

# Cry Havoc

## Gods & Saints

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(Version 1.0)

### Introduction

The world of Cry Havoc is shaped by beliefs – The characters live in a world formed by invisible forces, where the state of one's soul is intertwined with their body, where prayers to saints can bring rain and the sun revolves around the earth. Science is just an obscure school of thought like hermeticism, while knowledge comes from the churches, and wisdom is handed down by word of mouth, through sayings, stories and legends. Most people are pathologically superstitious: the Lords may have astrologers; physicians use the principal of sympathies, and common folk carry charms and use homespun rituals.

Monotheistic religion has been replaced by older beliefs in pagan gods such as the Morrigan, or by prayers to individual saints instead of one all powerful god. This is a guide to the saints in the world of Cry Havoc. This is not a complete list nor is it exclusive - it merely reflects saints our players found interesting.

Please use saints for your game. There can be charms, superstitions and rituals for each of the saints and gods alike - there is a patron saint for almost everything - and there are monastic, chivalrous or military orders dedicated to them, and relics from their life are being venerated. These saints and other beliefs permeate the lives of everyone in England; be they commoner or lord. Perhaps your character has made a pilgrimage to the well of St Winifriede, blesses their tools in the name of St Dunstan every morning or learned herbal lore from a sister of St Catherine's order. We want to encourage you to use saints in every aspect of the game and hope you find this information helpful,

*Andrea, Mark and Florian.*

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## St Adrian

**Patron saint of plague, epilepsy, arms dealers, butchers, guards and soldiers**

*Symbol: anvil*



Adrian was a pagan officer at the imperial court of Nicomedia. Impressed by the courage of a group of Christians who were being tortured, he declared himself a Christian and was imprisoned with them and suffered excruciating tortures before he was put to death.

He was thrown to a lion, which refused to touch him. His legs were then broken with an anvil and his body was burned, but when a storm extinguished the fire his wife salvaged his dismembered hand as a relic, and took it to Argyropolis near Constantinople.

## St Agrippina

**Patron saint against diseases, leprosy and evil spirits**

*Symbol: small tower*



St. Agrippina was Roman by birth and lived in the third century during the time of the persecutions against Christians under Emperor Valerian. She did not wish to enter into a pagan marriage, and instead completely dedicated her life to God. For stepping before a court and bravely confessing her faith in Christ she was given over to torture. She was beaten with sticks so severely that her bones broke. Afterwards, she was placed in chains, but an angel freed her from her bonds.

Agrippina ultimately died from the tortures she endured. Three devout Christian women secretly came and took her body and transported it to

Sicily, where many miracles were worked at her grave.

In the eleventh century, the relics of the holy Martyr Agrippina were transferred to Constantinople.

## St Catherine of Alexandria

**Patron saint of learning**



*Symbols: the catherine wheel*

Catherine was the daughter of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the emperor Maximian (286 - 305). From a young age she had devoted herself to study and converted to Christianity after receiving a vision of the Madonna and Child. When the persecutions began under Maxentius, she went to the emperor and rebuked him for his cruelty. The emperor summoned fifty of the best pagan philosophers and orators to dispute with her, hoping that they would refute her pro-Christian arguments, but Catherine won the debate. Several of her adversaries, conquered by her eloquence, declared themselves Christians and were at once put to death.

Catherine was then scourged and imprisoned, during which time over 200 people came to see her, including Maxentius' wife, Valeria Maximilla; all converted to Christianity and were subsequently martyred. Upon the failure of Maxentius to make Catherine yield by way of torture, he tried to win the beautiful and wise princess over by proposing marriage. The saint refused, declaring that her spouse was Jesus Christ, to whom she had consecrated her virginity. The furious emperor condemned Catherine to death on a spiked breaking wheel, but, at her touch, it shattered. Maxentius finally had her beheaded.

# St Columba

**Patron Saint of Ireland and Scotland, floods, bookbinders and poets**

*Symbol: celtic cross*



In 563 AD Columba left Ireland and settled with the Gaels of Dál Riata, where he was granted the Island of Iona to found his monastery. Columba's blessing was treasured by kings - a powerful symbol of their authority, and, in return for Columba's support, the Gaels gave the monastery land and protection. After his death, Columban monks began to spread the word of Christianity in the seventh century.

Pilgrimage to Iona increased: kings wished to be buried near to Columba, and a network of Celtic high crosses and processional routes developed around his shrine. At its zenith Iona produced The Book of Kells, a masterpiece of Dark Age European art. Shortly after however, in 794 AD, the Vikings descended on Iona, and, within 50 years, they had extinguished the light which had been Iona. Columba's relics were finally removed in 849 AD and divided between Alba and Ireland.

