

St Ninian



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Ninian is first mentioned by the Venerable Bede, in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Another source from the eighth century is "The Miracles of Bishop Nynia".

According to tradition he was born in Cumbria but travelled to Rome as a young man. There he studied and was made a bishop and sent home to evangelise the Picts by Pope Siricius. On his journey home tradition has it that he visited St Martin of Tours and was much influenced by him.

Around 397 AD he set up his base at Whithorn, ideally placed in south-west Scotland for being in touch not just with the mainland of Scotland but with Ireland, northern England, the Isle of Man and beyond that the Continent. He built a stone church there, known as *Candida Casa* which means *the White House*. This was his base from which he sought to influence the people of the area now known as Galloway. Later on he travelled north along the east coast in order to spread the Good News among the Picts, possibly around the River Forth but perhaps much further north as well – even as far as the Shetlands.

The archaeological evidence to date does not contradict this version of Ninian's life. Remains of an old Christian cemetery have been found at Whithorn, underneath the medieval church, and the area nearby is rich in early Christian crosses and other indications of an early Christian settlement. Every year there is a considerable pilgrimage to Ninian's cave led by the Bishop of Galloway, and in 1997 Glasgow Churches Together made an ecumenical visit there and established a substantial cairn as a symbol of the growth of Christian unity.

In 2001, the Celtic scholar, Thomas Clancy, suggested that St. Ninian was in fact the same man known in Old Irish as St Finnian and in Brittonic as *Uinniau, likewise a mentor of St. Columba, and that the form 'Ninian' is due to a later 8th century scribe copying his name wrongly. Some scholars seem to be accepting that this could have been the case.

Ninian of Galloway

Ni - nian of Gal - lo - way, ho - mage we fond - ly pay
 Born of our Scot - tish race, God led thee forth by grace
 Soft - ly the Chris - tian morn dawned o'er the lone Whit-horn
 Where once thy foot - steps trod, un - quenched, the fires of God

5
 and tri - bute bring; saint by our Church pro - claimed,
 to find in Rome that pearl so rich - ly priced,
 like kind - ly sun; nobly thy loyal band,
 a - wait thy hand; re - new thy fer - vent care,

9
 Scot - land's A - pos - tle named, thy praise we
 that fault - less creed of Christ, and bear it
 led by thy sure com - mand, our king - dom
 ten - der to God our prayer to bless our

12
 sing, thy praise we sing.
 home, and bear it home.
 won, our king - dom won.
 land, to bless our land.

Alleluia

choir ladies

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia. Al - le lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter); G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter).

cong and choir

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter); G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter).

verse 1
(1st 4 bars in Gaelic)

Go make di - sci - ples of all the na - tions. I am with you to the end of time.

Detailed description: A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter); G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter).

in English

Go make di - sci - ples of all the na - tions. I am with you to the end of time.

Detailed description: A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter); G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter).

cong and choir

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: A single staff of music in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter); G4, A4, B4, C5 (quarter); B4, A4, G4, F4 (quarter).

Intercessions for the Feast of St Ninian

Celebrant; Inspired and encouraged by the example of St Ninian, let us turn to God our Father with all our needs;

Reader We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for all the bishops and the leaders of the churches, that the Lord may direct them in the opportunities for evangelization that lie before us.

Lord in your mercy R Hear our prayer

We thank God for the example of the many men and women, who like St Ninian proclaimed the Gospel in our land. May we imitate their faith and courage.

Lord in your mercy R Hear our prayer.

The harvest is great but the labourers are few. May the Lord inspire our young people to follow him in priesthood and religious life.

Lord in your mercy R Hear our prayer

May we all come to realise that we are called to holiness in our lives by the ordinary everyday acts of kindness and charity.

Lord in your mercy; R Hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

Heavenly Father,
as we celebrate the feast of St Ninian,
fill our hearts with gladness
and grant that with the intercession of Mary and all the saints and holy men
and women of our country, we may come to eternal happiness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.