BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Tudy

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: May 9

IN BRIEF

Saint Tudy

Breton monk and hermit of the 5th or 6th century, patron of Loctudy, Île-Tudy and Groix.

Feast day	May 9
Born	5th or 6th century
Died	6th century
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	5th century
Patron saint of	Loctudy, Île-Tudy, Island of Groix

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Tudy for the People of the Islands and the Sea

Novena to Saint Tudy

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Tudy

Saint Tudy, also called Tudi, Tugdin or Pabu, was a Breton monk of the 5th or 6th century. A disciple of Saint Maudez according to tradition, he is said to have lived as a hermit on the island of Groix, then founded a hermitage at the place that now bears his name, Île-Tudy, before his cult settled at Loctudy, in Cornouaille. His feast day is May 9.

Who was Saint Tudy?

Tudy belongs to the great generation of monks who, coming from Britain or born in Armorica, founded the first Christian communities of Brittany. His name is linked with those of Saint Corentin, first bishop of Quimper, Saint Maudez and Saint Winwaloe (Guénolé), abbot of Landévennec. No Life of his own survives. He appears in the Life of Saint Corentin, written in the 9th century, under the name of Tugdin, and in the Life of Saint Maudez. The rest of what we know of him comes from the places that bear his name and from local tradition.

His name has taken many forms: Tudy, Tudi, Tudius, Tudinus, Tugdin, Tudec, and also Pabu or Paban. This variety is the trace of an old and deeply rooted cult, but it makes the historians' task harder.

Key dates in the life of Tudy

- **5th or 6th century**: Life of Tudy, a Breton monk; the exact dates of his birth and death are unknown.
- **According to tradition**: He becomes the disciple of Saint Maudez, who is said to have been formed in the circle of Saint Winwaloe.
- **Then**: He lives as a hermit on the island of Groix, where the main harbor is called Port-Tudy.

- **Later**: He founds a hermitage on the peninsula that will become Île-Tudy, facing the estuary of Pont-l'Abbé.
- **After his death**: His cult passes to Loctudy, on the opposite shore, where a monastery develops.
- **9th century**: The Life of Saint Corentin mentions him under the name of Tugdin.
- **Middle Ages**: The Romanesque church of Saint-Tudy in Loctudy is built.
- **15th century**: The granite parish church of Île-Tudy is built.

A hermit of the islands

Tradition makes Tudy a disciple of Saint Maudez, one of the great monastic founders of the Trégor. Like many Celtic monks, he is said to have sought solitude on an island: first on Groix, off Lorient, of which he remains the patron and where the harbor where boats arrive still bears his name, Port-Tudy. He is then said to have settled on the sandy peninsula that closes the estuary of the Pont-l'Abbé river, today the commune of Île-Tudy. His cult later moved to the opposite shore, to Loctudy, a name meaning "the holy place of Tudy." A monastery is said to have been founded there.

The Life of Saint Corentin, written in the 9th century, mentions him under the name of Tugdin among the saints of Cornouaille. We know neither the circumstances of his death nor the place of his burial. It should be said plainly: his life escapes us almost entirely, and what is told of him belongs more to tradition than to history.

Tudy and Tugdual: the same saint?

A question debated by historians is whether Saint Tudy and Saint Tugdual, the founder of Tréguier, also called Pabu, are one and the same. The Breton historian Bernard Tanguy proposed seeing Tudy as an affectionate, or hypocoristic, form of the name Tugdual: Pabu Tugdual, alias Tudi. Other

authors continue to distinguish the two figures, and the calendar celebrates them on different dates, Tugdual on December 1 and Tudy on May 9. Saintspedia presents here the saint honored at Loctudy and Île-Tudy, while noting this debate.

Devotion and art

Saint Tudy is the patron of the island of Groix, of Loctudy and of Île-Tudy, in Finistère. The church of Saint-Tudy in Loctudy is one of the best preserved Romanesque churches in Brittany; it houses an 18th-century polychrome wooden statue of the saint. At Île-Tudy, the 15th-century parish church bears on its façade a 17th-century statue of the saint. There is also a chapel of Saint Tudy at Pleuven, in the Fouesnant area, and another once stood within the walls of the castle of Pont-l'Abbé. The saint left his name across the Channel, in the village of St Tudy in Cornwall, and in a Loctudy on Belle-Île.

Old statues show him as a monk or an abbot. Some calendars celebrate him on May 11, but May 9 is the most common date in the parishes that honor him.

What can we learn from Saint Tudy?

Saint Tudy reminds us how much the faith of Brittany was born of the silence of a few hermits. He left neither writings nor detailed accounts, only places that bear his name and communities that still call on him fifteen centuries later. You can pray to him for islanders and seafarers, for those who seek solitude in order to pray, and for the parishes of the Breton coast.

