



## Celtic Monasteries

Differences between Celtic and Benedictine monasticism were significant. Celtic monasticism was established before the 'Rule of Benedict' was accepted as a standard for western monasteries. In Ireland groups of monks did not always have a central monastery, but traveled from village to village as missionaries, saying mass, offering the sacraments, and seeing to the spiritual needs of the people. Some Celtic monasteries had a reputation for harsh penances and mortifications, exactly the kind discouraged by Benedict, while others had a reputation for great classical learning. During the critical 5th, 6th, and 7th centuries, however, while much of Europe was in turmoil, the Irish monks preserved the faith, maintained essential doctrines, and ardently preached the faith throughout Gaelic speaking Britain.

### Celtic Saints of the British Isles

<b>Patrick</b> (d. 450)	British Christian who spent years as a slave in Ireland. Escaped to France, became a priest then returned to Ireland as a missionary.
<b>Brigid of Kildare</b> (d. 525)	Abbess and founder of convents throughout Ireland, including <b>Monastery of Kildare</b> . Patron Saint of Ireland
<b>Finian of Clonard</b> (d. 550)	Founded the <b>Abbey of Clonard</b> at Meath, and sent forth the 'Twelve Apostles of Ireland' and many other well known Celtic missionaries.
<b>Brendan of Clonfert</b> (d. 577)	Irish missionary monk known for his legendary quest to the 'Isle of the Blessed'.
<b>Gildas</b> (d. 570)	Scottish scholar monk. Wrote 'On the Ruin and conquest of Britain' regarding Saxon invasion of Briton. Founded a monastery in Britany.
<b>Columba of Iona</b> (d. 597)	Irish abbot and missionary who lead an early mission to the Picts of Scotland and founded an <b>Abbey on the Island of Iona</b> .
<b>Mungo of Glasgow</b> (d. 590)	Native of Fife in Scotland, raised by Celtic missionaries to the Picts, founded <b>Church in Glasgow</b> . [a.k.a] Kertigen]
<b>David of Wales</b> (d. 589)	Welsh missionary monk known for ascetic life style. Founded many monasteries, including <b>Glastonbury Abbey</b> . Patron Saint of Wales.
<b>Columbanus</b> (d. 615)	Irish missionary monk and scholar known for founding monasteries in France and northern Italy.
<b>Gall</b> (d. 646)	Disciple and companion of St. Columbus who continued his missionary work founding monasteries in France and Switzerland.
<b>Aidan of Lindisfarne</b> (d. 651)	Irish missionary monk who evangelized in Northumbria, and founded the famous <b>Monastery at Lindisfarne</b> .
<b>Fiacre of Breuil</b> (d. 670)	Irish hermit who gained notoriety for his great skill with herbs. Fled to Northern France, and founded a hospice in Brie.
<b>Cuthbert</b> (d. 687)	Northumbrian monk and Scholar. Prior of <b>Melrose Abbey</b> and Lindisfarne. Worked to reconcile Saxon and Celtic churches.

Well known Celtic Abbeys founded by Irish missionaries to Britain include:

- **Iona Abbey** — founded by St. Columba in 590s as a base for converting the Picts of Scotland.
- **Lindisfarne** — founded by Aidan on the East coast of Northumbria in 600's
- **Old Melrose** — founded as a priory of Lindisfarne in Scotland in 600's

## Anglo-Saxon Benedictines

The story of the conversion of the Anglo Saxon kingdoms of Britain, beginning with the Augustine of Canterbury and king Ethelbert of Kent, is well known. But it is important to note that before being sent as a missionary to Britain, Augustine was the prior of a Monastery in Rome, most of the men who accompanied him were monks, and Gregory the Great, who inspired the mission, was the first monk Pope. From the era of Saint Gregory (600 A.D.) missionary monks played a great role in the conversion of pagan Europe to Christianity.

### Benedictine Saints of Saxon England

<b>Augustine of Kent</b> (d. 604)	Benedictine monk who led a mission to Saxon England and converted Aethelbert of Kent. First Archbishop of Canterbury.
<b>Laurence of Canterbury</b> (d. 619)	Accompanied Augustine on his mission to Convert Saxon, and followed him as Bishop of Canterbury.
<b>Benedict Biscop</b> (d. c. 628–90)	Founded the <b>Abbeys of Wearmouth</b> and <b>Jarrow</b> in Northumbria. Collected hundreds of books for monastery library.
<b>Hilda of Whitby</b> (d. 680)	Abbess from Deira noble family, founded the <b>Monastery of Whitby</b> . Influenced unification of Celtic and Roman Churches in Britain.
<b>Wilfrid of York</b> (d. 709)	Founded monastery at Ripon (d. near York), <i>Archbishop of Canterbury, advocated Latin calendar for Easter in Whitby Synod.</i>
<b>Bede of Jarrow</b> (d. 725)	Monk and scholar at the monastery at <b>Jarrow</b> . Wrote the "Ecclesiastical History of England", and many other great works.
<b>Alcuin of York</b> (d. 804)	Scholar and prominent figure in Carolingian Renaissance, founded Schools and Abbeys in France, Ended career as Abbot of Tours.
<b>Swithun</b> (d. 862)	Saxon bishop, patron saint of Winchester Cathedral, known for miracles and legends.
<b>Dunstan</b> (d. 988)	Influential abbot and bishop, advisor to late Saxon kings, restored monastic life to England and reformed the Church.

