

Canon to the  
Holy Martyr Dymphna of Gheel  
& the Priest-martyr Gerebran  
who suffered with her.



The Holy Martyr Dymphna (+7<sup>th</sup> Century) was an Irish princess and the daughter of a Christian mother and a pagan king, Damon. When only fourteen, Dymphna's mother died, which drove Damon mad with grief. Seeing the resemblance of Dymphna to his wife, the king began to make advances on his own daughter. To preserve her virginity, she fled with her confessor, the priest Gerebran, to Flanders. Pursued by Damon, St Gerebran was murdered; the king begged his daughter to return with him, but when Dymphna refused, in a rage he beheaded her with his own sword. Today, the relics of Ss Dymphna and Gerebran can be found in Gheel, Belgium and are a famous source of healing for all those suffering mental illness or distress. Commemorated on the 15<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May, but this canon is for any time of need.

***Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!***

Community of Saint Silouan and All Saints of Britain & Ireland



**The Seven Bow Beginning:**

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *Bow*

O God, cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. *Bow*

Thou hast created me, O Lord, have mercy on me. *Bow*

I have sinned immeasurably, O Lord, forgive me. *Bow*

My most holy Lady Theotokos, save me, a sinner. *Bow*

O Angel, my holy Guardian, protect me from all evil. *Bow*

Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for me. *Bow*

*Then:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth. Who art everywhere present and fillest all things; treasury of blessings and Giver of Life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from all impurity, and of Thy goodness save our souls.

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal. Have mercy on us (Thrice)

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-holy Trinity: Have mercy on us. Lord: Cleanse us from our sins. Master: Pardon our transgressions. Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy (Thrice)

+ Glory... Now and ever... Amen.

Our Father (+) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the (+) Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages: Amen.

Lord have mercy (*twelve times*)

+ Glory... Now and ever... Amen.

O Come, let us worship God our King; *Bow*

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God; *Bow*

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God. *Bow*

**Psalm 50 (51)**

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou

speakest, and be clear when thou judge. For behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; and in sins did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice or else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and oblations: then shall they offer young bulls upon thine altar.

### **The Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, (+) the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in one (+) Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Then the Canon:*

Canon to the Holy Martyr Dymphna – 15<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May

**CANON TO THE HOLY MARTYR DYMPHNA**

**And the Priest-Martyr Gerebran, Who Suffered with Her.**

*(Each Song consists of an eirmos & four troparia, the acrostic wherof is  
"Dymphna shed her blood for purity's sake.")*

**Song 1. Tone 2.**

**Eirmos:** 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!

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**Troparia:** 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!

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

**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.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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!

**Song 3.**

**Eirmos:** 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

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

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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.

*Lord, have mercy. (Thrice).*

**Sedalion,** tone 4:

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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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.

**Song 4.**

**Eirmos:** 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**Troparia:** 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

**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.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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.

### **Song 5.**

**Eirmos:** 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

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.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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.

**Song 6.**

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**Troparia:** Overturned 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

**Freed from the bonds of the flesh** by her father's sword, the virgin Dymphna, her purity unsullied, escaped corruption at his abominable hands.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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.

*Lord, have mercy. (Thrice).*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**Kontakion (Tone I):** 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!

**Song 7.**

**Eirmos:** 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**Troparia:** 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.

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

**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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Sore, and to the Holy Spirit:*

**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.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**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.

**Song 8.**

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

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

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

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

**Song 9.**

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Holy Martyr Dymphna, pray to God for us!*

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

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

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

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

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

**Hymn to the Mother of God:** It is truly meet to bless thee, who didst bring forth God; ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God: More honourable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bring forth God the Word, and art indeed Mother of God, thee do we magnify

## Prayer after the Canon

O holy-martyr Dymphna, thou who didst imbibe of the saving doctrines of the Christian Faith at thy pious mother's breast, and flourished amid thorns like a beauteous lily: perfume us who run to thee with the sweet fragrance of reverence. Heeding the great apostle who dost thus admonish the faithful – “Ye are the temple of the living God Wherefore, be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers” – thou didst flee headlong from thy heathen father, desiring to escape the most vile profanation of the temple of thy body; teach us, O venerable martyr, to hearken also unto the Apostle’s commandments that we might flee from all unbelieving thoughts and evil suggestions.

Through many ages, pious Christians have journeyed from afar, to venerate thy precious relics, O holy virgin, for like an ever-flowing fountain thy tomb is a source of countless miracles. Wherefore, Gheel rejoiceth, as the place where thou didst lay down thy life for Christ; and all Flanders is filled with gladness, having thee as its glorious protectress. But we beg thee, blessed Dymphna, that through thy unceasing holy prayers the Lord send beams of grace upon us and all the faithful throughout the world. May all of us who suffer the darkening and delusion of mind find in thee a steadfast advocate and a wellspring of wondrous healing. Wherefore, thus healed, may we with a clear mind give glory, worship and honour to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*(Be at peace and know that the Holy Martyr Dymphna hears your prayer).*

**Trisagion prayers:**

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal. Have mercy on us  
(Thrice)

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-holy Trinity: Have mercy on us. Lord: Cleanse us  
from our sins. Master: Pardon our transgressions. Holy One:  
visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy (Thrice)

+ Glory... Now and ever... Amen.

Our Father (+) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy  
kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of  
the (+) Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now  
and ever and unto ages of ages: Amen

Lord have mercy (*thrice*)

+ Glory... Now and ever... Amen.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