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

Where to pray to Saint Tudy

- **Loctudy** (Finistère): the Romanesque church of Saint-Tudy, which keeps an old statue of the saint.

- **Île-Tudy** (Finistère): the parish church of Saint-Tudy, facing Loctudy.
- **Island of Groix** (Morbihan): the island of which he is patron, where boats arrive at Port-Tudy.
- **Pleuven** (Finistère): the chapel of Saint Tudy.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Tudy for the People of the Islands and the Sea

Saint Tudy, a Breton monk of the 5th or 6th century, lived as a hermit on the island of Groix and then at Île-Tudy, according to tradition. He remains the patron of Groix, Loctudy and Île-Tudy. Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It entrusts to him the people of the islands and the sea, and all who seek God in silence.

Prayer to Saint Tudy

Saint Tudy,
monk of Brittany and hermit of the islands,
you left the noise of the world
to listen to God by the sea.
Teach me to keep silence
and to find time for prayer each day.

You who were the disciple of Saint Maudez,
help me to let myself be formed by those
whom God places on my path,
and to pass on in my turn what I have received.

Watch over the people of Groix, Loctudy and Île-Tudy,
over sailors and fishermen,
over those who leave and those who wait.
Keep our parishes faithful to the faith of our fathers.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Tudy

- On his feast day, May 9.
- For sailors, fishermen and island dwellers.
- When you are looking for a time of retreat or silence.
- For the parishes of Loctudy, Île-Tudy and Groix.
- For vocations to monastic life.

A short invocation

> *Saint Tudy, hermit of the islands, keep us in the peace of God and watch over those at sea. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Tudy from May 1 to 9, and read the life of Saint Tudy.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Tudy

This novena is inspired by the figure of Saint Tudy, a Breton monk and hermit of the 5th or 6th century, patron of Groix, Loctudy and Île-Tudy. Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on his feast day, May 9, begin on May 1. You can also pray it at any other time.

How to pray this novena

Each day, make 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 Tudy, pray for us." The act of the day helps you live the novena concretely. Tudy's life is very poorly known: the meditations draw on tradition and on the places that bear his name.

Day 1: The call of the monks

Tudy belongs to the generation of monks who brought the Gospel to Brittany. They left everything to follow Christ.

Prayer: Lord, make me ready for your call, even when it unsettles me.

Act of the day: Slowly read a Gospel passage in which Jesus calls his disciples.

Day 2: Disciple of a master

According to tradition, Tudy was formed by Saint Maudez. No one grows in faith alone.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for those who led me to you. Bless them.

Act of the day: Pray for the person who passed on the faith to you.

Day 3: The solitude of the island

On Groix, Tudy is said to have lived as a hermit. The island, surrounded by the sea, was for him a place of prayer and simplicity.

Prayer: Lord, help me to love the silence in which you speak to me.

Act of the day: Turn off screens and music for a while and pray in silence.

Day 4: By the sea

Tudy lived facing the ocean, among fishermen. The sea feeds, but it can also be dangerous.

Prayer: Lord, protect sailors and fishermen, and console the families who have lost someone at sea.

Act of the day: Pray for seafarers.

Day 5: Founding a place of prayer

The hermitage of Île-Tudy, then the monastery of Loctudy, became places where people still pray.

Prayer: Lord, bless our churches and chapels, and make us living stones.

Act of the day: Go into a church or chapel and pray there for a few minutes.

Day 6: A name that remains

Loctudy, Île-Tudy, Port-Tudy: his name remains written on the map. Holiness leaves a lasting mark on a land.

Prayer: Lord, may my life leave behind a trace of your love.

Act of the day: Do an act of kindness that someone will remember.

Day 7: The humility of a hidden life

We know almost nothing of Tudy. He sought neither glory nor fame. God alone knows the worth of his life.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to do good without seeking to be noticed.

Act of the day: Do a quiet favor for someone.

Day 8: The communion of Breton saints

Tudy's name is linked with those of Corentin, Maudez and Winwaloe. The saints are never alone: they form a family.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the saints of Brittany. May they pray for us and for our Church.

Act of the day: Entrust your parish to the patron saint who protects it.

Day 9: Faithful to the end

Tudy remained faithful to his vocation until the end of his life, whose circumstances we do not know. The faithful have called on him for fifteen centuries.

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

Act of the day: Attend Mass and pray for the departed members of your family.

Closing prayer

Saint Tudy,
monk of Brittany and hermit of the islands,
present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.
Keep me faithful in prayer,
and watch over those who live from the sea.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Credits and sources

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