BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Jacut of Landoac

Life, prayer, novena and pilgrimage

Feast day: February 8

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IN BRIEF

Saint Jacut of Landoac

Breton monk of the 5th or early 6th century, brother of Saint Winwaloe, who founded the monastery of Landoac with his twin Guethenoc.

Feast day	February 8
Born	5th century, Wales (according to tradition)
Died	a February 8, 5th or early 6th century (uncertain), Landoac, now Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer (Côtes-d'Armor, France)
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	5th century

In this booklet

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Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Jacut of Landoac

Saint Jacut (Jagu in Breton) was a monk of the Christian beginnings of Brittany, in the 5th or early 6th century. Twin brother of Saint Guethenoc and elder brother of Saint Winwaloe, a disciple of Saint Budoc, he founded with his twin a monastery on the peninsula of Landoac, now Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer, in the Côtes-d'Armor. His life is known only through late traditions. His feast day is February 8.

Who was Saint Jacut?

Jacut belongs to a whole family of saints: his parents Fragan and Gwenn, his brothers Guethenoc and Winwaloe, and his sister Clervia are all honored in Brittany. What we know of him comes from traditions gathered long after his death. The dates are uncertain and the sources do not always agree: some place his death in the first half of the 5th century, others date his arrival at Landoac to the end of that century. What remains is that he was one of those monks from the island of Britain who gave Armorica its first monasteries.

Key dates in the life of Jacut

- **5th century**: Born, according to tradition in Wales, into the family of Fragan and Gwenn; he has a twin brother, Guethenoc.
- **Shortly after**: Fleeing the Saxon invasions, the family settles in Armorica, at the head of the Bay of Saint-Brieuc, on the banks of the Gouët, at the place that would become Ploufragan.
- **Youth**: With his brothers, he is trained in monastic life by Saint Budoc.
- **Late 5th century (according to tradition)**: With Guethenoc, he settles on the peninsula of Landoac and founds a monastery there.
- **A February 8**: Dies at Landoac; he is buried in the monastery church.

- **c. 878**: Fleeing the Vikings, the monks carry away his relics; the bones of his arms are left at Saint-Jacut-les-Pins.
- **1008**: Abbot Hinguethen restores the abbey of Saint-Jacut.
- **1875**: The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Saint-Méen settle in the former abbey.

A family of saints from across the Channel

According to tradition, Fragan, Jacut's father, was related to the British princes of the island of Britain. Faced with the advance of the Saxons, he left his country with his wife Gwenn and their children and crossed the sea to settle in Armorica, at the head of the Bay of Saint-Brieuc. The name of Ploufragan keeps his memory. The twins Jacut and Guethenoc, then their younger brother Winwaloe, were entrusted to Saint Budoc, who taught them prayer, the Scriptures and ascetic life. Winwaloe would become the founder of Landévennec; Jacut and Guethenoc would give birth to a monastery on the north coast.

The founder of Landoac

The two twins looked for a place suited to the hermit's life. They found it on the peninsula of Landoac, between Saint-Malo and Saint-Brieuc. According to tradition, they converted the pagans of the area, then built a monastery where, as in the Celtic communities of that time, life was given to prayer, work and harsh austerity. This monastery is the origin of the abbey of Saint-Jacut, which would give its name to the town of Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer.

Jacut is also presented as a wandering monk who proclaimed the Gospel in various parts of Brittany where his cult has survived. Several towns bear his name: Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer, Saint-Jacut-du-Mené, Saint-Jacut-les-Pins. He died on a February 8, in a year that cannot be determined, and was buried in the church of his monastery.

The exile of the relics and the cult

Around 878, Viking fleets threatened the coasts of Brittany. The monks of Saint-Jacut, like those of the other monasteries of Brittany, fled inland carrying their most precious treasures, above all the relics of their founders. They left the bones of Saint Jacut's arms in the parish that already bore his name, Saint-Jacut-les-Pins. It is the memory of this translation that the churches dedicated to Saint Jacut celebrate on July 5, in addition to his feast on February 8.

