

## St Blaise



Very little is known about St Blaise but he lived around 300AD in Armenia. Raised as a Christian in a rich family, he became a bishop. In a vision, God appeared to him and told him to flee to avoid persecution.

He lived in the hills with sick animals and cared for them. He was later captured and while imprisoned, cured a boy who was choking on a fishbone. He was ordered to be killed for refusing to renounce his faith and love of God.

Another story tells of a woman who gave Blaise candles to light his dark prison cell as thanks for restoring the life of her pig.

The Church accepts that he is the Patron Saint of Throat illnesses, animals and those who are associated with wool. In paintings he is often shown with animals, holding two crossed candles, and wool combs.

His feast day is February 3<sup>rd</sup> and on that day many Catholic Churches have a special ceremony called the Blessing of the Throats.

“Through the intercession of St Blaise, Bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”