

Ermenilda of Ely

Saint **Eormenhild** (or *Ermenilda*, *Ermenildis*, *Ermenigild*) (d. about 700/703) is a seventh-century Anglo-Saxon saint.

1 Life

She features in the genealogies of various 11th and 12th century versions of the **Kentish Royal Legend**. These describe her as the daughter of King Eorcenberht of Kent and St. Seaxburh of Ely, and wife to Wulfhere of Mercia,^[1] with whom she had a daughter, St. Wærburh, and a son, Coenred. Eormenhild became a nun after her husband died in 675, and eventually became abbess of Minster-in-Sheppey and Ely consecutively.

There are almost no contemporary records for her life. When discussing Wulfhere, **Bede** mentions neither her nor her daughter Wærburh. However, her name is mentioned for an abbess in a (copy of a) charter of King Wihtried of Kent, dated 699, along with three other abbesses present at the occasion when the charter was issued: "Irminburga, Aeaba et Nerienda".^[2]

Her feast day is 13 February.

2 References

[1] Casanova, Gertrude. "St. Werburgh." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 15. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912. 4 Dec. 2013

[2] Sawyer no. 20

3 Primary sources

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- *Kentish Royal Legend / Þá hálgan* (London, Lambeth Palace 427, f. 211), transcribed by Alaric Hall
- Anonymous Old English *Life* of St. Mildrith (Caligula), ed. and tr. Oswald Cockayne, *Lechdoms, Wortcunning, and Starcraft of Early England*, vol. 3. London, 1866. 422-9 (Caligula), 428-32

(MS Lambeth Palace). Caligula text partially transcribed by Alaric Hall and Cockayne's volume available as PDF from Google Books.

- Goscelin, *Vita Deo delectae virginis Mildrethae*, 11th century. Published in Latin, in Rollason, D, (1982) *The Mildrith Legend*, Leicester University Press.
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- Goscelin, *Lectiones in natale S. Eormenhilde*, ed. and tr. Rosalind C. Love, *Goscelin of Saint-Bertin. The Hagiography of the Female Saints of Ely*. OMT. Oxford, 2004. 11 ff.
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4 External links

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- Saint ERMENILDA
- Saint of the Day, February 13 at *SaintPatrickDC.org*

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