

7 March

**Perpetua, Felicity and their
Companions
Martyrs at Carthage 203**

Holy God, who gave great courage to
Perpetua, Felicity and their companions:
grant that we may be worthy to climb the
ladder of sacrifice and be received into the
garden of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Church of England

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**Perpetua, Felicity and their
Companions,
Martyrs at Carthage**

The moving, contemporary account of these early third-century African martyrs proved to be of great significance in the life of the early Church. Vibia Perpetua was a young, married noblewoman of Carthage and Felicity was her personal slave. Saturus was possibly a priest and there were two other men, Saturinus and Revoctus, the later was also a slave. Felicity was pregnant. It seems most of them were catechumens when arrested and only baptised later in prison, where Perpetua had a vision in which she climbed a great ladder into paradise. They were condemned as Christians by the Roman authorities and dispatched to the public arena, there to be mauled by wild animals. They all survived and were then taken to be executed by the sword. Before this, they exchanged the Kiss of Peace and affirmed their faith in Christ, the Son of God. The account of their martyrdom was widely circulated in secret throughout the Christian congregations and proved both to give renown to their courage and to give encouragement to their fellow Christians in the face of adversity. They were martyred for their faith on this day in the year 203.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

8 March

Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln 1910

God of peace, who gave such grace to
your servant Edward King that
whomever he met he drew to Christ:
fill us, we pray, with tender sympathy
and joyful faith, that we also may win
others to know the love that passes knowledge;
through him who is the shepherd and
guardian of our souls, Jesus Christ your
Son our Lord.

Amen.

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Edward King Bishop of Lincoln

Born in London in 1829, Edward King, both as a priest and then as a Bishop, was revered for the holiness of his life and the wisdom of his counsel. He was Chaplain, then Principal, of Cuddesdon Theological College, followed by a dozen years as a professor of theology in Oxford, during which time he exercised a great influence on a generation of ordinands. In 1885, he was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln, a position he held until his death in 1910. His advocacy of Catholic principles in ritual as well as theology involved him in controversy, but his significant gift to the Church was his example as a pastoral and caring Bishop to clergy and laity alike.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'