BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Sané

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: March 6

IN BRIEF

Saint Sané

Irish monk of the 5th century, evangelizer of the Léon region and patron of Plouzané according to tradition.

Feast day	March 6
Born	5th century, Ireland
Died	c. 485, Armorica
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	5th century
Patron saint of	Plouzané, Locmaria-Plouzané

In this booklet

Life

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Novena to Saint Sané

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Sané

Saint Sané was a monk of Irish origin in the 5th century, presented by tradition as a disciple of Saint Patrick. Having crossed to Armorica with a few companions, he is said to have evangelized the Léon region, around today's Plouzané, near Brest, of which he is the patron and to which he gave his name. He is said to have died around 485. His life is known only through late accounts. His feast day is March 6.

Who was Saint Sané?

Sané is one of the saints from the British Isles who, according to tradition, brought the Christian faith to Brittany. His name appears in that of two towns in Finistère, Plouzané (the "parish of Sané") and Locmaria-Plouzané. The main account of his life was written in the 17th century by the Dominican Albert Le Grand, in his Lives of the Saints of Armorican Brittany, who calls him a "bishop from Hibernia." In the 18th century, the geographer Jean-Baptiste Ogée in turn collected the traditions of Plouzané. These texts, written long after the events, mix local memories and legends; even the dates do not always agree. They must therefore be read with caution. The cult of the saint, however, is well attested in Léon and as far as the Vannes region.

Key dates in the life of Sané

- **5th century**: Born in Hibernia, that is, Ireland, according to tradition.
- **Then**: According to the accounts, he is formed in the circle of Saint Patrick.
- **Later**: With a few companions, he crosses to Armorica and lands at the point of Perzell, today's Pointe de Bertheaume.
- **Next**: He settles in the forest of Lucos, turns pagan places of worship into Christian sanctuaries and founds a small community near Plouzané.

- **c. 485**: Dies in a solitary place in Armorica, according to hagiographical dictionaries.
- **17th century**: Albert Le Grand writes his Life.
- **1778**: Jean-Baptiste Ogée describes the crosses and the altar stone that tradition links to the saint.

From Ireland to the Léon region

According to Albert Le Grand, Sané, who came from Ireland like Saint Ronan, crossed the sea with a few companions to proclaim the Gospel to a population still attached to the old cults. He landed at the point of Perzell, now called the Pointe de Bertheaume, at the entrance to the Brest narrows. Moving inland, he stopped in the heart of the forest of Lucos, a "consecrated place" where pagan temples stood. With his companions, he made these places Christian sanctuaries: tradition places the first church of Locmaria-Plouzané there.

The place called Ar-Cloastr, "the cloister," near the village of Plouzané, is said to keep the memory of the spot where the small community lived. Tradition also attributes to Sané the spring that still flows there. Some accounts say he was ordained a priest by Saint Ronan, which raises a problem of chronology, since Saint Ronan is usually placed somewhat later.

The crosses and the altar stone

In the 18th century, Jean-Baptiste Ogée reported that the church of Plouzané was believed to have once been a pagan temple, and that Sané was held to be the patron of the place. He mentions near the porch a tall stone cross with illegible inscriptions, and, not far from the church of Locmaria, two great crosses said to have been planted by the saint after the conversion of the region. These crosses were greatly venerated and served as places of asylum: a

wrongdoer who took refuge there could not be seized. Ogée also mentions, in the churchyard, an altar stone on which Sané is said to have celebrated his first Mass before the newly baptized.

It is also said that two standing stones, Christianized and now set up in the village of Locmaria-Plouzané, marked the entrance to the "wood of Grace," where any fugitive was assured of not being pursued. These traditions show how the memory of the saint became attached to the landscape and monuments of the region.

Devotion

According to the hagiographical dictionary of Abbé Pétin, Sané died around 485 in a solitary place in Armorica. His cult has continued in the former diocese of Léon, at Plouzané, of which he is patron and whose church keeps a reliquary, as well as at Locmaria-Plouzané. It also reached the Vannes region: at Camors, in Morbihan, a hamlet and a church bear his name. His feast is March 6. Stained glass windows show him as a bishop, as Albert Le Grand calls him.

What can we learn from Saint Sané?

Behind accounts that are hard to verify, Saint Sané appears as one of those missionaries who agreed to leave their island for an unknown land. Tradition credits him with a particular way of evangelizing: not destroying, but transforming the old sacred places into places of Christian prayer. It has also kept the image of a protector of the weakest, since his crosses served as places of asylum. You can pray to him for missionaries, for Brittany and for those who seek refuge.

