

8 June

Saint James Berthieu, Priest and Martyr

Memorial

James Berthieu (1838-1896) was born in the Auvergne, France. He joined the Society in 1873 after ten years as a diocesan priest. Before the end of his novitiate he was appointed to the missions in Madagascar. In 1885, he opened a mission at Ambrositra, and eventually founded eighteen mission stations. In 1895, owing to the Malagasy rebellion against the French, Berthieu was leading a convoy of about 2,000 Catholics to a safe place. On 8 June 1896, he was captured by a band of insurgents, was tortured, and shot to death.

From the Common of Martyrs.

Collect

**O God, who made your Church fruitful
on the island of Madagascar
by the blood of Saint James Berthieu, your Priest and Martyr,
graciously grant that, through his intercession,
an abundant harvest of Christians may everywhere flourish.
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.**

COMMON OF MARTYRS

Entrance Antiphon

Sp. Ex. [95]

Whoever wishes to come with me
must labour with me, says the Lord,
that following me in suffering
he may also follow me in glory.

Prayer over the Offerings

**Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, as we call to mind the sacrifice of the cross,
we too may take up our cross
and so be more fully united with Christ
to whom your glorious Martyrs gave witness by their death.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Communion Antiphon

Jn 15: 20

No slave is greater than his master.
If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

**May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord,
in commemoration of blessed N. (and N.)
so expand our minds and hearts
that we may set aside our own interests
and seek only those of Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns 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 . . .