

Northumbria, and his wife Breguswith, she was baptised at the age of thirteen by St Paulinus of York along with King Edwin and his court on Easter Sunday 621. In 647 she decided to follow her widowed sister St Hereswith into monastic life in Gaul. Intending to enter the Abbey at Chelles, she was recalled by St Aidan of Lindisfarne, who directed her to Hartlepool Abbey, where she received the tonsure and later became abbess after St Hieu's departure in 649. At Hartlepool, Hilda was influenced by St Aidan's Celtic monastic traditions and became renowned for her wisdom and spiritual leadership. In 657, following King Oswiu's vow after the Battle of Winwæd, she was entrusted with founding a double monastery at Streanæshalch, later known as Whitby. Under her governance, Whitby flourished as a centre of learning and holiness, producing many future bishops, including St Bosa, St John of Beverley, St Wilfrid the Younger, Ætla of Dorchester, and Offor of Worcester.

In 664, the Synod of Whitby was held to resolve the Paschal Controversy. Although Hilda had lived under Celtic customs and supported St Colmán of Lindisfarne, she obediently accepted the final decision in favour of Roman practice. From 669 onward, Whitby developed links with Canterbury under St Theodore of Canterbury, partly through shared opposition to St Wilfrid of York. Two of Hilda's disciples, St Bosa and St John of Beverley, succeeded Wilfrid in York after his expulsion.

Hilda also guided St Cædmon, recognising his divinely inspired gift for poetry and ensuring he was taught sacred doctrine, from which he composed his verses. Despite suffering illness for the last six years of her life, she continued her work and founded a dependent monastery at Hackness shortly before her death.

On 17 November 680, after receiving the sacraments, St Hilda reposed at Whitby. St Bede records visions and miracles at her death, including bells ringing at Hackness and St Begu's vision of her soul ascending with angels. Her veneration was early attested by St Wilibrord of Utrecht and later by the Old English Martyrology, though her cult remained mostly local.

Traditions differ about her relics: some claimed they were taken to Glastonbury, while others held they remained at Whitby, where her translation was commemorated on 25 August. Legends grew that sea birds dipped their wings over Whitby Abbey in her honour and that she turned snakes into stone, explaining the local ammonite fossils named Hildoceras. During the Middle Ages, many churches were dedicated to her, and she became a patron of learning, culture, and poetry. Her feast is celebrated on 17 November, or 25 August in some calendars.

(Source: Orthodox Saints of the British Isles, Dr. John (Ellsworth) Hutchison-Hall)

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British
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Tone 6.

**They Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew; Martyr Ephygenia of
Ethiopia, Disiple of St. Matthew; Fulvian, Prince of Ethiopia**

Epistle Reading

I Corinthians 4:9-16

Prokeimenon in Tone 8

His sound has gone forth into all the earth; and his words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the Glory of God; the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.

Brethren, God has revealed us, the apostles, last of all, as those appointed to death; for we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are glorified, but we are dishonored. Even to this present hour we both hunger and thirst, we are naked, and are buffeted, and are restless; and we labor, working with our own hands. While reviled, we bless; while persecuted, we endure, while blasphemed, we exhort; we have become the filth of the world and the off-scouring of all things, even until now.

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children; for though you have a myriad of tutors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for I begat you in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I beseech you, therefore, be imitators of me.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders O Lord.

Verse 2: God is glorified in the council of His saints.

Gospel Reading
Matthew (9:9-13)

At that time, as Jesus was passing by from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection office. Jesus said to him, “Follow me,” and the man got up and began to follow him. It so happened that as Jesus was sitting in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came [in] and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard it, he told them, “Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”



Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 6.

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee.

St Matthew
Troparion

The Searcher of the hearts of men inspired thy mind, O Apostle, with His divine knowledge. He called thee to Himself, ransoming thee from the world’s deceit, for He is the Light whose rays shine to the ends of the earth. He commanded thee to proclaim His word. He made thee worthy to write His holy Gospel; pray that He may save and enlighten our souls!

St Martin the Merciful
Troparion

In signs and in miracles thou wast renowned throughout the land of Gaul. By grace thou art a light for the world, O Martin, Bishop blessed of God. Deeds of mercy and compassion filled thy life with their splendours, teaching and wise counsel were thy riches and treasures, which still thou dost dispense freely to those who honour thee.

St Helen
Troparion

We behold thee, glorious Helen, with thy God-inspired son, in the joys of the kingdom of Heaven, and we magnify Christ, for he hath revealed to us thine honoured festival, giving light more brilliant than the sun. Therefore we cry in faith: O People, exalt Christ above all forever!

The Entrance of the Theotokos
Kontakion

The most pure temple of the Saviour, the very precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She bringeth with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

St Matthew

This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Saviour’s Incarnation.

(Source: Daily Readings mobile app by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

St Hilda (17 November)

St. Hilda, like her contemporaries St. Etheldreda (23 June) and St. Ebba (25 August), belongs to that monastic company of women of royal birth who exercised a formative influence in the English Church of the seventh century, but she is also a rare example of a spiritual Mother, who received from God the gift of directing not only nuns but monks and bishops as well, for in the Lord Jesus there is neither male nor female, but a new creation (Gal. 3:28). - The Synaxarion.

St Hilda of Whitby, also known as our venerable Mother Hild, was an abbess, foundress of a monastery and school, and a highly regarded spiritual mother and counsellor. Born in 614 to Hereric, a nephew of King St Edwin of