

17 October

**Ignatius
Bishop, Martyr c 107**

Feed us, O Lord, with the living bread and
Make us drink deep of the cup of salvation that,
following the teaching of your Bishop Ignatius
and rejoicing in the faith with which he embraced a
martyr's death, we may be nourished for that eternal
life for which he longed; though Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

17 October

**Ignatius,
Bishop of Antioch, Martyr**

Ignatius was born probably in Syria in about the year AD35 and was either the second or third Bishop of Antioch, the third largest city in the Roman Empire. Nothing is known of his life except his final journey under armed escort to Rome, where he was martyred around the year 107. In the course of this journey, he met Polycarp in Smyrna and wrote a number of letters to various Christian congregations which are among the greatest treasures of the primitive Church. In the face of persecution he appealed to his fellow Christians to maintain unity with their Bishop at all costs. His letters reveal his passionate commitment to Christ, and how he longed 'to imitate the passion of my God'.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

18 October

Luke the Evangelist

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

We bring you the good news that what God has promised to the fathers he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.

The one who saw what Jesus did has borne witness that you also may believe.

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

18 October

Luke, Evangelist

Luke was a dear friend of the apostle, Paul and is mentioned three times in the New Testament Letters. Paul describes him as ‘the beloved physician’ and in the second Letter to Timothy, he is referred to as Paul’s only companion in prison. He is believed to be the author of two books of the New Testament, firstly the gospel which stands in his name and also the Acts of the Apostles. Luke’s narrative of the life of Christ has a pictorial quality and shows the sequential pattern from the nativity through to the death and resurrection. The distinctive theology found in Paul’s writings is virtually unknown in those of Luke but, as a Gentile, Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is for all, regardless of gender, social position or nationality.

Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’

19 October

**Henry Martyn
Translator of the Scriptures
Missionary in India and Persia
1812**

Almighty God, who by your Holy Spirit gave Henry Martyn a longing to tell the good news of Christ and skill to translate the Scriptures: by the same Spirit give us grace to offer you our gifts, wherever you may lead, at whatever cost; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

19 October

**Henry Martyn
Translator of the Scriptures,
Missionary in India and Persia**

Born in Truro in 1781, Henry Martyn went up to Cambridge at the age of sixteen. He became an avowed evangelical and his friendship with Charles Simeon led to his interest in missionary work. In 1805, he left for Calcutta as a chaplain to the East India Company. The expectation was that he would minister to the British expatriate community, not to the indigenous peoples; in fact, there was a constant fear of insurrection and even the recitation of the Magnificat at Evensong was forbidden, lest 'putting down the mighty from their seat' should incite the natives. Henry set about learning the local languages and then supervised the translation of the New Testament first into Hindustani and then into Persian and Arabic, as well as preaching and teaching in mission schools. He went to Persia to continue the work but, suffering from tuberculosis, he died in Armenia on this day in 1812.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'