### British Missionaries to Germany

<b>Willibrord</b> (d. 739)	Missionary to Frisia, established first diocese in Utrecht
<b>Boniface</b> (d. 754)	Led Anglo-Saxon mission to Frisia (part of Frankish kingdom) [a.k.a] Winfrid
<b>Sturm</b> (d. 770)	Disciple of Boniface who continued his work, founded <b>Monastery of Fulda</b> in Hesse in 742

Well known English Abbeys founded by Anglo-Saxon Benedictine Orders include:

- **St. Augustines Abbey** — Founded by St. Augustine in 604
- **Wearmouth-Jarrow Abbey** — Founded by 674 by Benedict Biscop
- **Croyland Abbey** — founded by Gulthlac in 700.
- **Glastonbury Abbey** — Founded in 712, became wealthy during Norman era.
- **Malmesbury Abbey** — Founded in 676 by Aldhelm, 2nd largest library in Europe.
- **Bath Abby Convent** — became a monastery in 781 under Saxon King Offa
- **St. Albans** — 793 Founded by Offa II of Mercia
- **Westminster Abbey** — Built by Edward the Confessor in 1042 on sight of St. Peter's Abbey (established by Dunstan in 900)

## English Monasteries during Norman/Plantagenet Era

The Normans contributed much to the monasteries of Britain, and made some of them very wealthy, but they emphasized political loyalty rather than pious works. During the Norman Plantagenet era, kings and nobles felt free to appoint their relatives and retainers and bishops and abbots regardless of their spiritual suitability for the job. The conflicts between the Norman Kings and St. Anselm, and between Henry II and Thomas Becket, were typical of those of the “investiture controversy” of the 12<sup>th</sup> century that led to reform of the Monasteries throughout Europe and the rise of the Cluniacs, Cistercians, and Carthusians orders.

### Monks of Norman and Plantagenet England

<b>Lanfranc</b> (d. 1089)	Prior of <b>Bec Abbey</b> , appointed by William the Conqueror to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury after the Conquest.
<b>Anselm</b> (d. 1109)	Abbot of <b>Bec Abbey</b> and founder of scholasticism. Made Archbishop of Canterbury, and stood for rights of Church against Norman kings.
<b>Thomas Becket</b> (d. 1120)	Trusted minister of Henry Plantagenet, made Archbishop of Canterbury, but defended rights of the Church and was martyred.
<b>Stephen Harding</b> (d. 1134)	One of the founders of the Cistercian order, who established several Cistercian monasteries in England.
<b>Hugh of Lincoln</b> (d. 1200)	Early leader of Carthusian order, founded first <b>Charterhouse</b> in England with help of Henry II, and become bishop of Lincoln.
<b>Simon Stock</b> (d. 1265)	Early leader of the Carmelite order in England, who initiated use of the Brown Scapular after BVM appeared to him.
<b>Richard of Chichester</b> (d. 1253)	Upright bishop of West Sussex, who lived an ascetic life, defended the Church and showed favor to the Dominican Order.
<b>Eilmer of Malmesbury</b> (d. 1090)	Monk known for his attempts at flight from Abbey tower using a glider based on study of a bird's wings.
<b>William of Malmesbury</b> (d. 1153)	Foremost scholar and historian of the Norman era. Wrote both political and ecclesiastic history of England covering 450-1120.
<b>Matthew Paris</b> (d. 1259)	Chronicler and illuminator of <b>St. Alban's Abbey</b> , famed for his clever illustrations, colorful histories, and insightful commentaries.

### NORMAN ABBEYS

- **Canterbury Priory** — Monastery associated with Canterbury.
- **St. Albans Abbey** — Built by nephew of Lanfranc.
- **Bec Abbey** — Founded in Normandy by **St. Herluin**. Home of Lanfranc & Anselm.
- Lanfranc later founded **St. Etienne (French for St. Stephen) Abbey** in Normandy.
- **Battle Abbey** — Built in 1066 on the sight of battle of Hastings by Normans.
- **St. Mary's Abbey** in York — Established by Normans and became very wealthy.
- **Reading Abbey** founded by Norman king Henry II in 1121

By the time of the reformation there were approximately

- 35 Cluniac Priors established in Britain
- 85 Cistercian Abbeys in England, 12 Cistercian Abbeys in Ireland
- 10 Charterhouses in England, 1 in Ireland, 1 in Scotland