

# Month of May

## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY

### Commemoration of the Venerable Martyr Dymphna & the 4 Holy Hieromartyr Gerebran, Who Suffered with Her

#### At Vespers

*On "Lord, I have cried...": 6 stichera: 3 from the Pentecostarion, and 3 of the venerable martyr, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: "When from the Tree..."—*

When the Sun of righteousness dawned in splendor, He shed His light upon Ireland, and the people of that island shook of the heathen darkness that had enshrouded them for ages untold. Then also did the virgin Dymphna arise, and emerging from the holy font she cried: Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

When the Sun of righteousness filled Ireland with the radiance of His glory, holy hierarchs and priests went forth among the people, teaching them the precepts of Christ and to keep His commandments. Then was Dymphna likewise instructed to follow the straight and narrow way that leadeth to salvation of soul and the kingdom on high.

Drinking in the saving doctrines of the Christian Faith at her pious mother's breast, Dymphna grew in wisdom as in stature, and flourished amid thorns like a beautiful lily, perfuming those around her with the sweet fragrance of reverence. Then also did Gerebran the priest teach her to cherish holy virginity among all the virtues.

*Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable martyr, in Tone V—*

O ye Christians, let us hearken to the great apostle to the gentiles, who thus admonisheth the faithful: "Ye are the temple of the living God Wherefore, be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? What communion hath light with darkness? What concord hath Christ with Belial? What part hath he who believeth with an infidel? What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" And mindful of this instruction, the holy Dymphna fled headlong from her heathen father, desiring to escape the most vile profanation of the temple of her body; wherefore, to preserve her virtue, she willingly laid down her life for Christ her Lord and Savior.

*Now & ever...: Idiomelon from the Pentecostarion.*

*Aposticha stichera from the Pentecostarion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable martyr, in Tone I—*

Through many ages, pious Christians have journeyed from afar, to venerate the precious relics of the holy virgin Dymphna, for like an ever-flowing fountain her tomb is a source of countless miracles. Wherefore, Gheel rejoiceth, as the place where she laid down her life for Christ; and all Flanders is filled with gladness, having her as its glorious protectress. But through her the Lord sendeth beams of grace upon all the faithful throughout the world, for she prayeth unceasingly in our behalf.

*Now & ever...: Idiomelon from the Pentecostarion.*

*Troparion of the saint, in Tone IV—*

Maddened by lust, the ungodly king raged mindlessly when his abominable desires were steadfastly refused; and, rebuked, he hewed down Gerebran the pious priest, and likewise slew the holy Dymphna his daughter, who willingly died to preserve her virginity. Wherefore, those who are deranged and deluded in mind find in her a steadfast advocate and a wellspring of wondrous healing.

*Glory..., Now & ever...: Troparion from the Pentecostarion.*

### **At Matins**

*At "God is the Lord...", the troparion from the Pentecostarion, twice; Glory..., that of the martyrs; Now & ever..., as prescribed by the Pentecostarion.*

*Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 8 troparion, the irmos being chanted twice; and that of the saint, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Dymphna shed her blood for purity's sake", 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!

Desiring to escape the tyrant's lust, Dymphna cast herself upon the depths of the sea, and with God as her helmsman she sailed to Flanders, chanting: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Ye faithful Christian people, praise the Lord, Who with His mighty arm guided the holy ones to safety, and with joyous voices never cease to chant: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Moses led Israel away from the tyranny of Pharaoh, to the land God had promised them; and Christ guided Dymphna and those with her away from her tyrannous father to safe haven in His kingdom on high.

*Theotokion:* Pleading, let us make entreaty to the Theotokos, who by her maternal mediation breaketh the snares of the enemy asunder and freeth those who chant: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

#### Ode III

*Irmos:* Establish us in Thee, O Lord Who hast slain sin by the Tree, and plant the fear of Thee in the hearts of us who hymn Thee.

Having Jesus, Who redeemed mankind on the Cross, as thine only Lord, O martyr, thou didst love Him above all.

