

6 February

**Saints Paul Miki, Religious, and Companions;  
Blessed Charles Spinola, Sebastian Kimura, Priests,  
and Companions, Martyrs**

*Martyrs in Japan*

**Memorial**

It is estimated that in 1590 there were 200,000 Christians in Japan. However, the Christians began to be persecuted by the rulers, and Christianity was outlawed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Jesuits carried on their ministries in hiding till they were captured and condemned to death. In 1597, **Paul Miki, John Soan de Goto and James Kisai**, together with 120 Christians, were crucified on a hill near Nagasaki. Between 1617 and 1639, as the persecutions grew intense, thirty-eight Jesuits, including **Charles Spinola** and **Sebastian Kimura**, were martyred for the faith.

**Entrance Antiphon (RM)**

**Gal 6: 14**

May I never boast,  
except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through which the world has been crucified to me,  
and I to the world.

**Collect (RM)**

**O God, strength of all the Saints,  
who through the Cross were pleased to call  
the Martyrs Saint Paul Miki and companions to life,  
grant, we pray, that by their intercession  
we may hold with courage even until death  
to the faith that we profess.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

**From the rising of the sun to its setting, O Lord,  
prepare a people acceptable in your sight  
who, with steadfast faith, will persevere in confessing your name,  
and grant that today  
we may celebrate with joy the offering of your Son.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

**Communion Antiphon (RM mod)**

**Gal 2: 19b-20a**

I am crucified with Christ, yet I live;  
no longer I, but Christ lives in me.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Lord Jesus who, on the day before you suffered,  
reclined at table with your disciples,  
grant that all who bring the Gospel to the nations  
may, in your Kingdom, eat and drink with you.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.**

## **PREFACE I OF HOLY MARTYRS (JESUIT PROPER)**

### **The fruitfulness of the blood of Martyrs**

**V/. The Lord be with you.**

**R/. And with your spirit.**

**V/. Lift up your hearts.**

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R/. It is right and just.**

**It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For you have called many sons of Ignatius  
to the supreme witness of love  
so that, by the shedding of blood,  
they may enrich with new fruitfulness  
the saving work of the Church  
and encourage us, by their example,  
to follow the way of Christ our Lord.**

**Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty  
and rejoices in your presence for ever.**

**May our voices, we pray, join with theirs  
in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

## PREFACE II OF HOLY MARTYRS (RM)

The wonders of God in the victory of the Martyrs

**V/. The Lord be with you.**

**R/. And with your spirit.**

**V/. Lift up your hearts.**

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R/. It is right and just.**

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For you are glorified when your Saints are praised;  
their very sufferings are but wonders of your might:  
in your mercy you give ardour to their faith,  
to their endurance you grant firm resolve,  
and in their struggle the victory is yours,  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth  
sing a new song in adoration,  
and we, with all the host of Angels,  
cry out, and without end we acclaim:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .**