

# Month of December

## THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY

### COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR BONIFACE

#### & of Our Venerable Mother Samthann,

#### Abbess of Clonbroney

### At Vespers

*On "Lord, I have cried...", 3 stichera of the martyr Boniface (see in the Menaion), and these stichera of the venerable one,, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign..."*

Thou gavest a sign of thy favor, O Lord, when Thy handmaid was to be given in marriage; for a wondrous light, as of a flame of grace, shone forth from her holy mouth, and shed its splendor everywhere, for all to see; wherefore, the king, her father, gave her to Christ as a bride, her virginity unsullied.

In a vision sent from God, Funecha, the foundress of Clonbroney, beheld the wondrous Samthann shining forth as a heavenly fire, illumining her convent with grace; and, calling her to her side, she appointed her abbess, and she filled the convent with the uncreated light that once shone on Tabor.

Imitating her Lord and Master, Who hath delivered us from slavery to sin and the passions, the blessed Samthann most gloriously liberated those in chains, delivering them from bitter bondage and calling them to her side, that they might bear witness to the grace which Christ freely bestowed upon her.

*Glory...: Idiomelon, in the same tone—*

Forsaking the wealth and rank of thy royal birth, O Samthann, thou didst spurn an earthly marriage, instead betrothing thyself to Christ, the heavenly Bridegroom, with all thy heart; for this cause worldly possessions had no hold upon thy soul, nor wast thou deceived by vainglorious allurements, O venerable mother, but didst adorn thyself with all the virtues of the Gospel; wherefore, admitted to the bridal-chamber on high, thou hast entered with gladness into the joy of thy Lord.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign..."—*

Beholding Christ, Who loveth mankind, crucified, O all-pure one, His side pierced by a spear, thou didst cry aloud, weeping: "What is this, O my Son? How hath the ungrateful people rewarded Thee for the good Thou didst do them? And dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most Beloved? I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!"

*Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable one, in Tone II—*

Like the holy hierarch Martin of Tours, thou gavest thy cloak unto a leprous beggar, O blessed one, and didst likewise commit to him a cow and its calf, lest he waste away for lack of sustenance. And, lo! thy willingness to help the poor and diseased was acknowledged by God, for by a miracle He manifestly restored these things to thee. Wondrous is God, thy Bridegroom, in His saints! O glorious Samthann, great is the divine grace that abode in thee!

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "When from the Tree..."—*

When of old she beheld her Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, the unblemished ewe-

lamb, the immaculate Mistress, exclaimed maternally and, marveling, cried out: "What is this new sight most strange, O my sweet Child? How is it that the people, bereft of grace, are betraying Thee to the tribunal of Pilate and condemning Thee, the Life of all, to death? Yet do I hymn Thine ineffable condescension, O Word!"

*Troparion of the venerable one, in Tone II—*

Great are the attainments of faith! for by a fountain of flame, as by a heavenly beacon, the holy Samthann was revealed to be a chosen bride of Christ; and by her wisdom she guided well those who had recourse unto her. At her supplications, O Lord, be gracious and save our souls.

### **At Matins**

*At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the saint, twice; Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion.*

*One canon from the Octoechos, with 6 troparia, including the irmos; the canon of the martyr, with 4 troparia (see in the Menaion); and this canon of the venerable one, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "O venerable mother, ever hearken unto us", in Tone V*

---

#### Ode I

*Irmos:* Bringing battles to nought with His upraised arm, Christ overthrew horse and rider in the Red Sea, and saved Israel, who chanteth a hymn of victory.

Overthrowing by her spiritual might the evil one who doeth battle with the faithful, Samthann saveth us from his wiles, entreating Christ in our behalf.

Virgins and mothers, nuns and women of every station in life, beseech the venerable Samthann; for with her arms upraised she seeketh mercy for all.

Every Christian hath a host of heavenly allies—the saints of Christ—who do battle against the spiritual foe; and among them Samthann chanteth a hymn of victory.

*Theotokion:* Never cease to make entreaties to thy Son, Christ our God, in our behalf, O Maiden, that with His upraised arm He cause battles to cease in our land.

#### Ode III

*Irmos:* Establish us by Thy power, O God our Savior, and lift high the horn of the Church of those who praise Thee in Orthodox manner.

Establish us by the power of thine ineffable might, O blessed virgin Samthann, and give strength unto all Orthodox Christians.

