BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Urielle

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: October 1

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IN BRIEF

Saint Urielle

7th-century Breton saint, daughter of a king of Domnonée according to tradition, consecrated to God.

Feast day	October 1
Born	late 6th or early 7th century, Armorica (Domnonée)
Died	7th century
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	7th century
Patron saint of	old parish of Sainte-Urielle (now Trédias)

In this booklet

Life

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Novena to Saint Urielle

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Urielle

Saint Urielle, also called Eurielle, Uriell or Euriell in Breton, was a Breton saint of the 7th century. According to tradition, she was one of the daughters of the Breton king whom the accounts call Hoël III, and the sister of Saint Judicaël and Saint Judoc (Josse); she consecrated herself to God. An old parish in the Dinan area bore her name. Her feast day is October 1.

Who was Saint Urielle?

Urielle is one of those Breton saints of whom we know hardly more than the name, the family and the cult. No ancient Life is devoted to her. What we know of her comes from the genealogies of the royal family of Domnonée, handed down by Breton hagiographers and taken up, in the 19th century, by collections of Lives of the saints of Brittany. These genealogies mix history and legend, and must be read with caution.

Her name comes from the Hebrew Uri'el, meaning "God is my light." It is also the name of an angel in some ancient traditions, which makes it one of the most beautiful names in the Breton calendar.

Key dates in the life of Urielle

- **c. 590**: According to tradition, King Hoël III marries Pritelle, and many children are born to them.
- **Late 6th or early 7th century**: Urielle is born in Armorica, into the royal family of Domnonée.
- **7th century**: With her sister Onenne, she consecrates herself to God.
- **7th century**: Death of Urielle, on an unknown date.

- **Before the Revolution**: The parish of Sainte-Urielle, an enclave of the bishopric of Dol within the diocese of Saint-Malo, is placed under her patronage.
- **1819**: The parish of Sainte-Urielle is united with that of Trédias.

A daughter of the royal family of Domnonée

Breton genealogies report that King Hoël III, married around 590 to Pritelle, had sixteen sons and six daughters. Historians think that this partly legendary king was confused with Judhaël, king of Domnonée and father of Saint Judicaël, whose existence is better attested. Among the sons, tradition names Saint Judicaël, whom the people called Gicquel, Saint Judoc and perhaps Saint Winoc. Among the daughters, it names Eurielle, Onenne, Bredai, Guen, Cléor and Prust.

The hagiographer René Benoît, in his Life of Saint Judoc, claimed that this whole family was holy. This should probably be understood as a way of stressing the piety of a royal house that gave several saints to Brittany and northern Gaul, rather than as a historical statement.

A life consecrated to God

Tradition reports that Urielle and her sister Onenne both consecrated themselves to God. We do not know in what form: a life of prayer in solitude, or within a community. The sources say nothing of her works, her miracles or her death. Saintspedia prefers to say so honestly rather than invent what the texts do not report. What remains is the memory of a young woman of royal blood who chose Christ.

Devotion

Saint Urielle was the patron of a parish that bore her name, Sainte-Urielle, an enclave within the bishopric of Saint-Malo but belonging to the bishopric of Dol, in the deanery of Bobital. This parish was united with that of Trédias in 1819. Her sister, Saint Onenne, is honored at Tréhorenteuc, on the edge of the forest of Paimpont. Urielle is celebrated on October 1.

What can we learn from Saint Urielle?

Saint Urielle reminds us that holiness is not measured by the number of pages written about it. Born into a powerful family, she chose to give her life to God, like several of her brothers and sisters. Her very name, "God is my light," can become a prayer. You can pray to her for young people seeking their vocation, for Christian families, and for consecrated persons.

To pray with her, see the prayer to Saint Urielle and the novena to Saint Urielle.

Where to pray to Saint Urielle

- **Trédias** (Côtes-d'Armor): the parish that absorbed the old parish of Sainte-Urielle.
- **Tréhorenteuc** (Morbihan): the church where her sister, Saint Onenne, is honored.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Urielle for Vocations and Families

Saint Urielle, a Breton saint of the 7th century, was according to tradition the daughter of a king of Domnonée and the sister of Saint Judicaël and Saint Judoc. She chose to consecrate herself to God. Her name means “God is my light.” Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It entrusts to her young people seeking their vocation and families.

Prayer to Saint Urielle

Saint Urielle,
daughter of kings and servant of Christ,
you preferred God to every honor
and made him the light of your life.
Enlighten my choices
and help me to seek first the Kingdom.

You who grew up in a family
where several gave themselves to God,
bless our families,
make them attentive to the Lord’s call,
and support brothers and sisters who help one another in faith.

Watch over young people seeking their path,
over consecrated persons,
and over the land of Brittany.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Urielle

- On her feast day, October 1.
- For a young person discerning a vocation.
- For families, brothers and sisters.
- For religious sisters and consecrated persons.
- For all who bear the name Urielle or Eurielle.

A short invocation

> *Saint Urielle, whose name says "God is my light,"*
> *help me to walk in his light. Amen.*

To prepare for her feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Urielle from September 23 to October 1, and read the life of Saint Urielle.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Urielle

This novena is inspired by the figure of Saint Urielle, a Breton saint of the 7th century, a king's daughter according to tradition, who consecrated herself to God. Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on her feast day, October 1, begin on September 23. 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 Urielle, pray for us." The act of the day helps you live the novena concretely. Urielle's life is almost unknown: the meditations start from her name, her family and her choice of God.

Day 1: God is my light

The name Urielle means "God is my light." A name can become a program for life.

Prayer: Lord, be the light of my thoughts and my actions.

Act of the day: Light a candle and pray for a few minutes in silence.

Day 2: A large family

According to tradition, Urielle grew up in a family of twenty-two children. There one learns sharing and patience.

Prayer: Lord, bless large families and every home.

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

Day 3: Brothers who became saints

Judicaël, Judoc, and perhaps Winoc: several of Urielle's brothers are honored as saints. Faith is also handed on between brothers and sisters.

Prayer: Lord, make us a support for one another on the path of holiness.

Act of the day: Pray for each of your brothers and sisters by name.

Day 4: Giving up honors

As a king's daughter, Urielle could have sought power or a rich marriage. She chose God.

Prayer: Lord, free me from the desire to impress and help me to prefer you above all.

Act of the day: Give up a small vanity today.

Day 5: Consecrated to God

With her sister Onenne, Urielle consecrated herself to God. They made the same choice together.

Prayer: Lord, bless religious sisters and all consecrated persons.

Act of the day: Pray for a religious community you know.

Day 6: A hidden life

The sources say nothing of her works or miracles. Her holiness remained hidden in God.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to do good without seeking to be seen or recognized.

Act of the day: Do a favor in secret.

Day 7: A parish bearing her name

A parish in Brittany long bore the name of Sainte-Urielle. Generations of faithful entrusted themselves to her there.

Prayer: Lord, bless my parish and all who pray there.

Act of the day: Take part in an activity of your parish or help out there.

Day 8: Discerning a vocation

Urielle knew how to recognize God's call amid the plans her family may have had for her.

Prayer: Lord, help young people to hear your call and answer it with joy.

Act of the day: Pray for a young person who is looking for their way.

Day 9: Walking in the light

Urielle died in the 7th century, on an unknown date. She entered the light she had chosen.

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

Act of the day: Attend Mass and give thanks for your baptism.

Closing prayer

Saint Urielle,
daughter of kings and servant of God,
present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.
May God be my light, as he was yours,
and may he guide my steps to him.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Credits and sources

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