrant Pharaoh: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Éirann's soil put forth the flower of Orthodoxy, from whence thou didst spring like an air-borne seed, O wondrous Colmán; and, wafted upon the winds of piety to the Isle of Iona, thou didst yield most glorious fruit.

Neither sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids didst thou give, O saint, until thou hadst set at nought all temptations and the uprisings of the passions, singing to the Lord Who by thee hath been gloriously glorified.

Going forth from Iona to Northumbria, to do battle against the noetic Canaanites who waged war on the New Israel, O Colmán, with meekness as a sword and humility as a shield thou didst cut down idolatry at the root.

Theotokion: Lift up your voices, ye people of the New Israel, and piously hymn the Mother of God Who crushed the power of hades and death; and let us joyfully sing the praises of her who is full of grace, for her Son hath glorified her.

Ode III

Irmos: O Christ God, Who didst stretch out heaven like a tent and found the dry land upon the waters at Thy divine behest: in the Orthodox Faith establish me who cry aloud: There is none holy save Thee!

Aidan sowed goodly seed in Christ's field of Northumbria, and Finan tended well the crop of souls; and the blessed Colmán reaped that bounteous harvest, storing it safely in the granaries of paradise.

No dart of pride didst thou permit to pierce the breastplate of humility wherewith thou didst arm thyself, O holy hierarch; wherefore, unsmitten by vainglory, thou didst meekly lay aside thy lofty rank.

Departing with thy disciples to Iona, whence thou hadst come, O Colmán, thou didst find tranquility in the sacred haven of thy tonsure, praying and crying out to God: There is none holy save Thee!

Theotokion: A great paradox is revealed in thee, O Mary; for thou who wast born in the reign of Herod the King gavest birth to the beginningless King of all things, Who is begotten timelessly of the Father.

Kontakion of St. Emilian (see in the Menaion)

Kontakion of St. Colmán, in Tone I—

O sacred Isle of Iona, O Holy Isle of Lindisfarne, and thou, O Inisbofin! Far greater than the billows of the seas that compass you about is the abyss of grace that surgeth forth from the holy Colmán like a deluge; for not only doth it overflow your rocky shores, but it covereth all the lands where those dwell who honor him with faith.

Sessional hymn of St. Emilian (see in the Menaion)

Glory...: Sessional hymn, in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: "Of the divine Faith..."—

Among the monks of Iona Colmán shone with splendor; wherefore, he was sent to Northumbria to confirm the Holy Faith. And having shepherded the flock of Christ with zeal in that kingdom; he set aside his burdens and again took up the monastic yoke: for which we bless him.

Now & ever...: Sessional hymn of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

Ode IV

Irmos: I hymn Thee, O Lord, for I heard report of Thee, and I was afraid; for Thou comest to me, seeking me who have strayed. Wherefore, I glorify Thy great condescension toward me, O greatly Merciful One.

Neither hymn nor praise of our device is meet to glorify Thy saint, O Christ; wherefore, in our presumption we are sore afraid. But accept our goodly intent, O Merciful One, Who art glorified in Thy holy ones.

Dread filleth hearts of men who brave the billows of the western sea, and many are they who have drowned within its depths; but Colmán and his monks traversed the ocean's fury, guided by grace to the safe haven of Inisbofin.

In coracles, frail boats of hide, did Colmán's pious company set forth for Éirann's distant western isles, driven by the breath of the Paraclete and steered by Christ, the great Helmsman of the Church, to the shore for which they yearned.

Theotokion: Rightly did the holy elder foretell the sorrow and pain thou wouldst feel on beholding thy Son dead, nailed to the Cross, His side pierced, O all-immaculate one; yet withal thou didst perceive His ineffable condescension.

Ode V

Irmos: Dispelling the gloom of dark ignorance, O Christ God Who art life and light, illumine our thoughts, our noetic senses, with the never-waning light of Thine understanding.

Escaping every peril, the ship of Colmán's piety came to land at last on Inisbofin's rocky strand, as the divinely preserved ark of Noah once had gently come to rest on lofty Ararat.

Like Abram, true to God, who forsook his father's home and went whither he was bidden, Colmán departed Iona, where his spiritual father dwelt, and found a sea-girl isle to be his promised land.