Restore to thy land true faith in God our Savior, O holy one, that all thy children may lift up their voices in Orthodox worship of Him.

All the pious venerate thy gracious memory, O saint, praising thine ineffable virtues and the many miracles wrought by thee.

*Theotokion:* Believing thee to be the only all-pure Bride of God, establish our land in the true Faith, that all may praise thee in Orthodox manner.

*Kontakion of the martyr (see in the Menaion)*

*Sessional hymn of the martyr (see in the Menaion)*

*Glory...: Sessional hymn of the venerable one, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Having been lifted up on the Cross..."—*

Having taken thy cross upon thy shoulders, O glorious one, in gladness thou didst follow Jesus thy Master; and crucifying both flesh and mind, thou didst purify thy soul like gold in a crucible. Wherefore,

joining chorus with the angels on high, thou ever intercedest in behalf of us all.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion—*

Though I am sin-loving, I beseech thee who gavest birth to the sinless God Who taketh away the sins of the world, O all-pure one: Have pity on my greatly sinful soul and wash away my many sins, for thou art the cleansing of sinners and the salvation and help of the faithful.

*Or stavrotheotokion—*

She who in latter times gave birth in the flesh to Thee Who wast begotten of the unoriginate Father, beholding Thee hanging upon the Cross, cried out: "Woe is me, O most beloved Jesus! How is it that Thou Who art glorified as God by the angels art now crucified by iniquitous men, O my Son? I hymn Thee, O Long-suffering One!"

Ode IV

*Irmos:* Perceiving Thy divine condescension prophetically, O Christ, Habakkuk cried out to Thee with trembling: Thou art come for the salvation of Thy people, to save Thine anointed ones!

Let us with joyful voices praise the blessed Samthann, who by divine providence wrought countless miracles, even raising the dead to life by her intercession before the God of our salvation.

Exceeding great were the spiritual attainments of the holy one, for though she was the mistress of her community, yet was she the handmaid of all, serving them with zeal and reverence.

Many were the alms given to the venerable abbess, yet, loving poverty and hating vain acquisition, she shared them equally among her spiritual daughters, unto their edification.

*Theotokion:* O Theotokos, earnestly we beseech thee: Entreat Christ thy Son, that He bring unity in the Faith to our native land, for the salvation of all who fall down before thee with trembling!

Ode V

*Irmos:* O almighty Word of God, send peace upon the whole world, enlightening and illumining with the light of truth all who glorify Thee, awakening out of the night.

The most praised Samthann, the beloved bride of the divine Word, hath illumined us all with the light of her Master's precepts, which she followed most faithfully.

Helping the poor with gentle compassion, the wondrous Samthann was shown to be great in holiness and mighty in virtue; and she prayeth now for peace in her land.

Everlasting is the glory that the holy one hath received from Almighty God; for, standing at His heavenly throne, she entreateth Him boldly to send peace upon the world.

*Theotokion:* Rising at dawn unto the light of Truth, O Mother of the Light, we fervently pray: Intercede with thy Son, that He grant us the peace that passeth all understanding.

Ode VI

*Irmos:* Like Jonah I cry to Thee from the depths of the heart of the sea: Let my supplication come unto Thy holy and heavenly Church! Lead me up from my sins, I pray Thee, O Lord!

Exalted unto the heavens, the glorious Samthann regardeth us, her spiritual children, with pity, and, standing in the midst of the Church Triumphant, she crieth: Save them, O Lord!

Very painful is the cry uttered from the depths of the sea of sins by us who are drowning therein; but the holy one doth hearken thereto and saveth us by her heartfelt supplications.

Éirinn rejoiceth in thy holiness, O saint, and all the lands where Christians dwell join it in celebrating thy memorial; for thou standest in glory amid the holy and heavenly Church of Christ.

*Theotokion:* Repenting of our many sins, O Lady, we who are sinking in the depths of our transgressions cry out to thee amid our peril: Lead us up from the abyss of perdition, we pray, O Mistress!

*Kontakion, in Tone I—*

In thy youth Christ revealed thee as His chosen one by a noetic heavenly light, O venerable mother; and, illumined by His divine effulgence, thou hast received an imperishable crown from His almighty hand; wherefore, thou now prayest for all the people of thy native land, and for all Orthodox Christians who with faith honor thy holy memory and chant to God most reverently: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who by Thy saints hast wrought wondrous miracles!

