



REMEMBER!

email Communiqué

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region
23 December 2019
The Baptism of the Royal Martyr (1600)**

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WWW.SKCM-USA.ORG

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Season's Greetings from the SKCM-AR Leadership

This Communiqué comes to you with the best wishes of the leadership of the Society of King Charles the Martyr for a happy and holy Christmas. As we take note of this anniversary of King Charles's baptism, we do well to remind ourselves that our own baptisms, just as his was, are baptisms into the death of Christ, through which we rise to new life. Some of us may find that we are more fully to embrace the death of Christ than we may have imagined at our baptisms, not least if we were baptised as infants, but we all share with King Charles his resurrection faith in an "incorruptible crown."



We're pleased to report that most members have already paid their dues. We're particularly thankful for six new Life Memberships, a record membership count of 450, and many purchases of devotional goods.

Our XXXVII Annual Mass is now only six weeks away – see details on p 6. Please remember that there is a 15 January deadline if you are making an Annual Mass donation and want to be listed in the printed program, and an 18 January deadline to sign up for the luncheon at the Mass. And don't forget to schedule local Masses on or near the 30 January martyrdom anniversary date; full Mass propers are included here.

To raise your spirits a bit more in this Season of Great Gladness, we thought we would share with you a poem written by SKCM-AR's principal founder:

A Vision of a Puritan Christmas: Boston, 1635

by The Rev'd William Harman van Allen, S.T.D., D.C.L.* (SKCM-AR co-founder in 1894)

Who dares to speak of Christmas here,
Or sing a carol gay?
Alas, there is no Christian year
On Massachusetts Bay!

The wind blows chill o'er Beacon Hill,
The snow full knee-deep lies;
But ne'er a bell doth peal Nowell
Nor anthem cheerful rise.

The fir and pine their branches twine
Under the blue sky's dome,
And nameless scarlet berries shine
As holly doth at home.

But O my soul doth long and faint
For God's House decked with green!
An exile here, I make complaint
And mourn for things unseen.

In England, how the waits do sing,
With lanterns all alight!
They find good cheer when they appear
To greet the Holy Night.

But stern Selectmen, sour and grim,
Forbid us Christmas mirth:
No voice dares raise a hymn of praise
That tells of Jesus' birth.

There every altar glitters fair
With vessels for the Feast;
The candles gleam as doth beseem
The Holy Eucharist;

And Christian folk approach to take
The Body of their Lord:
Christ's Mass they keep in reverence deep
Kneeling with one accord.

Then *Gloria in Excelsis* sounds
To laud the King new-born;
And grace is shed on every head
That bows on Christmas morn.

Dear Lord, my weary eyes o'erflow,
Straining across the foam
To catch some show of the Yuletide glow
That gladdens folk at home.

Vain, vain the search! Thy Holy Church
The Puritans have banned;
Our mother's gentle voice is hushed,—
No Prayer-Book in the land!

But faith unrolls the future's scrolls.
Sweet Christmas shall not die,
Nor men of English blood and speech
Forget their ancestry.

In years to come, on Beacon Hill
Shall Christmas Eve be bright,
And Christian folk their windows fill
With candles all alight.

The waits shall sing the Baby-King,
Jesus, whom we adore;
Praise to the Virgin-Born shall ring
Through Boston evermore.

His Advent shall the chimes peal out
With clamorous acclaim;
And all the trees shall clap their hands
Hearing the Infant's Name.

True priests of apostolic line
Shall chant the Liturgy,
And incense-clouds shall veil the shrine
Where He vouchsafes to be.

I shall not see that happy day
For which mine eyes have wept;
But Lord, by Massachusetts Bay
Thy Birthday shall be kept.

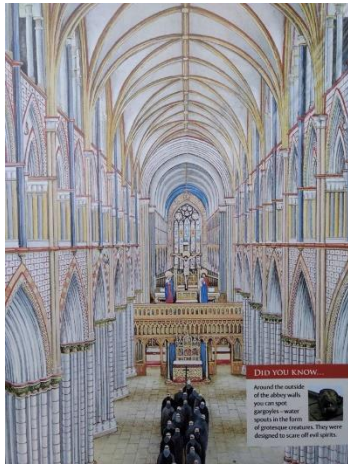
Thy Church and Faith shall stand secure
Long as the heavens abide;
For Thou, the Child of Mary pure,
Wast born at Christmas-tide.