Neither the unholy passion of thy father, nor the raging billows of the sea were able to shake thy steadfast heart, O holy one.

As thou wast zealous for the Lord, O Dymphna, thou didst plant in thy heart the fear of God, the beginning of wisdom.

Sin didst thou uproot from thy heart like tares from a field, O holy maiden, reaping a goodly harvest of the virtues.

*Theotokion:* Having been given thee as our mother by the Lord as He hung upon the Tree, O Virgin, we make bold to call upon thee.

*Kontakion of the venerable martyr, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: "When the stone had been sealed..."—*

When thou wast entombed in a cave, and the mouth thereof was sealed for many years, O Dymphna, thy grave was opened by the pious, and thy sacred relics were found untouched by decay. Wherefore, we cry out to Him Who exalteth thee: Glory to Thine loving-kindness, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy compassion, O Thou Who art wondrous in Thy saints!

*Ikos:* Throughout the world many are afflicted with madness, raging uncontrollably, prey to baseless terrors and obsessions, or afflicted by palsies and like

disorders. But the Lord, Who loveth mankind, hath given His holy martyr the grace to cure such maladies, in token of her courage and sacrifice. Wherefore, availing ourselves of her bold mediation, we cry unto the Merciful One: Glory to Thine omnipotence, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy compassion, O Thou Who art wondrous in Thy saints!

*Sessional hymn of the venerable martyr, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared today..."—*

Filled with grace by Him Who suffered on the Cross, thou healest those distressed of body and spirit, O virgin martyr Dymphna. Wherefore, we honor thy virtues and thy holy memory with faith.

*Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn from the Pentecostarion.*

#### 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.

Edified by the instruction of the pious Gerebran, Dymphna was filled with the fear of God, Who in His mercy and condescension toward mankind deigned to suffer and die on the Cross for us who have gone greatly astray.

Dymphna heard report of her father's depraved intent, and was afraid; wherefore, she fled in haste by ship to a far land, seeking a place to dwell unmolested, in purity and chastity, hymning her greatly merciful Master.

Hearing from the minions he sent to seek out the place where his daughter hid herself, the ungodly king set forth to apprehend and enslave her to his degeneracy; but the pure maiden denounced his wickedness.

*Theotokion:* Eve of old fell by transgressing the single commandment of the Most High, and with Adam brought death upon our race; but, giving birth to the Vanquisher of death, the all-holy Mary hath restored us to lost paradise.

#### Ode V

*Irmos:* Dispelling the darkness of my soul, O my Savior, with the light of the commandments illumine me, in that Thou alone art the King of peace.

Rebuking the mindless king, Gerebran the priest sought to dispel the demonic darkness that clouded his reason, for which the pious one was beheaded.

Beholding the holy priest unjustly slain, Dymphna was in nowise dismayed, giving thanks in heart for his witness to the commandments of the King of all.

Lamps of virtue are the teachings of Christ the Savior, guiding fallen man to the mansions of heaven, as Gerebran bore witness with zeal till his martyrdom.

*Theotokion:* O Lady most pure, by thine intercessions lift from my benighted soul the gloom of the passions, and shine upon me the light of thy Son, the King of peace.

#### Ode VI

*Irmos:* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I call upon the unfathomable abyss of Thy loving-kindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God!

Overtaken was the balance of the evil king's mind, and, enraged by his holy daughter's rejection, he slew her, falling into the dire abyss.

Demented and deranged was the holy one's father, and reason and sanity had departed from him, for he cut down his own child with the sword.

Freed from the bonds of the flesh by her father's sword, the virgin Dymphna, her

purity unsullied, escaped corruption at his abominable hands.

*Theotokion:* O the depths of our depravity! O the magnitude of our iniquity! But by thy prayers lead us up from corruption, O compassionate Maiden.

*Kontakion & ikos from the Pentecostarion.*

#### Ode VII

*Irmos:* The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God, raised up a lofty flame; but Christ, Who is blessed and all-glorious, spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths.

