

Dedication & Blessing of the
Statue of St Boniface



Plymouth Cathedral
of St Mary & St Boniface
10th December 2019

by
Right Reverend Bishop Mark O'Toole

Opening Hymn

For all the saints, who from their labours rest; who to the world by faith their Lord confessed, your name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed: Alleluia, alleluia!	You were their rock, their fortress, and their might; you, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight, and in the darkness their unfailing light. Alleluia, alleluia!
So may your soldiers, faithful, true and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia, alleluia!	One holy people, fellowship divine! we feebly struggle, they in glory shine in earth and heaven the saints in praise combine: Alleluia, alleluia!

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the crowning glory of all the saints, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: My brothers and sisters, as we begin to celebrate this rite in praise of God on the occasion of the blessing of this beautiful new image of St Boniface for public veneration, we must be properly disposed and have a clear appreciation of the meaning of this celebration. When the Church blesses a statue and presents it for public veneration by the faithful, it does so for the following reasons: that when we look at the representation of those who have followed Christ faithfully, we will be motivated to seek the city that is to come: that we will learn the way that will enable us most surely to attain complete union with Christ; that, as we struggle along with our earthly cares, we will be mindful of the Saints, those friends and coheirs of Christ who are also our own brothers and sisters and our special benefactors; that we will remember how they love

us, are near us, intercede ceaselessly for us, and are joined to us in marvellous communion.

Reading from Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Intercessions

Bishop: God our Father makes his Saints into the likeness of his Son and the power of the Holy Spirit continually sanctifies the Church. Let us therefore offer our petitions to him saying:

All: Through the intercession of St Boniface, save us, O Lord.

O God, source of all holiness, in the saints you have shown the many splendours of your grace: grant that in them we may honour your majesty.

R/ For this we pray

O God of all wisdom, through your Son Jesus Christ you built your Church on the foundation of the apostles; keep their teaching secure among your faithful people. For this we pray.

R/

You made the martyrs powerful witnesses even to the point of giving up their lives; help all Christians to bear faithful witness to your Son. For this we pray.

R/

In all your saints you show your presence and make known your countenance and your word; grant to your faithful that when they honour the Saints they will find themselves drawn closer to you. For this we pray

R/

Bishop: We are people gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit called to the same holiness. Let us therefore together raise our prayers to our one God and Father.

Prayer of Blessing

Lord,

We bless you for you alone are holy,
And because in your compassion for sinners
You sent into the world your Son, Jesus Christ,
The author perfecter of holiness.

He sent the Spirit

To sustain his new born Church,
A voice teaches us the secrets of holiness,
A breeze that strengthens and refreshes,
A fire that sears our hearts in love,
The seed of God that yields a harvest of grace.

Today we praise you

For the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on Saint Boniface,

In whose honour we dedicate this statue.

May we follow in the footsteps of the Lord,

Keeping before us the example St Boniface,

And grow to a maturity

measured not by nature, but by the fullness of Christ.

May we proclaim his Gospel by word and deed

And, shouldering our crosses daily,

Expend ourselves for others in your service.

As we carry out our earthly duties,
May we be filled with the Spirit of Christ
And keep our eyes fixed on the glories of heaven,
Where you, Father, receive those who will reign with your Son for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite

God, the crowning glory
And the joy of all his Saints,
Has graciously given you
The gift of their patronage.
May he continue bestow his blessing upon you.

R/ Amen

Delivered from present evils
By the intercession of the saints
And guided by the example of their holy lives,
May you be found always ready
To serve God and you neighbour.

R/ Amen

The Church rejoices in serenity
That you sons and daughters of the Church,
are destined to join the saints in heaven
and to share their unending happiness.

R/ Amen

And may almighty God bless you all
+The Father, + and the Son, and + the Holy Spirit.

R/ Amen

Concluding Hymn

And when the fight is fierce, the war-
fare long,
faintly we hear the distant triumph-
song;
and hearts are brave again, and arms
are strong.
Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the
west:
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes
their rest,
the peaceful calm of paradise the
blessed.
Alleluia, alleluia!

But look! there breaks a yet more glori-
ous day;
saints all-triumphant rise in bright array
the king of glory passes on his way!

From earth's wide bounds, from
ocean's farthest shore
through gates of pearl, ascending, they
adore
the Father, Son and Spirit evermore:
Alleluia, alleluia

Saint Boniface was born in England about the year 673. He was first professed in the monastic life in Exeter but in 719 went to Germany to preach the Gospel. He made many converts there and was consecrated Bishop, ruling over the church in Mainz. He attracted many companions by whose help he founded or restored dioceses in Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia. He also convened councils and promulgated laws. While preaching the Gospel to the Frisians, Saint Boniface was killed by pagans in 754. His body is buried in the monastery of Fulda.

PRAYER:

May the Martyr Saint Boniface be our advocate, O Lord,
that we may firmly hold the faith
he taught with his lips and sealed in his blood
and confidently profess it by our deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THIS STATUE OF ST BONIFACE
WAS DEDICATED BY
RT REV BISHOP MARK O'TOOLE,
BISHOP OF PLYMOUTH
ON
10TH DECEMBER 2019

THE STATUE WAS PRESENTED TO
THE CATHEDRAL AND
THE DIOCESE AS A GIFT FROM THE
CONGREGATION OF
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS
(LES FILLES DE LA CROIX)
IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THEIR
WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE
DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH SINCE 1903