# St Cuthbert

**Patron of Northumbria, against plague, of boatmen, mariners, sailors and shepherds**

*Symbol: St. Cuthbert's Cross*



Orphaned when a young child, Cuthbert was a shepherd for a time, possibly fought against the Mercians, and became a monk at Melrose Abbey. After becoming Prior of Melrose, he engaged in

missionary work and was eventually made Prior of Lindisfarn. He resumed his missionary activities and attracted huge crowds until he received his abbot's permission to live as a hermit, at first on a nearby island and then in 676, at one of the Farnes Islands near Bamborough. In 685, he became bishop of Lindisfarn but without the monastery. He spent the last two years of his life administering his See, caring for the sick of the plague that desolated his diocese, working numerous miracles of healing, and gifted with the ability to prophesy. He died at Lindisfarn.

# St Dunstan

**Patron saint of armorers, goldsmiths, locksmiths, and jewellers**

*Symbol: Tongs*



As a young boy, Dunstan studied under the Irish monks in the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, where he was stricken with a near-fatal illness and effected a seemingly miraculous recovery. Even as a child, he was noted for his devotion to learning and for his mastery of many kinds of artistic craftsmanship. He was later appointed to the court of King Athelstan, where Dunstan soon became a favourite of the king and was the envy of other members of the court. A plot was hatched to disgrace him and Dunstan was ordered to leave the court and beaten on his way out. Dunstan took Holy Orders in 943, became a monk and returned to live the life of a hermit at Glastonbury. It was there that Dunstan studied, worked at his handicrafts, and played on his harp.

One day, the Devil disguised himself as a beautiful young woman and visited Dunstan in his forge. He laughed and joked with the saint and used all his charms in an attempt to seduce him; but Dunstan did not even look up from his blacksmithing. Eventually, the Devil's prancing around the room revealed his hooves. Unmasked, Old Nick was no match for St. Dunstan who calmly took a pair of red-hot tongs from the blazing fire and clamped them hard on the Devil's nose. His screams could be heard from three miles away as his wings unfurled and he shot into the sky in uncontrollable agony. The convent at Mayfield still displays the very tongs used by St. Dunstan in this incident.

# St Dymphna

**Patron saint of the crazy and of runaways**

*Symbol: lantern*



Dymphna was born in Ireland in the 7th century. Dymphna's father Damon, a petty king of Oriel, was a pagan, but her mother was a devout Christian. When she was 14 years old, she consecrated herself to Christ and took a vow of chastity. When her mother died, her father's mental health sharply deteriorated. Eventually the king's counsellors pressed him to remarry. Damon agreed, but began to desire his daughter because of her strong resemblance to her mother.

When Dymphna learned of her father's intentions she swore to uphold her vows, and fled his court along with her confessor Father Gerebernus, two trusted servants and the king's fool. Together they sailed towards the continent, eventually landing in what is present-day Belgium, where they took refuge in the town of Geel and St. Dymphna built a hospice for the poor and sick of the region. The use of her wealth enabled her father to trace them to Belgium. When their hiding place was discovered, Damon travelled to Geel to recover his daughter. Damon ordered his soldiers to kill Father Gerebernus and tried to force Dymphna to return with him to Ireland, but she resisted. Furious, Damon drew his sword and struck off his daughter's head. After Dymphna and Gerebernus were martyred, the residents of Geel buried them in a nearby cave.

# St George

**Patron Saint of England**

*Symbol: Red cross on white background*



In Lybia, the town of Silene had a small lake with a plague-bearing dragon living in it and poisoning the countryside. To appease the dragon, the people of Silene fed it two sheep every day. When they ran out of sheep they started feeding it their children, chosen by lottery. One time the lot fell on the king's daughter. The king, in his grief, told the people they could have all his gold and silver and half of his kingdom if his daughter were spared; the people refused. The daughter was sent out to the lake, dressed as a bride, to be fed to the dragon. Saint George by chance rode past the lake. The princess tried to send him away, but he vowed to remain. The dragon emerged from the lake while they were conversing. Saint George made the Sign of the Cross and charged it on horseback, seriously wounding it with his lance. He then called to the princess to throw him her girdle, and he put it around the dragon's neck. When she did so, the dragon followed the girl like a meek beast on a leash. The princess and Saint George led the dragon back to the city of Silene, where it terrified the populace. Saint George offered to kill the dragon if they consented to become Christians and be baptised. Fifteen thousand men including the king of Silene converted to Christianity. George then killed the dragon, and the body was carted out of the city on four ox-carts. The king built a church to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint George on the site where the dragon died and a spring flowed from its altar with water that cured all disease.

