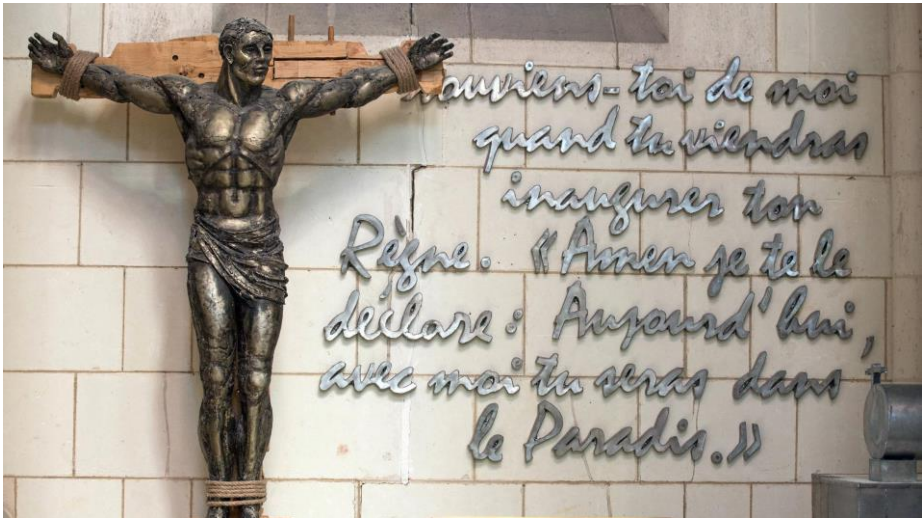
Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom



Find more about the Good Thief at the basilica on: https://montligeon.org/en/remember-me-in-your-kingdom/

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Notre-Dame de Montligeon

Who was the Good Thief?

The Gospel provides no information about the good thief or the penitent thief, other than that he was a thief, sentenced to death by the Romans and crucified beside Jesus.

"*When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. (...) Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23, 33. 39-43).*

Tradition has it that the callous thief's name was Gesmas, and Dismas for the good one (which allegedly means "the one who has a heart").

A model of trust, a witness to Mercy

During the crucifixion, initially the penitent Thief had joined in with the pharisians and Gesmas in insulting Christ. However, little by little, enlighted by inner grace, he was overwhelmed by the patience of Our Savior; the first words of Christ after the crucifixion had taken place, *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."*, was like the coup de grace that brought Dismas to this act of faith where he acknowledged Christ as the Son of God.
The penitent thief's words make manifest the intensity of his repentance, and the depth of his faith: he recognizes the justice of God and demonstrates brotherly charity in encouraging Gesmas to accept their just fate, he emulates the Savior in patiently upholding suffering, and raises a humble and confident prayer to God.
The Good Thief is a model of repentance and of trust; humbly, full of hope and faith, he prays to the Lord to receive him
in His Kingdom. His prayer makes its way to the Heart of Jesus. Subsequently, he yields Christ's tender gaze. Thus, the thief reaches to the Father. He became the first ever to be canonized.

Saint Dismas nowadays

In the Western Church, Saint Dismas is celebrated on 25th March. He is considered the protector of the condemned to death, the intercessor for poor sinners and for difficult conversions, the model for sincere confession, and the patron saint of the dying. The Church of the East, as well as some French dioceses such as Séez (61), celebrate his feast day on 12th October.

At the basilica, the Good Thief's chapel

Both its statue and altar are the works of Michel Laude. They have been offered to the shrine in 2011 by the "Good Thief" Prison Sodality which associates itself to the prayer of the shrine for the forsaken souls in purgatory. The deceased prisoners are part of it. Let us entrust our departed praying: "Jesus, remember ..."

The stained-glass window depicting Saint Monica

The stained-glass window represents St Monica recommending herself to her son St Augustine's prayers, as she is about to die. "Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." The prayers of St Monica for her son's conversion bore fruit beyond her expectations. Converted, he became priest, then a bishop, St Augustine will from then on intercede for his mother by offering the sacrifice of Mass. By means of offering Mass for her, St Monica's soul rose to heaven in glory. Family esprit de corps endures beyond death.
Having a Mass celebrated for a deceased person is the most beautiful gift you can offer them.
St. Monica's feast day is on 27th August, and that of St. Augustine, her son, on 28th August.

Almighty and merciful God,
Who makes just the sinners,
we humbly beseech Thee:
by means of Your Son's loving gaze which enticed the good thief,
Motion us to true repentance and grant us the eternal glory that he was ensured.

Through Christ Jesus, Our Lord.
Amen.

Useful information

Reservations :
Front desk: 0033 2 33 85 17 00
reception@montligeon.org
www.montligeon.org > agenda

Mondays-Saturdays: 9am-12 noon / 2pm-6pm
Sundays: 9am-11am/ 12 noon-1 pm / 2pm-5:30pm

Prayer & confession schedules

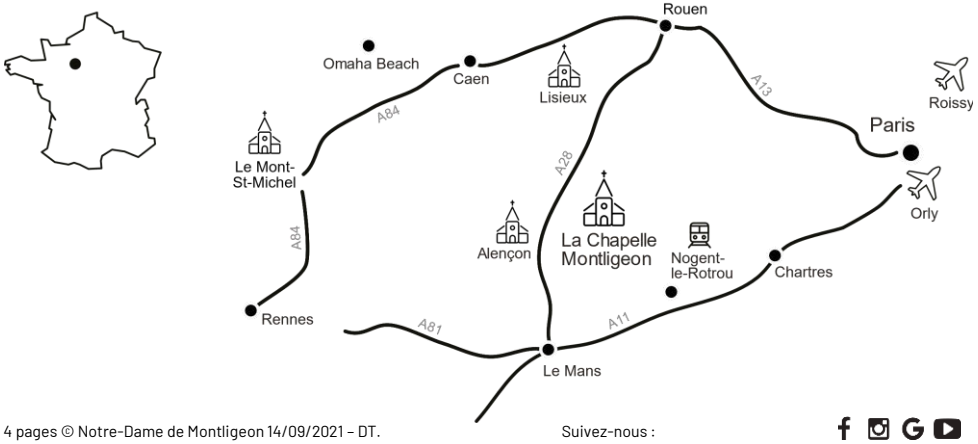
	Sundays & Holy Days	Saturdays	Weekdays
Lauds	9 am	7:30 am	7:30 am
Holy Mass	11 am	8 am & 11:30 am	8 am & 11:30 am
Rosary	2:30 pm	5:15 pm	5:15 pm
Holy Hour	3:15 pm	-	5:45 pm
Vespers	3 pm	5:45 pm	6:45 pm
Confessions	3:15 pm to 4 pm	3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	5:45 pm to 6:45 pm

Sleeping facilities 300, Catering facilities 500, 20 meeting rooms, 5 chaplains, 12 nuns,volunteers and employees to receive you throughout the year.

The Montligeon prayer groups

Essential support to the Fraternity: 1272 groups in 32 countries pray on a regular basis for the deceased enrolled in the Fraternity and for distressed people.

A MPG relies on 3 essentials:
praying for the deceased,
training on eternal life,
engaging in charitable endeavours.



Suivez-nous :