

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA
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St Milburga, Abbess

Feast Day 23rd February and 25th June (translation of relics)



Milburga (also known as Mildburga) was the daughter of Merwald, of the royal house of Mercia, and one of three saintly sisters. She died in the early 700's. The following is taken from: Virgin Saints of the Benedictine Order, OSB, 1903:

Merwald had been converted while a mere youth, and, unlike his father [the pagan king Penda], was of a gentle disposition, much addicted to piety. ...

Mildburga was sought in marriage by a neighbouring prince, who was completely captivated by her beauty. When he learnt her resolution to remain a virgin he was

equally resolved to have her for his wife, even at the cost of violence. Mildburga, having probably had proof of his passionate nature, determined to escape an outburst by flight. The young man, baulked of his prey, followed in hot pursuit, and being well mounted steadily gained on her. Then, when all escape seemed impossible, God interposed His Almighty power in favour of His chosen spouse. The river which she had just crossed in her flight suddenly became so swollen that it was impossible for her pursuer to ford it, and he was obliged to desist from his impious design. Mildburga's father built a monastery for her at Wenlock in Shropshire, where many pious virgins gathered round her, and where eventually she was consecrated first abbess by Archbishop [Saint] Theodore. ...

She was much given to prayer and contemplation, and the country people, honouring the power of her prayer with God, would often come to her in their troubles to make her their intercessor. ...

Regarding the finding of her relics William of Malmsbury writes: "St Mildburga rests at Wenlock. In ancient times her memory was celebrated by the inhabitants, but after the coming in of the Normans, by reason that the place of her sepulchre was unknown, she became



31 March
2019

WINEFRIDE'S MASSES AT ST. WINEFRIDE'S PRESBYTERY, SHREWSBURY



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in Shrewsbury

Weekly Schedule

	Ordo	Cathedral	St Winefride's	Mass Intention
Sun	31 st March Laetare Sunday		11.45 Confession & Rosary 12.15 Mass 6pm Vespers & Benediction	Novena For Mothers
Mon	1 st April Feria, III class.	7.30am Mass	6pm Vespers & Benediction	Novena For Mothers
Tue	2 nd April Feria, III class, Comm. St. Francis of Paul	7.30am Mass	5.30pm Confession & Rosary 6pm Mass	Novena For Mothers
Wed	3 rd April Feria, III class.	7.30am Mass	5pm. Confessions 6pm Spiritual Conference	Novena For Mothers
Thu	4 th April Christ the Sovereign and Eternal Priest, II class votive.	7.30am Mass 11am Holy Hour & Benediction	6pm Solemn Vespers & Compline	Novena For Mothers
Fri	5 th April Sacred Heart, II class votive.	7.30am Mass 11.30am Via Crucis 6pm Mass & Benediction		Novena For Mothers
Sat	6 th April Immaculate Heart, II class votive.		11am Confession & Rosary 11.30am Mass 6pm Vespers & Compline	Novena For Mothers
Sun	7 th April V Sunday of Lent		11.45am Confession & Rosary 12.15 Mass 6pm Vespers & Benediction	Novena For Mothers

* Changes from the usual schedule: Please note that. During Lent (except for Good Friday) the Friday evening St Winefride's Masses will be transferred to the Cathedral. All other Masses in the parish are on the Cathedral website.

forgotten. But of late a convent of Cluny monks having been established there, whilst they were busy in erecting the fabric of a new church, a certain child running earnestly over the pavement, the vault of her sepulchre broke under him, by which means the body of the holy virgin was discovered. Which being taken up, a most odoriferous vapour, as of a most precious balm, perfumed the whole church. And such a world of miracles was wrought by her intercession that wonderful multitudes flocked thither, both rich and poor, insomuch that there was scarce room in the open fields to receive them, so strong a faith they had to find remedy there for their maladies..."

St Milburga's monastery was destroyed by Vikings in the late 9th century. The present ruins are of a Cluniac monastery, founded by Roger De Montgomery in 1079-82 and destroyed under Henry VIII.



