

December 29

St Thomas Becket

Bishop and Martyr

Through his loyalty and great abilities Thomas Becket, born in London from humble Norman parents, rose to become Archdeacon of Canterbury and later Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry II. In 1162 the king made sure that his trusted servant would become Archbishop of Canterbury. In this new role, however, Thomas fiercely protected the rights of the Church and the Holy See against the king's demands and was driven into exile in 1164. Soon after his return in 1170, he was murdered inside his Cathedral by knights believing to follow a command of the king. Soon numerous miracles began to happen at his tomb, which became the splendid centre of the newly-built Cathedral in Canterbury. Henry VIII, displaying special hatred against this saint who had dared defend the freedom of the Church against the king's wishes, destroyed his shrine and commanded that Thomas's name had to be removed from all liturgical books.

Red

1 Cl. (Duplex)

INTROIT

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino, diem festum celebrantes sub honore beati Thomæ Martyris : de cujus passione gaudent Angeli, et collaudant Filium Dei. Ps. 32:1: Exsultate justi in Domino : rectos decet collaudatio. ✠ Gloria.

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a festival day in honour of the blessed martyr Thomas : at whose martyrdom the Angels rejoice, and give praise to the Son of God. Ps. 32:1: Rejoice in the Lord, ye just : praise becometh the upright. ✠ Glory.

COLLECTS

Deus, pro cujus Ecclesia gloriosus Pontifex Thomas gladiis impiorum occubuit : præsta, quæsumus, ut omnes, qui ejus implorant auxilium, petitionis suæ salutarem consequantur effectum. Per Dominum.

O God, in defence of whose Church the glorious bishop Thomas fell by the swords of wicked men : grant, we beseech thee, that all who implore his assistance may obtain the salutary fruit of their petition. Through our Lord.

For the Octave of Christmas:

Concede, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus : ut nos Unigeniti tui nova per carnem natiuitas liberet, quos sub peccati iugo vetusta seruitus tenet. Per eundem Dominum.

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God, that the new birth, in the flesh, of thine only-begotten Son may set us free, whom the old bondage doth hold under the yoke of sin. Through the same Lord.

EPISTLE: Hebr. 5:1-6

Lectio Epistolæ beati Pauli Apostoli ad Hebræos.

Fratres : Omnis pontifex ex hominibus assumptus pro hominibus constituitur in iis, quæ sunt ad Deum, ut offerat dona et sacrificia pro peccatis : qui condolere possit iis, qui ignorant et errant; quoniam et ipse circumdatus est infirmitate : et propterea debet, quemadmodum pro

A lesson from the Epistle of St Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews.

Brethren: Every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God, that he may offer up gifts and sacrifices for sins : who can have compassion on them that are ignorant and that err, because he himself also is compassed with infirmity; and therefore he ought, as for the people, so

populo, ita etiam et pro semetipso offerre pro peccatis. Nec quisquam sumit sibi honorem, sed qui vocatur a Deo, tamquam Aaron. Sic et Christus non semetipsum clarificavit ut pontifex fieret : sed qui locutus est ad eum : Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. Quemadmodum et in alio loco dicit : Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.

also for himself, to offer for sins. Neither doth any man take the honour to himself, but he that is called by God, as Aaron was. So Christ also did not glorify himself, that he might be made a high priest; but he that said unto him: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place: Thou art a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchisedech.

GRADUAL: *Ecclus. 44:16, 20*

Ecce sacerdos magnus, qui in diebus suis placuit Deo. ✠ Non est inventus similis illi, qui conservaret legem Excelsi.

Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God. ✠ There was not any found like to him, who kept the law of the Most High.

ALLELUIA: *Jn. 10:14*

Ego sum pastor bonus : et cognosco oves meas, et cognoscunt me meæ.

I am the good shepherd : and I know my sheep, and mine know me.

ad libitum: SEQUENCE

Solemne canticum hodie resonet in terra.
Ad palmam martyris exsultet superum caterva.

*A solemn canticle echoes today on earth.
The throng of Angels rejoiceth over a martyr's palm.*

Quid facis, turba jocunda? Gratulare cum supera.
Jubilet mens lætabunda, psallat Christo vox libera.

*What art thou doing, happy crowd? Rejoice with those above.
The happy mind shall rejoice, the voice shall freely sing to Christ.*

Colebat festa Dominica devota Cantuaria.

The pious Canterbury celebrated the feasts of the Lord [Christmas].

Intonat jussa tyrannica turbulenta militia.

But the knights proclaim loudly tyrannical commands.

Diræ leges et mandata insollerter sunt prolata.

Savage laws and commands are uttered with boorish voice.

Loca Christo consecrata profanavit vis armata.

The armed power profaneth places consecrated to Christ.

Sed Christi sic in vestigio stabant Thomæ pedes recti, ut nequirent inde flecti.

So the feet of Thomas straightly stood in the steps of Christ, that they could not be turned away,

In sui Regis obsequio arbitratus lucrum mori, caput offert percussori.

He judged that it would be gain to die in obedience to his King, and offered his head to his murderer.

(*Ter*) Gaude, Thoma, de cujus victoria
Ortus Christi cumulantur gaudia.

(*Thrice*) Rejoice, O Thomas, whose victory even increaseth the joys for Christ's birth.

