

St. Alban the Protomartyr of Britain

June 22



Alban, Protomartyr of Britain, was the first Christian martyr in Britain. He was a pagan who converted to Christianity and was executed by beheading on a hill above the Roman settlement of Verulamium. St. Alban's Abbey at St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, England was later founded near this site.

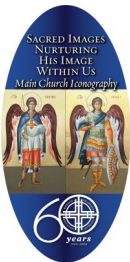
Alban sheltered a Christian priest in his home, and was converted and baptised by him. When the prince sent Roman soldiers to Alban's house to look for the priest, he exchanged cloaks with the priest and was arrested in his stead. Alban was taken before the magistrate, where he avowed his new Christian faith and was condemned for it.

On his way to the execution, Alban had to cross a river, and finding the bridge full of people, he made the waters part and crossed over on dry land. The executioner was so impressed with Alban's faith that he converted to Christianity on the spot, and refused to kill him. Another executioner was quickly

found, and the first executioner was killed after Alban, becoming the second British martyr for Christ.

St. Alban's Cathedral now stands on the spot where he was beheaded.

Apolytikion: Thy holy martyr Alban in his struggle, has gained the crown of life, O Christ our God; for strengthened by Thee and with a pure heart, he spoke boldly before worldly judges, giving up his sacred head to Thee, the Judge of all.



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