The abbey was restored in 1008 by Abbot Hinguethen and reached its height in the 14th and 15th centuries, before declining under the commendam system. It was destroyed after the Revolution. Since 1875, the site has been occupied by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Saint-Méen, who made it a house of welcome. In Brittany, several chapels are dedicated to him, such as the chapel of Saint-Jagut at Plestin-les-Grèves, completed in 1496. He is shown as a monk or an abbot.

What can we learn from Saint Jacut?

Saint Jacut reminds us that holiness can be lived in family and in fellowship: he received the faith from his parents, he was trained with his brothers, and he founded a monastery with his twin. Exiled with his family, he made a land of refuge into a land of the Gospel. You can pray to him for families, for brothers and sisters, for exiles and migrants, and for those looking for a place to live with God.

To pray with him, see the prayer to Saint Jacut and the novena to Saint Jacut.

Where to pray to Saint Jacut

- **Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer** (Côtes-d'Armor): the abbey, now a house of welcome, on the site of his monastery.

- **Saint-Jacut-les-Pins** (Morbihan): the parish where the relics of his arms were left.
- **Saint-Jacut-du-Mené** (Côtes-d'Armor): another town that bears his name.
- **Plestin-les-Grèves** (Côtes-d'Armor): the chapel of Saint-Jagut, completed in 1496.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Jacut for Families and Exiles

Saint Jacut, twin brother of Saint Guethenoc and brother of Saint Winwaloe, left the island of Britain for Armorica with his family and founded a monastery on the peninsula of Landoac, now Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer. Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text. It entrusts to him families, brothers and sisters, and those who have had to leave their country.

Prayer to Saint Jacut

Saint Jacut,
child of an exiled family,
in a foreign land you found
the place where God was waiting for you.
Watch over those who have had to leave their country,
and make our homes places of welcome.

You who grew in faith with your brothers
and built a house of prayer with your twin,
bless our families, our brothers and our sisters.
Teach us to support one another
on the path of the Gospel.

You who prayed by the sea, on the peninsula of Landoac,
keep those who live from the sea and those who cross it.
Give us a taste for silence and praise,
and lead us to Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Jacut

- On his feast day, February 8, or on July 5, feast of the translation of his relics.
- For the unity of families and harmony between brothers and sisters, especially twins.
- For migrants, refugees and those who must start their lives again elsewhere.
- Before a retreat or a time of silence.
- For sailors and people living on the coast.

A short invocation

> *Saint Jacut, brother of Saint Winwaloe, monk of Landoac,*
> *pray for us. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Jacut from January 31 to February 8, and read the life of Saint Jacut.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Jacut of Landoac

Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is inspired by the life of Saint Jacut, a Breton monk, brother of Saint Winwaloe and founder of the monastery of Landoac. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on his feast day, February 8, begin on January 31. You can also pray it at any other time of the year.

How to pray this novena

Each day, begin with the Sign of the Cross and entrust 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 Jacut, pray for us." The act suggested each day helps you live the novena concretely. The episodes recalled come from old traditions whose details are uncertain.

Day 1: A family on the road of exile

Fleeing the Saxons, the family of Fragan and Gwenn crossed the sea to settle in Armorica. Jacut grew up in a family of refugees.

Prayer: Lord, protect those who flee war and violence. Grant them a brotherly welcome.

Act of the day: Support, with a gift or a service, an organization that helps refugees.

Day 2: Parents who pass on the faith

Fragan and Gwenn are also honored as saints. It was in their home that Jacut learned to pray.

Prayer: Lord, bless parents who pass on the faith to their children. Support them in this mission.

Act of the day: Pray for your parents, living or departed.

Day 3: Two twins

Jacut and Guethenoc were twins. They grew up together, were trained together and would found a monastery together. Brotherhood is a gift from God.

Prayer: Lord, bless my brothers and sisters. Heal what divides us.

Act of the day: Get in touch with a brother, a sister or a close friend.

Day 4: In the school of Budoc

With his brothers, Jacut was entrusted to Saint Budoc, who trained them in prayer and monastic life. No one becomes a disciple without a teacher.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for those who taught me to know you. Give young people good guides.

Act of the day: Thank someone who helped you grow in faith.

Day 5: Looking for a place for God

Jacut and Guethenoc looked for a place suited to prayer. They found it on the peninsula of Landoac, between land and sea.

Prayer: Lord, help me find in my life a space of silence in which to meet you.