Martyris declaratur gloria crebra per indicia;
Curantur per ejus suffragia languidorum millia.

*The glory of the martyr is shown through many signs,
Thousands of sick people are healed through his intercession.*

Trucidatur flos pastorum inter sanctuaria,
Nec diei nec locorum obstat reverentia.

*The flower of pastors is butchered in the sanctuary,
And neither the respect for the day nor for the place
prevented this.*

Stella maris, quæ lætaris te lactasse Filium,

*O star of the sea, who rejoiced in having nursed the
Son,*

Hunc precamur assequamur ut Thomæ
consortium

*Him we beg that we may follow as Thomas's
companions,*

Ejus prece gloriosa.

Made glorious through his prayer.

GOSPEL: *Jn. 10:11-16*

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Joannem.

*Continuation of the holy Gospel according to
St John.*

In illo tempore : Dixit Jesus Pharisæis : Ego sum pastor bonus. Bonus pastor animam suam dat pro ovibus suis. Mercenarius autem, et qui non est pastor, cujus non sunt oves propriæ, videt lupum venientem, et dimittit oves, et fugit : et lupus rapit, et dispergit oves : mercenarius autem fugit quia mercenarius est, et non pertinet ad eum de ovibus. Ego sum pastor bonus : et cognosco meas, et cognoscunt me meæ. Sicut novit me Pater, et ego agnosco Patrem : et animam meam pono pro ovibus meis. Et alias oves habeo, quæ non sunt ex hoc ovili : et illas oportet me adducere, et vocem meam audient : et fiet unum ovile, et unus pastor.

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But the hireling, and he that is not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and flieth; and the wolf catcheth, and scattereth the sheep : and the hireling flieth, because he is a hireling, and he hath no care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know mine, and mine know me. As the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold : them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

OFFERTORY: *Ps. 20:4-5, 3, 6*

Posuisti, Domine, in capite ejus coronam de lapide pretioso : *Vitam petiit a te, et tribuisti ei, **alleluia. *℟.* Desiderium animæ ejus tribuisti ei : et voluntate labiorum ejus non fraudasti eum. *Vitam. *℟.* Magna est gloria ejus in salutari tuo, gloriam et magnum decorem impones super eum. **Alleluia.

*Thou hast set on his head, O Lord, a crown of precious stones : *he asked life of thee, and thou hast given it to him, **alleluia. ℟. Thou hast given him his heart's desire : and hast not withholden from him the will of his lips. *He asked. ℟. His glory is great in thy salvation, and great beauty shalt thou lay upon him. **Alleluia.*

SECRETS

Munera tibi, Domine, dicata sanctifica : et intercedente beato Thoma, Martyre tuo atque Pontifice, per eadem nos placatus intende. Per Dominum.

Sanctify, O Lord, the gifts dedicated to thee : and, being appeased by the same through the intercession of blessed Thomas, thy martyr and bishop, look upon us favourably. Through our Lord.

For the Octave of Christmas:

Oblata, Domine, munera nova Unigeniti tui nativitate sanctifica : nosque a peccatorum nostrorum maculis emunda. Per eundem Dominum.

Sanctify, O Lord, the gifts we offer by the new birth of thine only-begotten Son, and cleanse us from the stains of our sins. Through the same Lord.

PREFACE

Of Christmas

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique, gratias agere : Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus. Quia per incarnati Verbi mysterium, nova mentis nostræ oculis lux tuæ claritatis infulsit : ut dum visibiliter Deum cognoscimus, per hunc in invisibilium amorem rapiamur. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia cælestis exercitus, hymnum gloriæ tuæ canimus, sine fine dicentes :

Today, the COMMUNICANTES of the CANON begins as follows

Communicantes, et diem sacratissimum celebrantes, qua beatæ Mariæ intemerata virginitas huic mundo edidit Salvatorem : sed et memoriam venerantes, in primis ejusdem gloriosæ semper Virginis Mariæ, Genitricis ejusdem Dei et Domini nostri Jesu Christi ...

It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, that we should always, and in all places, give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God. For by the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the light of thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind : so that while we acknowledge him as God seen by men, we may be drawn by him to the love of things unseen. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to thy glory, evermore saying:

Communicating, and keeping that most holy day, on which the spotless virginity of the blessed Mary brought forth a Saviour to this world; and also venerating the memory, first of the same glorious Mary, ever a Virgin, Mother of the same our God and Lord Jesus Christ ...

COMMUNION: Jn. 10:14

Ego sum Pastor bonus : et cognosco oves meas, et cognoscunt me meæ.

I am the good shepherd : and I know my sheep, and mine know me.

POST-COMMUNIONS

Hæc nos communio, Domine, purget a crimine : et intercedente beato Thoma, Martyre tuo atque Pontifice, cælestis remedii faciat esse consortes. Per Dominum.

For the Octave of Christmas:

Præsta, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus : ut natus hodie Salvator mundi, sicut divinæ nobis generationis est auctor, ita et immortalitatis sit ipse largitor. Qui tecum vivit.

May this communion, O Lord, cleanse us from guilt; and, through the intercession of blessed Thomas, thy martyr and bishop, may it make us partakers of the heavenly remedy. Through our Lord.

Grant, we beseech thee, O almighty God, that, as the Saviour of the world, who was born this day, procured for us divine sonship, he may also bestow on us immortality. Who liveth.