# St Joseph of Arimathea

**Patron saint of gravediggers and pallbearers,  
Keeper of the Holy Grail**

*Symbol: Staff of thorn tree with leaves at the end*

Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy follower of Christ who buried Christ's body in his own tomb after the Crucifixion.

He receives the Holy Grail from an apparition of Jesus and travelled to Britain with his twelve followers to bury it in a secret place. When he arrived on the island exhausted, he thrust his staff into the ground and rested. By morning his staff had taken root, leafed out and blossomed as a thorn. He established the first monastery at Glastonbury, where he is also buried.



# St Luke the Evangelist

**Patron saint of artists, physicians, surgeons, students and butchers**

*Symbol: A winged bull*



Saint Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile in Antioch, Syria and became a physician. He became a close companion of Paul of Tarsus and accompanied him on his missionary journeys. Luke provided medical assistance to Paul when he had been beaten, stoned or nearly drowned while evangelizing to the Western Roman Empire.

Luke is the writer of the third Gospel, where he emphasizes Christ's compassion for sinners and for those who suffer. One will also find in Luke's account of the gospel, a strong emphasis on the role women played in Christ's ministry. He has also written the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke lived a long life and died in Greece. He was the first Christian physician and is venerated as the patron saint of physicians and surgeons.

# Saint Michael

**Patron saint of protection against the evil**

*Symbol: An angel wielding a sword and scales*

According to the followers of Saint Michael, he is the first of the angelic army, which will do battle with the devil at the end of times. Michael himself will defeat the devil, who will take the shape of a dragon. Many chivalrous orders revere him as a guardian of holy places and pious souls. Ever since the great curse struck, those who pay tribute to the angelic saint believe that the day when St Michael will do battle against the devil is drawing near.

In the far off Ottoman Empire it is said that when jealous pagans tried to drown a holy site by redirecting a river, the archangel descended in the likeness of a column of fire and split the very bedrock to open up a new bed for the stream, saving

the church by redirecting the flow of the river. In Cornwall, Saint Michael protects fishermen from whatever evil a mermaid might do to a hapless fisherman.

# St Oswald of Northumbria

**Patron saint of the English kings, of crusaders, of livestock and reapers**

*Symbol: Crown*



Son of the pagan King Aethelfrith the Ravager of Bernicia and Princess Aacha of Deira, the second of seven children. Brother of Saint Ebbe the Elder. Nephew of Saint Ethelreda. When his father was killed in battle when Oswald was eleven years old, his mother fled with the family for the court of King Eochaid Buide at Dunadd in modern Scotland. There he converted to Christianity and was educated at the Iona Abbey.

In 634, Oswald formed his own army, returned to Northumbria, defeated King Cadwallon of Gwynedd, and took the throne of Northumbria. Prior to the battle, he had received a vision of Saint Colman of Lindisfarne; he had also erected a large cross on the field on the night before, attributed his win to his faith and the intervention of the saint, and the victory is known as the Battle of Heavenfield. He built churches and monasteries in his realm, and brought in monks from Scotland to help establish monastic life. Married the daughter of King Cynegils of Wessex, and convinced Cynegils to allow Saint Birinus to evangelize in that kingdom.

He was noted for his personal spirituality, piety, faith, his devotion to the kingdom, his charity to the poor, and his willingness to take arms to defend his throne. He was killed in battle with invading pagan forces, his body was hacked to pieces on the battle field where he fell, and his head and arms stuck on poles in triumph. One arm was taken to an ash tree by Oswald's pet raven. Where the arm fell to the ground, a holy well sprang up which carries great healing powers as do his other relics.

# St Winifred

Patron saint against unwanted advances

*Symbol:* Her own severed head



Saint Winifred was a 7th-century Welsh Christian woman who decided to dedicate her life to the faith and become a nun. Her suitor, Caradoc, was so enraged by her decision that he decapitated her. Her head rolled downhill, and, where it stopped, a healing spring appeared. Her maternal uncle, St. Bueno, rejoined Winifred's head to her body and she was restored to life. Seeing the murderer leaning on his sword with an insolent and defiant air, St. Beuno invoked the chastisement of heaven, and Caradoc fell dead on the spot and the ground opened and swallowed him. The spring at Holywell carries great healing powers.

# The Morrigan

Irish goddess of war

*Symbol:* The Crow



The Morrigan is an ancient pagan deity of war and death, but also of fertility and sovereignty. As a shape-changer she can transform from ravishing beauty to hag. She is said to be seen by those who will soon die violently by appearing in a vision washing their bloody armor.

However, her role was to not only be a symbol of imminent death, but to also influence the outcome of war. Most often she did this by appearing

as a crow flying overhead and would either inspire fear or courage in the hearts of the warriors.