*Ikos:* Come, ye faithful of the Irish land, ye pious who dwell therein, and let us show our love for the blessed and venerable Samthann, our guide on the path to the kingdom of heaven, who by fasting, vigil and unceasing ascetic labor laid waste her body, who in her wondrous virtues shone forth like a radiant star, and who now joineth chorus with the choirs of the holy in never-waning light, rejoicing in gladness and chanting unto God most reverently: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who by Thy saints hast wrought wondrous miracles!

#### Ode VII

*Irmos:* All-laudable and all-glorious is Thy name for all ages, O Lord God of our fathers! And all-glorious art Thou, for Thou art righteous in all that Thou hast done for us.

Having from her youth adorned her soul with the beauty of the virtues and walked justly in the sight of the Lord God, the glorious Samthann dwelleth now in paradise.

Exulting in the wondrous miracles thou hast wrought by the power of the Lord God of our fathers, O Samthann, with love we venerate thine all-lauded memory.

All-glorious art thou, O holy one! For thou didst see things afar off as though they were nigh at hand, and didst guide the faithful, appearing in dreams and visions.

*Theotokion:* Right glorious is thy sweet name, O all-immaculate Mary, and truly worthy of all praise; for thou gavest birth without seed unto Jesus, the Lord God of our fathers.

#### Ode VIII

*Irmos:* O ye people, hymn Christ the King, Whom the cherubim hymn and the seraphim glorify, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Kings did thee homage, O venerable one, for thou wast a true daughter of Christ the King, whom thou dost exalt for all ages.

Evil gained no hold on thy soul, O Samthann, for thou wast surrounded by angels, with whom thou dost exalt God for all ages.

Now thou standest among the ranks of the saints, O maiden, and with the cherubim and seraphim dost exalt Christ for all ages.

*Triadicon:* Unto the All-holy Trinity our God, Whom the cherubim hymn and the seraphim glorify, let all bow down in worship.

*Theotokion:* Never-ceasing are the praises wherewith the choirs of men and angels joyfully exalt thy wondrous purity, O Queen of heaven.

#### Ode IX

*Irmos:* With voices of hymnody we magnify thee, the Mother of God, the pure Virgin, who art more glorious than the cherubim.

Thou didst appear as the moon to a certain holy elder, revealing thy passage through the heavens, to dwell with the angels, O saint.

O mediatrix of blessings for Ireland, with the cherubim beg peace and great mercy for it and for all the world, O holy one.

Unto thee do we chant praises, O Samthann, with the angels magnifying thee, who standest with the pure Virgin on high.

*Theotokion:* Singing praises to the Ever-virgin Mother of God, O ye people, let us join the bodiless hosts, magnifying her with gladness.

*Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: Hearken, ye women... ”—*

Hearken, ye faithful, to the sound of rejoicing: the soul of the venerable Samthann appeareth as a second moon, by its inclination revealing its passage to heaven. Haste ye, and proclaim the glad tidings; for the holy one now shineth in the firmament of the Church.

*Theotokion—*

Rejoice, O palace of God! Rejoice, mountain overshadowed! Rejoice, bush unconsumed! Rejoice, throne of glory! Rejoice, divine table! Rejoice, golden jar! Rejoice, fiery candle-stand! Rejoice, O Mary, Virgin Mother, thou light cloud!

*Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone VI—*

Throughout her life the venerable one was enriched with good deeds, as with treasures of silver and gold; and dying she received from Christ a crown for her pious labors and works, which He promised to those who strive piously to the end, and which He hath prepared from everlasting for those who love Him. Wherefore, she standeth now before His throne, begging mercy for those who honor her holy memory with hymns of praise, and entreating Him most earnestly that He grant peace to Ireland and to all the world.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: “On the third day...”—*

Beholding our Life suspended upon the Tree, the most immaculate Theotokos cried aloud, maternally lamenting: “O my Son and my God, save those who hymn Thee with love!”

### At Liturgy

*Prokimenon, in Tone IV—*

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

*Stichos:* In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.

EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS, § 208

Brethren: Before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith

which should afterward be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

*Alleluia, in Tone I—*

*Stichos:* With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me, and He hearkened unto my supplication.

*Stichos:* And He brought me up out of the pit of misery, and from the mire of clay.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, § 104

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made: 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.' Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise: 'Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.' But the wise answered, saying: 'Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying: 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he answered and said: 'Verily I say unto you, I know you not.' Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

*Communion Verse—*

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.