



Photo added by Jim Ditton



Added by Orion



Added by Orion

Saint "Lily of Ireland" Dymphna

BIRTH	633 Ireland
DEATH	668 (aged 34–35) Geel, Arrondissement Turnhout, Antwerp (Antwerpen), Belgium
BURIAL	Unknown
MEMORIAL ID	24557188 · View Source

Also known as
Dympna; Dimpna
Memorial
15 May

Daughter of a pagan Irish chieftain named Damon, and a beautiful devoted Christian woman whose name has not come down to us. Her mother died when Dymphna was a teenager. Her father searched the Western world for a woman to replace his wife, but none could. Returning home, he saw that his daughter was as beautiful as her mother, and maddened by grief, he made advances on her. She fought him off, then fled to Belgium with Saint Gerebernus, an elderly priest and family friend.

Dymphna's father searched for them, and his search led to Belgium. There an innkeeper refused to accept his money, knowing it was difficult to exchange. This told Damon that his daughter was close - it would be unusual for a village innkeeper to know a lot about foreign currency, and his knowledge indicated that had recently seen it. The king concentrated his search in the area. When he found them in Gheel, he beheaded Gerebernus, and demanded that Dymphna surrender to him. She refused, and he killed her in a rage.

The site where she died is known for its miraculous healings of the insane and possessed. There is now a well-known institution on the site, and her relics are reported to cure insanity and epilepsy.

Patronage
against sleepwalking; epilepsy; epileptics; family happiness;

incest victims; insanity; loss of parents; martyrs; mental asylums; mental disorders; mental health caregivers; mental health professionals; mental hospitals; mental illness; mentally ill people; nervous disorders; neurological disorders; possessed people; princesses; psychiatrists; rape victims; runaways; sleepwalkers; therapists

Representation

being beheaded by the king; kneeling at Mass while her father murders the priest Gerebernus; lamp; praying in a cloud surrounded by a group of lunatics bound with golden chains; princess holding a lamp and sword; princess with a sword holding the devil on a leash; young woman with Saint

Gerebernus Burial place

The burial place of St. Dymphna has long been associated with accounts of miraculous cures of mental illness. An infirmary was built there in the 13th century and to this day Gheel hosts a world-class sanatorium. A peculiarity of the treatment at Gheel from the earliest days is that patients are hosted with local residents, living and working alongside them. This is remarkable considering the attitudes of indifference and hostility to the insane of the time. For further information please contact the

NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. DYPHNA Phone 330-833-8478
Address 3000 ERIE STREET, SOUTH - P.O. BOX 4 - MASSILLON,
OHIO 44648-0004

Created by: Jim Ditton

Added: 11 Feb 2008

Find A Grave Memorial **24557188**

Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>
: accessed 26 January 2020), memorial page for Saint "Lily of
Ireland" Dymphna (633–668), Find A Grave Memorial no.
24557188, ; Maintained by Jim Ditton (contributor 46569765)
Unknown.

Copyright © 2020 Find A Grave ·

Contact · Privacy Statement^{Updated} · Terms of Service^{Updated}