

TIMETABLE

- 10:30 AM** Arrival and Welcome
- 11:00 AM** Mass of Saint Kenelm
- 12:00 PM** Lunch
- 01:30 PM** Litany of Saint Kenelm, Sprinkling and Healing
Ministries followed by Benediction
- 03:15 PM** Optional guided walk to the Holy Well

If you would like Confession, please inform a member of the team

The Saint Kenelm Pilgrimage Society was formed in 2021, its aim is to revive the ancient Pilgrimage of Saint Kenelm at Winchcombe and to venerate one of Britain's oldest Saints.

For more information and to keep in touch:

**To sign up to our newsletter or
to make a donation towards the next Pilgrimage**



VISIT US AT
www.saintkenelm.org



EMAIL US AT
info@saintkenelm.org



The Saint Kenelm Pilgrimage Winchcombe

■ Stronger together in ■
Pilgrimage-United in Faith

Brought to you by the
Saint Kenelm Pilgrimage Society

THE LEGEND

St. Kenelm's day is 17th July. Kenelm a Saint venerated throughout Medieval England. William of Malmesbury writing in the 12th Century, stated there was no place in England to which Pilgrims flocked in such great numbers than to the Shrine of St. Kenelm in Winchcombe. Kenelm was son and heir to King Kenulf who ruled the Saxon kingdom of Mercia in the mid-700s. Kenulf dies in 826, and Kenelm succeeds to the throne at just 7 years of age. His eldest sister Quendrieth, resented her brother becoming king and decided to find a way of claiming the throne for herself. It is claimed she tried to poison Kenelm, but this plot failed. Thus, Quendrieth decided the only way to be rid of her brother was to have him killed.

Quendrieth seduced Kenelm's guardian Askobert, promising him great riches, if he will kill the king. A forewarning of impending danger came to Kenelm in a dream. In the dream Kenelm climbed a beautiful tree from whose topmost branches he could see the whole world. However, he was aware there was someone at the base of the tree attacking it with an axe. As the tree fell, instead of falling to his death Kenelm was transformed into a bird and flew up to Heaven. One day Askobert, suggested that Kenelm and he should go hunting As the day wore on Kenelm became weary and lay down to rest. Seizing this opportunity Askobert crept off and prepared a burial place for his master. Once Kenelm awoke, Askobert proceeded to take him towards the burial place, where he beheads Kenelm and buries the body in the pit. Immediately a white dove emerges from the ground in its claws is a scroll. The dove flies up and makes its way to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The dove descends and enters the Church dropping the scroll onto the altar where the Pope is saying mass. The Pope, on reading the message inside which informs him of the crime that has been committed in the country of Angeland. The Pope sends envoys to Angeland to investigate and seek out the body of the boy King.

After many months the Envoys discover where Kenelm's body is hidden assisted by following the legend, of a poor widow, (living near to the forest where the murder took place), whose cow, spent its days lying on the exact spot where Kenelm's body lay instead of grazing, yet was always full of milk. Rumours of this extraordinary occurrence almost certainly led the Popes envoys to where Kenelm lay. On exhuming the body, a spring of water erupted. The spring exists to this day located in a village called Romsley, Worcestershire. A shrine was erected over the spring as its waters were found to have healing properties.

Kenulf had founded an Abbey in Winchcombe and it was decided that it would be the best place to take the body of his son. Before they reached Winchcombe, the party decided to rest in a wood just above the town. Tired and thirsty they prayed for water and a spring arose from the ground beside them. On the site of this spring a shrine was erected as these waters also had healing properties. Kenelm's body was buried with great honour in the Abbey of Winchcombe where it rested until the abbey was dissolved. As for Quendrieth, it is claimed that she was present when Kenelm's body was brought to Winchcombe, full of fear, she began to read psalm 108, but as she started to read her eyes pop out of her head. Her body is interred without ceremony, and as for Askobert nothing is ever heard of him again.

THE LITANY

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy

God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.
Holy Mother of God, pray for us.
Holy Virgin of Virgins, pray for us.

Good Saint Kenelm, pray for us.
Sainly Prince of Mercia, pray for us.
Lover of justice, pray for us
Seeker of peace, pray for us.
Defender of the poor, pray for us.
Example of innocence, pray for us.
Guardian of truth, pray for us.
Valiant leader, pray for us
Inspirer of youth, pray for us.
Soldier most brave, pray for us.
Martyr most renowned, pray for us.
Saint glorious in death, pray for us.
Patron so illustrious, pray for us.



A greater love of our Patron, grant us Lord.
The blessings of his intercession, grant us Lord.
Blessings on our parish, grant us Lord.
Blessings on our school, grant us Lord.
Blessings on our town, grant us Lord.
The conversion of unbelievers, grant us Lord.
The restoration of the Catholic faith, grant us Lord.
Sorrow for past sins, grant us Lord.
Sorrow for past sacrileges, grant us Lord.
Thanksgiving for Saint Kenelm's prayers, grant us Lord.
Gratitude for all God's mercies, grant us Lord.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, spare us Lord.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, Lord.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Let the people show forth the wisdom of the saints and the Church declare their praise.

Lord God, you have given us in Saint Kenelm the example of a life filled with faith and charity. May we share with him the joy of your Kingdom. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.