

## The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Nectarios www.stnectarios.co.uk



## Saint Alban

Feast Day: 22 June

Saint Alban is venerated as the first British martyr and holds a significant place in Christian history. According to tradition, Alban was a Roman soldier stationed in Britain during the third century. He converted to Christianity after sheltering a Christian priest fleeing persecution. Deeply moved by the priest's piety and devotion, Alban accepted the Christian faith. When soldiers came to arrest the priest, Alban bravely exchanged clothes with him, allowing the priest to escape. Alban was then arrested and brought before a judge, where he boldly proclaimed his newfound faith. Despite being offered clemency in exchange for renouncing Christianity, he refused, leading to his execution.

The hillside near the present-day town of St Albans, where Saint Alban's martyrdom took place, is now home to a magnificent cathedral, a testament to his enduring legacy. His story of a man who fearlessly protected his faith, continues to inspire Christians worldwide.

Every year, on June 22, pilgrims from all over gather to commemorate his sacrifice and celebrate his enduring spirit of faith and courage. His example stands as a timeless beacon, reminding us of the strength found in standing up for one's beliefs, even in the face of grave danger.

For further reading, click the links below:

Saint Alban and Orthodoxy

The Cathedral