Ruins of Much Wenlock Priory

Saint Milburga

by Tim Carrington

*The sisters of Llan Meilien,
Round the Abbess Milburga stood:
"Oh Lady, stay, go not away
Through that dark lonesome wood.
The road of wolves is sore beset,
And also of pagan foe;
Then tarry here, Oh lady dear.*

*To Godstoke do not go.
"King Merewald's daughter raised her hand,
And sadly shook her head:
"Ere break of day I must away
To Godstoke", she said.
"For sword I'll take the Holy Cross,
My maiden truth for shield;
So armed my ass and I would pass
Safe through a battle field."
"Oh, sister dear, I do not fear
The perils of the road;
Though dark the wood and deep the flood,
And wolves prowl abroad,
He in whose cause I journey
gainst foes will take my part;
But Milgitha, dear, I need to fear
My weak and sinful heart."
"You know how, when duty called,
I cast my love aside;
Wolfgang, I said, a Christian maid
Can never be a pagan's bride.
I vowed my life, my love to God,
My plighted faith I broke;
And, Milgitha, I have never rued,
The word which then I spoke.
"But when I journey all alone,
And foes around me wait,
I fear least I should meet with one
Whose love has turned to hate.
I daily pray for Wolfgang,
For his soul will I pray;
But, sister dear, alas, I fear
To meet him on my way."
Over hill and dale, through brake and fell,
Sped on her milk white ass,
And ere the sun had reached the noon,
Through Corve's fair vale they passed.
There in a deep red furrow
The sowers dropped their grain,
An armed pagan by their side
Looked out across the plain.
And when he saw Milburga,
His black eye flashed fire:
"False Maid," he cried, once trothed my bride
By thy fainthearted sire:
Thou who has trampled on the love
Of a Saxon nobly born,
Shall rue the day thou told me nay*

*And pay for all your scorn.
The maiden's heart it quailed not;
She meekly raised her eye:
"Wolfgang, your arm can never harm
One that has a friend on high:
He who can make that grain to spring
And ripen into fruit,
Powers rain and sunshine on your heart,
And bids your faith take root."
She pointed to the furrowed field;
Loo, even as she spoke,
From the dry seed up sprang green blade,
And stalk and full ear broke!
In sore amazement the serfs gazed,
The warrior smote his breast,
And humble on his bended knee
The Christian God confessed.
Changed was his mind. He looked and lo
As in a glorious dream,
Behold the maiden and her ass
Against Corve's glittering stream;
And where they go fresh flowers grow,
And to this day is seen.
Upon the sod which they have trod,
A belt of freshest green.
But why did Milburga ride so fast?
No danger now was nigh.
"Think not," she cries, "my perils past;
From my own heart I fly!
My prayer is heard, we too shall meet
In the bright realms above,
But not again on Earth's wide plain;
In Heaven is all my love."
"Speed quick, my ass!" The ass sped on
Till well near Godstoke,
Her strength was spent, she tottered bent,
And sank upon a rock.
Great blood-gouts from her nostrils fell,
And stained the stone with red.
The saintly maid knelt by her side,
And stayed her fainting head.
"The wicked prophet smote his ass,
I will not thee so smite,
For God doth stay my onward way,
Till I shall walk a'right.
Trust not on chariot nor on steed
'Tis writ, but trust in me.
But I sought safety in great speed,*

*Though none pursue, I flee."
So spoke the pious Maid; and lo,
A sparkling fountain burst
From the dry ground and bubbled round,
And the ass slaked her thirst;
And strengthened, gained the journey's end;
And holy pilgrims tell,
There doth remain a dark red stain
At the bottom of the well.*

Upcoming Events

Mothering Sunday Novena

March 31st Laetare Sunday/Mothering Sunday: Enrol your mother in the Novena for Mothers that will be offered for them for nine consecutive days, both for the living and for those who have gone before us. *Cards are available for the Novena.*

Wednesdays at St. Winefride's in Lent:

Confessions 5.30pm until 6pm.
Lenten Conferences on Virtue in the Modern World at 6pm

Wednesday Lenten Conferences on Virtue in the Modern World at 6pm

followed by Compline, weekly, beginning March 13th at St Winefride's. **Confessions** beforehand from 5.30pm until 6pm.
Please note: During Lent the Friday Masses will be offered at the Cathedral instead of at St Winefride's, as stated below. Good Friday will be back at St Winefride's.

Fridays at the Cathedral in Lent:

At the Cathedral: Mass at 7.30am, Confessions from 10am to 11am. Via Crucis at 11.30am. 6pm Mass at the Cathedral with Confessions from 5.30pm until Mass.