Act of the day: Set up a prayer corner at home, or pray there for a few minutes.

Day 6: Proclaiming the Gospel

According to tradition, Jacut converted the pagans of the area and traveled through Brittany to proclaim Christ. Faith received becomes faith shared.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to bear witness to you simply.

Act of the day: Speak of your faith, gently, to someone who asks you about it.

Day 7: A life of prayer and work

In the monastery of Landoac, the monks lived by prayer, work and austerity. Their simple life was entirely turned toward God.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to offer you my work and to live it in prayer.

Act of the day: Offer your day's work to God, and do it with care.

Day 8: Keeping the treasures of faith

Around 878, fleeing the Vikings, the monks carried away Jacut's relics. They knew that the memory of the saints is a treasure for the Church.

Prayer: Lord, keep us faithful to the faith we have received, even in times of trial.

Act of the day: Visit a church or chapel in your region dedicated to a local saint.

Day 9: A place that still welcomes

The abbey of Saint-Jacut was destroyed, then raised up again. Today, sisters and lay people welcome there those who seek rest and prayer. What Jacut sowed still bears fruit.

Prayer: Lord, make my life a place of welcome for others. Through the intercession of Saint Jacut, grant me the grace I ask in this novena, if it is your will.

Act of the day: Welcome someone into your home or offer them a moment of listening, and attend Mass if you can.

Closing prayer

> *Saint Jacut,*
> *brother of Saint Winwaloe and monk of Landoac,*
> *you made a land of exile a land of prayer.*
> *Present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.*
> *Bless my family and those I love,*
> *and keep me faithful to Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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

PILGRIMAGE

Abbey of Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer

The abbey of Saint-Jacut stands in the Côtes-d'Armor, at the tip of the peninsula of Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer, the former Landoac, between Saint-Malo and Saint-Brieuc. According to tradition, Saint Jacut and his twin brother Guethenoc, disciples of Saint Budoc, founded a monastery here at the dawn of Christian Brittany. The old abbey has disappeared, but the site is now a house of welcome run by sisters and lay people.

A long monastic history

The two brothers, who had come with their family from the island of Britain, settled on the peninsula to live as hermits. A community formed around them and lived according to the austere customs of the Celtic monasteries. The decree of 818 imposing the Rule of Saint Benedict on Breton monasteries was adopted here only slowly.

Around 878, the arrival of the Vikings forced the monks to flee with the relics of their founders, and the abbey was sacked. It was restored in 1008 by Abbot Hinguethen. In the 14th and 15th centuries it reached its height: the abbey church was completed, and its possessions extended across several Breton dioceses and as far as England. The monks welcomed the sick, the poor and travelers. Decline began with the commendam system; in 1789, only four monks remained. After the Revolution, the buildings were used as a stone quarry and disappeared almost entirely.

A house of welcome

In 1875, the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Saint-Méen bought the estate to open a free school for the children of the parish. To fund it, they took in summer visitors who came for sea bathing. In the 1950s, the community

developed a spiritual and cultural mission: retreats, training sessions, hosting groups. The place is associated with Father Louis-Joseph Lebret, a Dominican committed to the development of peoples, who worked there in the 1960s. There is a statue of Saint Jacut, and a magnificent view of the bay.

Praying on site

Before you come, you can read the life of Saint Jacut. On the peninsula, facing the sea, entrust to him your families, your brothers and sisters, and those who have had to leave their country, then say the prayer to Saint Jacut. A retreat at the abbey is a way to extend this time of prayer. These suggestions are offered by Saintspedia.

Other places of Saint Jacut

- **Saint-Jacut-les-Pins** (Morbihan): the parish where the relics of his arms were left.
- **Saint-Jacut-du-Mené** (Côtes-d'Armor): a town that bears his name.
- **Plestin-les-Grèves** (Côtes-d'Armor): the chapel of Saint-Jagut, completed in 1496.
- **Landévennec** (Finistère): the abbey founded by his brother Saint Winwaloe.

Practical information

Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer can be reached by car, about twenty kilometers from Dinan and not far from Saint-Malo. The abbey is a house of welcome: conditions for staying, the retreats on offer and the times of prayer may vary. Check directly with the abbey before your visit.

Credits and sources

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