

Saint Apollinaris, Evangelist, Bishop, Martyr (died 79 AD)



<https://catholicreadings.org/saint-apollinaris-of-ravenna-bishop-and-martyr/>

"Apollinaris is remembered in Tradition as the heroic first Bishop of Ravenna [consecrated Bishop by Saint Peter The Apostle.] He suffered repeated brutal beatings in his efforts to evangelize the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy..." *

Bishop Apollinaris was martyred horrifically thereafter in 79 AD.
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=1486

During this era, the pagan Roman Emperor Vespasian reigned during the first Jewish-Roman War (c 68-74 AD). He, and his son General Titus, are remembered for overseeing the destruction of Jerusalem and The Second Temple in 70 AD, leaving only one wall ("The Wailing Wall") intact.

The surviving Jewish fighters ~ with their families ~ fled to the fortress of Masada, where they eventually all tragically perished by their own hands, rather than become war trophy slaves of the pagan Romans.
<https://www.jewishhistory.org/the-destruction-of-the-second-temple/>

Not satisfied with offending GOD Almighty in his bloody war against the Jews in The Holy Land, Emperor Vespasian next turned his oppressive hand against the Christians, banishing them from Italy and giving license for their persecution. It is likely this edict set the stage for Saint Apollinaris's martyrdom.

Judaism was an officially recognized religion throughout the Empire, and Christianity was at first regarded as a Jewish Sect. But when Christianity became majority Gentile and broke formally from Judaism, the faithful lost exemption from public burning of incense to and worship of the pagan Emperors as deities. Christianity then became a crime against the state and worthy of the death penalty.
<https://carolashby.com/crime-and-punishment-in-the-roman-empire/>

"On Apollinaris, a later Bishop of Ravenna - Saint Peter Chrysologus [Bishop from 433 - 450 AD] taught: "To die only once is very little for those who can gloriously conquer the enemy more often for their king. Loyalty and devotion, more than death, make the martyr.

Just as falling on the battlefield for love of the king is proof of valor, so too is sustaining The Battle [of Faith] at length and bringing it to a close proof of Perfect Virtue [in JESUS CHRIST]." *

Saint Apollinaris - Evangelist, Bishop and Martyr - as we work out our Faith, in fear and trembling, in this crooked and perverse age, pray for us!

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTLvcbSuBXY>

1 If there be therefore any consolation in CHRIST, if any comfort of Love, if any fellowship of The SPIRIT, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same Love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in CHRIST JESUS:

6 Who, being in The Form of GOD, thought it not robbery to be equal with GOD:

7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a Servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a Man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even The Death of The Cross.

9 Wherefore GOD also hath highly exalted Him, and given him a Name which is above every name:

10 That at The Name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST is Lord, to The Glory of GOD The Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is GOD Which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of GOD, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as Lights in the world;

*["Saint Apollinaris." The Magnificat, 7/20/2021, Optional Memorial, p 287.]