

A Synaxis of Latin Saints (Plain Reading)

July 8th

On July 8th we commemorate Saint Edgar the Peaceful, King of England. Saint Edgar was the son of Saint Aelfgifu of Shaftesbury and born into a royal household. Though he had a youth of some vice, he repented of his old ways, partly due to the memory of his holy mother, and became a devoted Christian. As King he sought peace and stability throughout England by restoring the Orthodox Church and Orthodox clerics. He recalled Saint Dunstan from exile and pushed for his consecration to becoming Archbishop of Canterbury. Saint Edgar kept Saint Dunstan his spiritual father and guide throughout his reign and reposed after securing peace for England. Two of his children, Saint Edward the Martyr and Saint Edith of Wilton, went on to become saints.

Verses

On this day we commemorate Saint Sunniva. By tradition, Sunniva was a princess who fled from Ireland with her brother and others. They were shipwrecked off the coast of Norway but landed on Selje Island. Here they were slain by people from the mainland and their relics were enshrined in Bergen.

On this day we commemorate Saints Aquila and Priscilla. Saint Aquilla and Saint Priscilla were husband and wife, belonging to the Jewish diaspora, who worked as tentmakers at Rome and were exiled from there with all the other Jews under Claudius. They settled in Corinth, where they received the Apostle Paul into their house (Acts 18,3). Under Nero they returned to Rome and Paul sent greetings to them. A tradition in Rome says that they were martyred there.

On this day we also commemorate Saint Withburgh. Saint Withburgh was the youngest daughter of King Anna of East Anglia in England. After her father had fallen in battle, she became a nun and lived as an anchoress at East Dereham in Norfolk, founding a convent there.

On this day we commemorate Saint Urith of Chittlehampton, a nun and martyr of Devon.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