Refusing the iniquitous command of the tyrant, opposed to the law of God, Dymphna surrendered her pure soul into the blessed and all-glorious hands of her Lord.

Pious and blessed maiden, enable us also to withstand the fire of temptation and the flames of the passions, through the spiritual dew of the grace that dwelleth in thee.

Upborne by the angels of God, the pure soul of the virgin maiden soared aloft to the habitations of the saints, to dwell forever with Christ, Who is blessed and all-glorious.

*Theotokion:* Rest from the toils of this life and relief from the burden of our struggles do thou grant us, O all-immaculate Theotokos, Mother of God Who is blessed and all-glorious.

#### Ode VIII

*Irmos:* God Who is glorified in the heavens with angelic voices let us forever praise with our words, O ye mortals.

In the heavens doth the wondrous Dymphna stand in glory, joining her pure voice to that of the angelic hosts.

Those afflicted with the falling sickness and palsy are cured of their maladies by Dymphna's intercessions.

*Triadicon:* Ye Christians, with the angels let us glorify the Holy Trinity our God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Theotokion:* Sing praises, and with angelic hymnody let us magnify Mary, the Queen of the angels, for she prayeth for us.

#### Ode IX

*Irmos:* The Church of the faithful people hath been magnified, for the Creator of all, dwelling therein, reneweth it unto life.

Saved from the ravages of time and war, the sacred relics of the martyr still give forth miracles like rays of uncreated light.

At Gheel of Flanders the tombs of Dymphna and Gerebran pour forth grace, unto the renewal of men's health and life.

Keep us free from indwelling passions, O saint, and fend off from us all the dire assaults of demonic temptations.

*Theotokion:* Exalted to the heavenly choirs, Dymphna, virgin and martyr, standeth with the Virgin Theotokos, hymning our Creator.

*Exapostilarion of the venerable martyr: Spec. Mel.: "As the disciples watched..."—*

The angels escorting thee, thou didst mount to heaven, O Dymphna, to stand before the Trinity; and they cried: "Lift up your gates! For the bride of Christ is come to reign with Him in the light of eternal glory!"

*Glory..., Now & ever...: Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion.*

*Aposticha stichera from the Pentecostarion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable martyr, in Tone VI—*

Thou didst brave the frenzied rage of thy father, O most praised maiden, and, resolute in preserving thy purity and virtue, thou didst suffer beheading at his hands, looking steadfastly toward the heavenly rewards that Christ Jesus hath promised to those who love Him and faithfully keep His commandments; for in thy zeal thou didst desire Him alone as the most comely Bridegroom of thy soul, O greatly honored one.

*Now & ever...: Idiomelon from the Pentecostarion.*

### **At Liturgy**

*On the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from the appointed ode of the canon from the Pentecostarion.*

*Prokimenon from the Pentecostarion, and that of the martyr, in Tone IV—*

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle to the Corinthians §181

Brethren: As workers together with Christ, I beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: but in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

*Alleluia from the Pentecostarion, and that of the martyr,, in Tone I—*

*Stichos:* With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me, and He hearkened unto my supplication.

Gospel according to Luke, § 33

At that time, one of the Pharisees desired Jesus that He would eat with him. And He went down into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And behold, a woman in the city, who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had bidden Him saw it, he spake within himself, saying: "This man, if He were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth Him; for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said unto him: "Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee." And he said: "Master, say on." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me, therefore, which of them will love him most?" Simon answered and said: "I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most." And He said unto him: "Thou hast rightly judged." And He turned to the woman, and said unto

Simon: "Seest thou this woman? I entered into thy house; thou gavest Me no water for My feet: but she hath washed My feet with tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head. Thou gavest Me no kiss: but this woman, since the time I came in, hath not ceased to kiss My feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed My feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee: her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." And He said unto her: "Thy sins are forgiven." And they who sat at meat with Him began to say within themselves: "Who is this Who forgiveth sins also?" And He said to the woman: "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

*Communion Verse from the Pentecostarion; and that of the martyr—*

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.