

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Ariald of Carimate

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: June 27

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IN BRIEF

Saint Ariald of Carimate

Deacon of Milan, leader of the Pataria, martyr for the reform of the clergy in 1066.

Feast day	June 27
Born	c. 1010, Carimate, Lombardy, Italy
Died	June 27, 1066, Lake Maggiore, near Arona, Italy
Canonized	proclaimed a martyr in 1067 by Pope Alexander II
Era	11th century

In this booklet

Life

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Novena to Saint Ariald

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Ariald of Carimate

Saint Ariald, or Arialdo, was an 11th-century deacon of Milan, born around 1010 in Carimate, in Lombardy. With Landolfo Cotta, he led the Pataria, a movement of clergy and laypeople who called for priests who were poor, chaste and free from the love of money. This struggle cost him his life: he was murdered on June 27, 1066, on an island in Lake Maggiore, and Pope Alexander II proclaimed him a martyr the very next year. His feast day is June 27.

Who was Saint Ariald?

Ariald was born around 1010 in Carimate, north of Milan, into a noble family. He received an advanced education, studying among other places at Laon, in France, and was then ordained a deacon of the Church of Milan. He then saw the state of the clergy in his city: Church offices bought for money, the sin known as simony, and many priests living with women outside of marriage. Ariald decided to oppose this by preaching. We know his life through a biography devoted to him and to his companion Erlembald, attributed to Andrew, a monk of Vallombrosa, who had been his disciple.

Key dates

- **c. 1010**: Born in Carimate, near Milan, into a noble family.
- **Youth**: Studies at Laon, then is ordained a deacon in Milan.
- **Mid-11th century**: With Landolfo Cotta, he leads the Pataria, which denounces simony and the immorality of the Milanese clergy.
- **c. 1061**: Death of Landolfo; his brother Erlembald becomes the lay leader of the movement alongside Ariald.

- **1060s**: Excommunicated by Archbishop Guido da Velate, he is supported by Pope Alexander II, who lifts the sanction.
- **1066**: A riot breaks out in Milan; Ariald is wounded and has to flee the city.
- **June 27, 1066**: Captured, he is tortured and killed on a small island in Lake Maggiore; his body is thrown into the lake.
- **1067**: His body, found ten months later, is brought back to Milan; Alexander II proclaims him a martyr.

The Pataria, a cry for a poor Church

In the middle of the 11th century, the Church of Milan was rich and powerful. Many of its offices were sold, and some of the clergy lived like lords. Ariald preached against these abuses with great force. He drew clerics and a crowd of laypeople, craftsmen and ordinary folk, along with him. Their opponents scornfully nicknamed them "Patarines," from a word in the Milanese dialect that is thought to mean rags: and so the movement took the name Pataria.

Ariald and his friends asked that priests live in chastity and that Church offices no longer be bought. In this they joined the great reform movement led by the papacy at the same time, which would reach its height with Saint Gregory VII. Rome supported the Pataria: Saint Peter Damian came to Milan as papal legate to restore discipline there.

A dangerous struggle

Ariald's struggle was a violent one, and he paid the price. Archbishop Guido da Velate, whom he accused of many failings, excommunicated him. Pope Alexander II canceled the sanction and encouraged him to continue. Ariald in turn obtained the excommunication of the archbishop. The city was divided. A first attempt on his life, with a poisoned sword, had already been made. In 1066 a riot broke out in Milan, and Ariald was seriously wounded.

He had to flee. His enemies found him and took him to a small island in Lake Maggiore, near Arona. There, two clerics tortured him, mutilated him and killed him, on June 27, 1066. They weighed his body down and threw it into the lake to make every trace disappear.

Devotion and art

Ten months later, Ariald's body was found in the lake, described as well preserved. It was brought back to Milan with honor and displayed in the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio from Ascension to Pentecost, then buried in the church of San Celso. In 1067 Pope Alexander II proclaimed him a martyr. His companion Erlembald, who died a few years later in the same struggles, is also honored as a saint, and the Life of Saint Ariald tells their stories together.

Ariald appears in the Roman Martyrology on June 27. He is shown wearing a deacon's dalmatic, with the palm of martyrdom. The church of San Calimero in Milan has a depiction of his martyrdom.

What can we learn from Saint Ariald?

Ariald loved the Church so much that he wanted to see it pure. He did not leave the Church to criticize it from outside: he served it as a deacon, in communion with the pope, and gave his life for its reform. His struggle was sometimes harsh, in an age of great violence. He reminds us that the holiness of priests and the honesty of the Church concern all the baptized. We can pray to him for priests, for truth in the Church and for those who expose abuses at the cost of their own peace.

To pray with him, you can use the prayer to Saint Ariald or the novena to Saint Ariald.

Where to pray to Saint Ariald

- **Milan** (Italy): the church of San Calimero, where his martyrdom is depicted, and the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio, where his body was displayed in 1067.
- **Carimate** (province of Como): his home village.
- **Lake Maggiore**: the shores at Arona and Angera, near the place of his martyrdom.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Ariald for Holy Priests

Saint Ariald, an 11th-century deacon of Milan, devoted his life to fighting the buying of Church offices and the immorality of part of the clergy. He was murdered in 1066 on an island in Lake Maggiore, and the pope proclaimed him a martyr. This prayer is an original composition inspired by his life; it is not an official liturgical text. It entrusts to him the holiness of priests and the courage of truth in the Church.

