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St. Dymphna, and the Colony at Gheel

The Catholic Encyclopedia (Johann Peter Kirsch) · *1909 · English original, Catholic Encyclopedia article "St. Dymphna" (1909)*

The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century. So this 1909 Catholic Encyclopedia article begins. It says the narrative is without any historical foundation. The file is this article only, including the Gheel colony. Pierre of Cambrai's Latin Vita is not included; no public-domain English translation was found. Name the limit. For grades 9–12. Father-daughter violence in the legend: gravity, no spectacle, tact. Quote this wording.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as the 1909 Catholic Encyclopedia article on St. Dymphna, including Gheel, rather than as Pierre of Cambrai's Latin Vita or as a later popular saint-story?

"The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century. Under Bishop Guy"

The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

Johann Peter Kirsch's 1909 Catholic Encyclopedia article "St. Dymphna," complete as hosted, including its account of the Gheel colony. It is not Pierre of Cambrai's Latin Vita; the coverage states that Vita is not included, and that no public-domain English translation was found. The article opens the history of veneration from the middle of the thirteenth century, notes that Pierre drew his biography from oral tradition, and says this narrative is without any historical foundation. For grades 9–12. Father-daughter violence in the legend: gravity, no spectacle, tact. Quote this wording. Name the article, not a vita.

KEY CHARACTERS

St. Dymphna
Also named Dympna and Dimpna in this article; her veneration is first historically accounted from the thirteenth century

Pierre of Cambrai
A canon of Saint Aubert who, this article says, wrote a Vita from oral tradition; that Latin Vita is not in this file

Johann Peter Kirsch
The author of this 1909 Catholic Encyclopedia article

HOW TO BEGIN THIS ARTICLE

> *"The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century. Under Bishop Guy"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

> *"This narrative is without any historical foundation, being merely a"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

From the Middle of the Thirteenth Century

THE ARTICLE, AFTER THE NAMES

The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century. The article begins with veneration, and with a century, not with a later popular retelling.

- Keep "earliest historical account" and "middle of the thirteenth century."
- 9–12.
- An encyclopedia article, not a vita.
- Quote this wording.

> *"The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century. Under Bishop Guy"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

02

Drawn from Oral Tradition

PIERRE OF CAMBRAI, AS THIS ARTICLE NAMES HIM

The author expressly states that he has drawn his biography from oral tradition. Under Bishop Guy I of Cambrai, Pierre, a canon of Saint Aubert, wrote a Vita; that Latin Vita is not in this file.

- Keep "expressly states" and "oral tradition."
- 9–12. Name the limit: the Latin Vita is not included.
- Quote this wording.
- Not a later popular saint-story only.

> *"The author expressly states that he has drawn his biography from oral tradition. According"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

03

Without Any Historical Foundation

THE ARTICLE'S CAUTION

This narrative is without any historical foundation, being merely a variation of the story of the king who wanted to marry his own daughter. The article itself names the limit of the legend. Teach the caution; do not turn the later violence into a spectacle.

- Keep "without any historical foundation."
- 9–12. Tact; gravity; no spectacle.
- The article's own caution, not a later dismissal only.
- Quote this wording.

> *"This narrative is without any historical foundation, being merely a"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

04

Shelter in the Homes of the Inhabitants

THE COLONY AT GHEEL

Later they are given shelter in the homes of the inhabitants, take part in their agricultural labours, and are treated very kindly. After a first observation, the colony is described as a kindness in ordinary homes. Teach that care with respect.

- Keep "shelter in the homes of the inhabitants" and "treated very kindly."
- 9–12. Respect; no spectacle.
- Gheel, as this article spells it.
- Quote this wording.

> *"later they are given shelter in the homes of the inhabitants, take part in their"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

05

An Encyclopedia Article, Not the Latin Vita

THE EDITION

Johann Peter Kirsch, Catholic Encyclopedia, 1909, the article "St. Dymphna," complete as hosted, including the Gheel colony. Pierre of Cambrai's Latin Vita is not included; no public-domain English translation was found. Name the limit. For grades 9–12. Father-daughter violence in the legend: gravity, no spectacle, tact. Quote this wording. One short article; do not invent what the file does not say.

- Name Kirsch, 1909, and the article, not a vita.
- 9–12. Gravity, tact, no spectacle.
- Veneration, oral tradition, a caution, and Gheel's homes.
- Quote this English.

> *"The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century. Under Bishop Guy"*
> The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909): "St. Dymphna"

Veneration, first accounted late

A Vita drawn from oral tradition

A caution: no historical foundation

Kindly shelter in ordinary homes

An article, not the Latin Vita

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The article begins the history of veneration: "The earliest historical account of the veneration of St. Dymphna dates from the middle of the thirteenth century."
2. "The author expressly states that he has drawn his biography from oral tradition." "This narrative is without any historical foundation."
3. This file is the 1909 Catholic Encyclopedia article only, including the Gheel colony. Pierre of Cambrai's Latin Vita is not included; no public-domain English translation was found. Name the limit.
4. For grades 9–12. Father-daughter violence in the legend: gravity, no spectacle, tact. Of the colony: "later they are given shelter in the homes of the inhabitants… and are treated very kindly." Teach that care with respect.

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, Catholic Encyclopedia article "St. Dymphna" (1909), The Catholic Encyclopedia (1909), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/st-dymphna-and-geel/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.