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

Where to pray to Saint Sané

- **Plouzané** (Finistère): the parish church, of which he is patron, with its reliquary, and the spring attributed to him.
- **Locmaria-Plouzané** (Finistère): the village that bears his name, with its Christianized standing stones.
- **Camors** (Morbihan): the church of Saint-Sané.
- **Saint-Renan** (Finistère): the church of Notre-Dame-de-Liesse, where a stained glass window depicts him.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Sané for Missionaries and Those Seeking Refuge

Saint Sané, who came from Ireland according to tradition, evangelized the Léon region, around Plouzané near Brest, in the 5th century. Tradition remembers that he made the old pagan places into places of prayer, and that his crosses served as a refuge for fugitives. Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It entrusts to him missionaries, Brittany and those who seek refuge.

Prayer to Saint Sané

Saint Sané,
son of Ireland and disciple of Saint Patrick,
you crossed the sea
to bring Christ to unknown peoples.
Give me the courage to bear witness to my faith
wherever I am sent.

You who made the old places into houses of prayer,
help me to offer to God
all that in my life is still waiting to be made holy.

You whose crosses were a refuge,
protect those who flee, those who are threatened,
and those who need shelter.
Watch over Brittany and its families,
and keep us in the peace of Christ
our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Sané

- On his feast day, March 6.
- For missionaries and those who leave home.
- For refugees and people seeking protection.
- For Brittany, especially the Léon region.
- When you want to offer to God a place, a home or a new work.

A prayer for those who seek refuge

> *Lord, be the shelter of those who have none.*
> *Saint Sané, pray for them. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Sané from February 26 to March 6, and read the life of Saint Sané.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Sané

This novena is inspired by the life of Saint Sané, a monk who came from Ireland according to tradition and the patron of Plouzané, in Finistère. Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on his feast day, March 6, begin on February 26 (February 27 in leap years). You can also pray it at any other time.

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 Sané, pray for us." The act suggested each day helps you live the novena concretely. The episodes recalled come from late accounts that mix history and legend.

Day 1: A son of Ireland

Sané was born in Ireland, a land that Saint Patrick had just opened to the Gospel. He received the faith from a young and fervent Church.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for those who handed on the faith to me. Make me grateful for this gift.

Act of the day: Pray for the person who first made Christ known to you.

Day 2: Disciple of Saint Patrick

Tradition makes Sané a disciple of Saint Patrick. We learn to follow Christ alongside those who already follow him.

Prayer: Lord, give me teachers in the faith, and make me an example for others.

Act of the day: Read a few lines from the life of a saint.

Day 3: The crossing

With a few companions, Sané crossed the sea to Armorica. He left everything for the Gospel.

Prayer: Lord, make me ready to go wherever you call me.

Act of the day: Pray for missionaries far from home.

Day 4: Landing on a new shore

He landed at the Pointe de Bertheaume, at the entrance to the Brest narrows. Everything begins with a first step on unknown land.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage of new beginnings.

Act of the day: Take a step you have been putting off for a long time.

Day 5: Transforming the old places

In the forest of Lucos, Sané turned pagan temples into Christian sanctuaries. He did not destroy: he offered to God what already existed.

Prayer: Lord, transform in me what is not yet yours.

Act of the day: Bless your home or your workplace with a prayer.

Day 6: Life in community

Near Plouzané, at the place called Ar-Cloastr, Sané's small community lived. Mission is born of common prayer.

Prayer: Lord, bless our Christian communities and help us live as brothers and sisters.

Act of the day: Take part in a time of prayer in your parish or with your family.

Day 7: The spring

Tradition attributes to him the spring that still flows near Plouzané. Water recalls baptism, the source of new life.

Prayer: Lord, renew in me the grace of my baptism.

Act of the day: Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water, thinking of your baptism.

Day 8: The crosses of refuge

The crosses attributed to Sané served as places of asylum: whoever took refuge there could not be seized. The cross of Christ is a shelter for sinners.

Prayer: Lord, be my refuge, and protect those who flee violence.

Act of the day: Support, with a gift or a prayer, a charity that welcomes refugees.

Day 9: The first Mass

At Plouzané, people used to show the altar stone on which Sané is said to have celebrated his first Mass before the newly baptized. All mission leads to the Eucharist.

Prayer: Lord, make the Eucharist the heart of my life. Through the intercession of Saint Sané, grant me the grace I ask in this novena, if it is your will.

Act of the day: Attend Mass.

Living the novena with Saint Sané

Saint Sané belongs to the Christian origins of Brittany. The accounts about him are late, but they say what matters: a man left his land to proclaim Christ and left behind places of prayer and refuge. During these nine days, you can carry missionaries, refugees and the Léon region. If you can, visit Plouzané or Locmaria-Plouzané.

Closing prayer

> *Saint Sané,*
> *missionary from Ireland,*
> *you planted the cross in the land of Léon*
> *and opened places of prayer and refuge.*
> *Present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.*
> *Keep me faithful to my baptism,*
> *and make me a witness of peace.*
> *Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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

Credits and sources

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