Prayer to Saint Ariald

Saint Ariald,
deacon of the Church of Milan,
you loved the Church so much that you wanted her pure,
free from money and faithful to the Gospel.
You spoke when others kept silent,
and you accepted the price.

Wounded, driven out, handed over to your enemies,
you gave your life on the waters of the lake,
and the Lord kept your body and your memory.

Pray for our priests and deacons,
that they may live in chastity, poverty and joy.
Pray for those who expose evil in the Church,
that they may do it with truth and charity.
Keep us from violence and hatred,
and teach us to love the Church even when she wounds us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Ariald

- On his feast day, June 27.
- For the holiness of priests, especially during the June ordinations.
- When the Church is wounded by scandals or abuse.
- For those who must speak a difficult truth at the risk of their own peace.
- For deacons and those preparing for ministry.

A prayer for priests

You can close with this short prayer:

> *Lord, give your Church holy priests,*
> *shepherds after your own heart.*
> *Saint Ariald, pray for them and for us. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Ariald from June 19 to 27, and read the life of Saint Ariald.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Ariald

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life of Saint Ariald, deacon of Milan, leader of the Pataria and martyr for the reform of the clergy in 1066. It is not an official liturgical text. To end it on his feast day, June 27, begin on June 19. It is especially suited to praying for priests and for a Church faithful to the Gospel, and you can pray it at any time of the year.

How to pray this novena

Each day, begin with the Sign of the Cross and present your intention to God. Read the meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. End with: "Saint Ariald, pray for us." The act proposed each day helps you live the novena concretely.

Day 1: A son of Carimate

Ariald was born around 1010 into a noble family of Carimate. He could have lived comfortably on his rank. He chose to serve the Church and to give himself to it completely.

Prayer: Lord, do not let me settle for a comfortable life, but help me serve you with all my heart.

Today: Pray for your parish and for those who keep it alive.

Day 2: Studying to serve better

Ariald studied for a long time, as far away as Laon, in France. His preaching was well nourished. To proclaim the Gospel, we must first know it and meditate on it.

Prayer: Lord, give me a love for your Word and the desire to know my faith better.

Today: Read a chapter of the Gospel, or a passage from the Catechism.

Day 3: The deacon

Ariald was ordained a deacon, that is, a servant. The deacon reminds the whole Church that it exists to serve, in the image of Christ who washed his disciples' feet.

Prayer: Lord, bless the deacons of your Church, and teach me to serve as you did.

Today: Do someone a quiet favor, expecting nothing in return.

Day 4: Seeing the evil

In Milan, Ariald saw Church offices being sold and priests who were unfaithful. He refused to look away. To love the Church is also to suffer from what disfigures it.

Prayer: Lord, give me a clear view of the Church and of myself, without harshness and without complacency.

Today: Pray for the victims of abuse in the Church.

Day 5: A poor Church

Ariald's opponents called his friends "the ragged ones." These ordinary people dreamed of a poor Church, free from money. The Gospel warns us: you cannot serve God and money.

Prayer: Lord, free my heart from attachment to money. Make your Church a home for the poor.

Today: Give to a charity that serves the poorest.

Day 6: Staying united with the pope

When his archbishop excommunicated him, Ariald was supported by Pope Alexander II. He did not wage his struggle alone, but in communion with the Church. True reform happens in unity.

Prayer: Lord, keep me united with your Church and with the pope, even in disagreement.

Today: Pray for the pope and for the bishop of your diocese.

Day 7: The price of truth

Ariald was attacked, wounded and driven out of his city. Telling the truth has a price. Jesus said so: "Blessed are you when they persecute you because of me."

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to speak the truth with charity, even when it costs me.

Today: Find the courage to say a true word you have been putting off for a long time.

Day 8: Martyrdom on the lake

On June 27, 1066, Ariald was tortured and killed on an island in Lake Maggiore, and his body was thrown into the water. His killers wanted to erase his memory. But God does not forget any of his friends.

Prayer: Lord, welcome all who die for justice and truth. Forgive those who kill them.

Today: Pray for someone who has hurt you.

Day 9: A martyr recognized

Ariald's body was found and brought back to Milan, and the pope proclaimed him a martyr. The man they had tried to make disappear became a witness for the whole Church.

Prayer: Lord, through the intercession of Saint Ariald, grant me the grace I ask in this novena, if it is your will.

Today: Thank a priest who has helped you in your faith.

Living the novena with Saint Ariald

Saint Ariald is a demanding saint. His life reminds us that faith is not indifferent to the way the Church lives. This novena can be prayed in a time of crisis or scandal, so as to give in neither to discouragement nor to anger. It also falls at the time of year when many priests are ordained: you can offer it for them, and for all who serve the Church faithfully. Ariald fought a hard fight in a violent century; ask him for the strength of truth and the gentleness of charity.

Closing prayer

> *Saint Ariald,*
> *faithful deacon and martyr of reform,*
> *present to the Lord the intention I have carried during these nine days.*
> *Obtain for the Church holy priests and courageous shepherds,*
> *and for me a heart free from money,*
> *devoted to truth and filled with charity.*
> *Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

You can also pray the prayer to Saint Ariald at any time, and read the life of Saint Ariald.

CREDITS

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