I send these verses as a Christmas greeting to my friends, rejoicing that the prophecy of the poem has been fulfilled. —WILLIAM HARMAN VAN ALLEN, Rectory of the Advent, Boston, Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, A.D. MDCCCXII [Entire article adapted from Dec 2012 *Communique*]

The Christening of Charles Stuart

On December 23, 1600, the future King Charles I, the second son of King James VI of Scotland and Queen Anne of Denmark, was baptized in a magnificent ceremony in the Royal Chapel at Holyrood House in Edinburgh. At birth on November 19th, he was so sickly that an emergency rite had been performed for fear that he might die, but since he survived he was given a ceremonial christening during which he also received the title, Duke of Albany, the Scottish equivalent of the English Duke of York. Bishop David Lindsey of Ross baptized the young prince who would ultimately die to preserve the historic Episcopate.

The ceremony bore many of the ritual and artistic hallmarks that became so important to the future monarch. He was carried to the chapel by one of his godfathers, the Huguenot French Prince de Rohan, while other nobility carried his purple robe of state and crown. During the



service, one of his godmothers held him beneath a splendid silk pall embroidered by the baby prince's grandmother, Mary, Queen of Scots. Later, this came to seem symbolic: the only English king to be beheaded held beneath the needlework of his doomed grandmother who suffered a like fate from the English.

The manner of Charles's Christian upbringing proved significant. The historian C. V. Wedgwood observed that he was the first monarch raised up from early childhood (his father succeeded Queen Elizabeth as king of England in 1603) with the Book of Common Prayer: "His predecessors had accepted the Church in maturity, as a convenient framework of belief. Charles had drawn in its doctrine with the innocence of childhood; the

Church of England was to him, as it had been to none of his predecessors, the established order of things." Its language, theological understanding and rites formed him, and the Established Church—One Holy Catholic and Apostolic—of the countries he was to rule over was, he believed, the soul of the Body Politic.

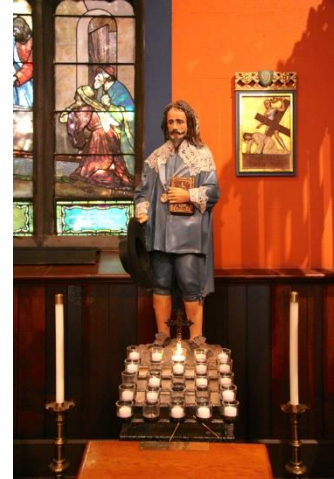
Even as a boy, he loved it and, in hindsight, it seemed inevitable that he would be willing to sacrifice his life for it. Charles saw his kingdoms ordered by that Christianity brought to their shores by Saint Augustine of Canterbury—the break with Rome not a Reformation, but a holding fast to an understanding of the Church Catholic throughout history, proclaiming the Faith once delivered, framed in "the Beauty of Holiness" in liturgy, music and artistic ornamentation. During his reign, together with his Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, altars were once more placed in the eastward position and images of Christ and the saints were restored. This became a scandal to the puritans, but the King's religious convictions were too deep to compromise. He died professing the faith of the Church of England in which he had been brought up since his baptism. Without his fidelity unto death, it is unlikely that the shape of Anglicanism as we know it today, and especially Anglo-Catholicism, would have survived.

- Phoebe Pettingell, Ben., OL., Secretary

RMD Observances in North America – Need Local Info

As is customary at this time of the year, various parishes and communities are at work planning their Royal Martyr Day commemorations.

The SKCM-AR will be publishing an overall list in a mid-January email Communique, so if you wish to be included in that list **please email to membership@skcm-usa.org by Friday, 4 January.** Thank you.



***REMEMBER ... THE SOCIETY IN YOUR
WILL OR OTHER PLANNED GIVING***

Martyrdom Observances in the United Kingdom

SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR: Observance of the Feast of the Martyrdom: **Thursday 30th January 2020, Banqueting House, Whitehall:** 11.40am Commemoration of S. Charles' Martyrdom at the entrance of the Banqueting House, followed by Noon Sung Mass with Veneration of the Relics inside the Banqueting House. This year's preacher will be The Rev'd Steven C. Rice, Obl.S.B., D.Min., SKCM-AR President.