Across the sundering sea the holy hierarch sailed, his spiritual eyes descrying from afar the bright noetic beacon of the grace of God, illumining the paths of the deep with never-waning light.

Theotokion: Now hath the darkness of ignorance been banished forthwith by the light of the divine knowledge that Christ, the eternal Light Who shone forth from thee, hath shone upon us, O Lady.

Ode VI

Irmos: Harkening to the sound of the cries of entreaty which issue forth from a soul in pain, O Master, deliver me from my grievous sins, for Thou alone art the Cause of our salvation.

Delivered from the tumults of both life and sea, on Inisbofin Colmán founded a great monastery, where men might work out their souls' salvation with fear and trembling.

Beguiling our forebears of old and parting them from life and God, Belial tempted the monks of Colmán's band; but the holy one bade them form two regiments, to assail the foe upon two flanks.

O the godly wisdom of the hierarch! For when his flock was riven by discord, he straightway passed over to Mayo, where he acquired a place where many came to seek deliverance from sin.

Theotokion: The souls of those in darkness, awaiting the coming of the Messiah, were filled with light when thy Son, the Savior of man, came down and led them up to

heaven's heights, O Lady.

Kontakion & ikos of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion).

Ode VII

Irmos: When the golden image was worshiped on the plain of Dura, Thy three youths spurned the ungodly command, and, cast into the midst of the fire, bedewed, they sang: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Heeding well the words of Paul, that in Christ there is neither Greek nor Jew, the holy Colmán lovingly provided peaceable abodes, where Irishmen and English both could chant: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Having nurtured thy community well as it were a tender plant, like a skillful gardener Colmán cut it betimes in twain, that its stems might flourish, each unrestricted, reaching up to the blessed God of our fathers.

On Inisbofin thine Irish children struggled in ascetic toil, O holy one, and in Mayo thine English flock throve and prospered mightily; and all cried aloud and sang: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Theotokion: Never didst thou hesitate, O all-holy Virgin, when Gabriel spake his wondrous news, but thou didst say, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word! Blessed is the God of our fathers!"

Ode VIII

Irmos: God the Word, Who in His ineffable wisdom created all things and brought them into existence out of nothingness, do ye bless as Lord, O ye works, and exalt supremely for all ages!

Orisons didst thou unceasingly make throughout thy life, O ever-memorable hierarch Colmán, crying aloud: Bless the Lord, O ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Radiant with grace and clad withal in virtue, as in vesture many-hued, led up by angels thou didst cry aloud to all: Bless the Lord, O ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Colmán, full of virtue, wisely ruled his flock, as of old wise Solomon reigned over Israel, teaching all to cry: Bless the Lord, O ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Theotokion: O precious vessel of God the Word, the eternal Wisdom Who created all things out of nought: we bless thee, the Queen of all, and with all creation we exalt thee supremely for all ages.

Ode IX

Irmos: Come ye, and with pure souls and undefiled lips let us magnify the undefiled and all-pure Mother of Emmanuel, through her offering supplication unto Him Who was born of her, saying: Take pity on our souls, O Christ God, and save us!

Let us with hymns now magnify the all-pure Mother of our God, who, standing at His throne doth offer bold entreaty to her Son; and let us likewise glorify His saint, whom He hath given us to intercede before Him for our souls.

Many centuries have passed and ages of the history of man elapsed since Colmán's feet upon this earth did tread; yet in his wisdom and great righteousness he still doth serve for all as a model of the Christian life and faith.

Triadicon: All-holy is the Father, Source of all, from Whom the Logos doth eternally spring forth: Emmanuel, the Word incarnate of the Virgin's womb. All-holy is

the Paraclete Who from the Father doth proceed and resteth in the ageless Son.

Theotokion: Now let us purify our souls and lips, that we may magnify the Virgin Maiden pure, the Mother of our God, who prayeth without ceasing to her Son and moveth Him to pity for our sinful and most lowly race, that He have mercy now upon us all.

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: “The heaven with stars...”—

Mayo exulteth, and Inisbofin rejoiceth; for both were wondrously adorned with holy monasteries by the glorious Colmán, who is hymned by angels and by men.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Exapostilarion of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

Aposticha stichera of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

Glory..., Now & ever...: Doxasticon of the Transfiguration (see in the Menaion)

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from Ode III of both canons, including the irmos.