The Society's relics of S. Charles are placed upon the altar for the Mass and may be venerated and viewed after the service. A choir, usually from King's College, London sings at the Mass. The Banqueting House is where S. Charles was kept for several hours on the day of his decollation. It is a magnificent setting for the Mass: the architect was Inigo Jones and the ceiling adorned by the great paintings of Rubens.

The Society is very grateful to the Historic Royal Palaces for their permission to hold the Mass. Access to the Banqueting House for the commemoration and Mass is free of charge. The costs of the service are considerable and donations are gratefully received. SKCM also provides a bookstall after the Mass when materials are available. See www.skcm.org for further details on the SKCM in the UK.

ROYAL MARTYR CHURCH UNION: The following are this Society's Eucharistic Commemorations in Great Britain in January and February 2020:



11.30 am, **Tuesday 28 January:** St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh - Solemn Eucharist and sermon: celebrant, the Very Reverend John Conway, Provost of Edinburgh; preacher, the Venerable John Green, CB, formerly Archdeacon of Coventry and sometime Chaplain of the Fleet.

11.30 am, **Saturday 1 February:** St Mark's, Regent's Park, London NW1 (nearest Underground, Camden Town) - Solemn Choral Eucharist and sermon: celebrant, the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Reverend Christopher Chessun, President of the RMCU; preacher, the Reverend Canon James Milne, Canon Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, London.

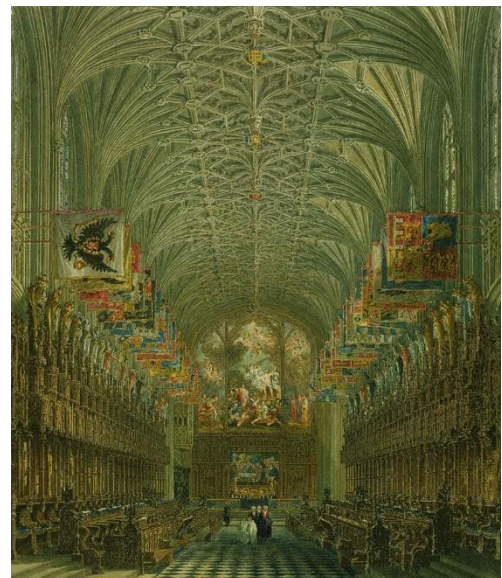
Light refreshments after both services.

ROYAL STUART SOCIETY: Our celebrations will take the usual form.

On **January 30th** we will have a short service at the equestrian statue of King Charles 1st in Trafalgar Square at 11.00am. Wreaths will be laid and a bugler and piper will be in attendance. Our Hon. Chaplain Rev. Simon Godfrey Chancellor of Malta Cathedral will conduct the service.

In the evening our Chairman Lord Aylmer will lay a wreath on our behalf in St. George's Chapel Windsor Castle. This will take place during Evensong which starts at 5.00pm.

On **February 8th** the Society will lay a wreath on the tomb of Queen Mary Stuart to commemorate her death on this date. This short service will be held in Westminster Abbey commencing at 1.30pm.



***AND BRING IN A NEW MEMBER
THIS YEAR!***



REMEMBER!

**SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR
XXXVII ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS OF SAINT CHARLES, K.M.**

11 a.m., Saturday, 1 February 2020

**CATHEDRAL OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE
Springfield IL USA**

The Rt Rev'd Daniel Hayden Martins, DD, Bishop of Springfield, *Celebrant*;

The Rev'd John Henry Heschle, Rector 1993-2019,

St Paul's by-the-Lake, Chicago, IL, *Preacher*

Buffet Luncheon reservations: \$25 by 18 January; checks to "St Paul's" - memo "SKCM"

Send to 815 S. Second St., Springfield IL 62704 USA

Contact: 217-544-5135 or stpaulpca@comcast.com

Church website: www.stpaulspringfield.com



SOCIETY INFORMATION

Founded 1894 + incorporated in U.S. 2008 + an Oxford Movement devotional society
Serving members in Canada & the U.S.

email to membership@skcm-usa.org; web www.skcm-usa.org

Join our growing devotional society via our website; click on "Join or contribute"

S.K.C.M. (AMERICAN REGION)

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OTHER INQUIRIES: MEMBERSHIP@SKCM-USA.ORG.