

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – February 1944

**Wednesday February 2, 1944**



**China: Renhua, Shaoguan, Guangdong**

Fr Janos Matkovics SDB (aged 36, Hungarian citizen, **killed** by villagers after buying a large order of provisions)

<http://www.bosconet.aust.com/Don%20Ian%20Matkovics.doc>

**Thursday February 3, 1944**



**France: Ville-la-Grand**

Fr Louis-Adrien Favre MSFS (aged 43, arrested by the Gestapo, had smuggled Jews and resistance fighters into Switzerland)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FLouis\\_Favre\\_\(pr%25C3%25AAtre\)](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FLouis_Favre_(pr%25C3%25AAtre))

**Friday February 4, 1944**



**Philippines: Manila**

Fr Rufino Santos (aged 45, arrested by the Japanese for distributing food to the poor, admitted he allowed food to reach the guerillas, later tortured and sentenced to death, rescued by a combined American-Filipino military operation the night before he was to be executed)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rufino\\_Santos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rufino_Santos)

<http://viewsfromthepampang.blogspot.com/2007/07/41-rufino-cardinal-j-santos-1st.html>

**Monday February 7, 1944**



**Poland – now Ukraine: Kremenets, Ternopil**

Br Jan Lason OCD (aged 64, Polish citizen, **killed**)

Fr Jozef Gleczman OCD (aged 34, Polish citizen, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Ukraine3.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Ukraine3.htm)

**Wednesday February 9, 1944**



**Germany: Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp**

Fr Dimitri Klepinin (aged 39, husband of Tamara Baimakova, father of Helen aged 4 and Paul aged 1, arrested by the Gestapo in [Paris, France](#) on [February 8, 1943](#) for aiding Jews, during interrogation was struck across the face and called a 'Jew lover', replied by holding up the crucifix around his neck and said "Do you know this Jew?"; **UPDATE: died of pneumonia**)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7932547M/The\\_Righteous](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7932547M/The_Righteous)

<http://www.acrod.org/readingroom/saints/st-dimitri-klepinin>



**Great Britain: London**

Bishop George Bell (aged 61, friend of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German Confessing Church supporter, **UPDATE: spoke in the House of Lords against the Allies' area bombing of**

Axis cities, said the deliberate obliteration of the residential areas of German cities were not justifiable acts of war, introduced a motion asking the Government to limit the bombing campaign: "...If long-sustained and public opposition to Hitler and the Nazis since 1933 is any credential, I would humbly claim to be one of the most convinced and consistent Anti-Nazis in Great Britain. But I desire to challenge the Government on the policy which directs the bombing of enemy towns on the present scale... This is an extraordinarily solemn moment. What we do in war - which, after all, lasts a comparatively short time - affects the whole character of peace, which covers a much longer period. The sufferings of Europe, brought about by the demoniac cruelty of Hitler and his Nazis, and hardly imaginable to those in this country who for the last five years have not been out of this island or had intimate association with Hitler's victims, are not to be healed by the use of power only, power exclusive and unlimited...", withdrew his motion after other Members raised objections, his position may have resulted in being passed over for Archbishop of Canterbury by Winston Churchill)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Bell\\_\(bishop\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bell_(bishop))

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Speech\\_Opposing\\_Area\\_Bombing](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Speech_Opposing_Area_Bombing)

**Friday February 11, 1944**



**France: Douvaine**

Fr Jean Joseph Rosay (aged 42, arrested for aiding Jews and shot-down Allied flight crews, implicated himself to save others)

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean\\_Rosay](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Rosay) - with translation

**Tuesday February 15, 1944**



**Italy: Monte Cassino monastery**

**Bombing of the Monte Cassino monastery by the U.S. Army Air Force, 230-400 local civilians who had taken refuge in the monastery were killed**

Abbot Gregorio Vito Diamare OSB (aged 79, survived, led the survivors to a German first aid station)

Fr Martino Matronola OSB (aged 40, monastery secretary, survived)

Br Carlomanno Pellagalli (survived, later returned to the monastery, supported by German soldiers, possibly suffered from post-traumatic stress)

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorio\\_Diamare](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorio_Diamare) - with translation

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Monte\\_Cassino#Destruction\\_of\\_the\\_abbey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Monte_Cassino#Destruction_of_the_abbey)

**Thursday February 17, 1944**



**Austria: Linz**

Fr Alois Poranzl (aged 51, arrested in [Arbing](#) in [August 1943](#) for anti-Nazi statements;  
**UPDATE: died in prison from tuberculosis**)

**Germany: Sachsenhausen concentration camp**

Franz Kaufmann (aged 58, jurist, arrested in [August 1943](#) for providing false documents to aid hiding Jews; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.nachrichten.at%2foberoesterreich%2fmuehlviertel%2fArbing-Pfarre-und-Gemeinde-erinnern-an-NS-Maertyrer%3bart69%2c1294251](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.nachrichten.at%2foberoesterreich%2fmuehlviertel%2fArbing-Pfarre-und-Gemeinde-erinnern-an-NS-Maertyrer%3bart69%2c1294251)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz\\_Kaufmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Kaufmann)

**Wednesday February 23, 1944**



**Indonesia: Hollandia**

Bishop Franziskus Wolf SVD (aged 68, German citizen, interned by the Japanese and forced onto the Yorishime Maru along with 46 other missionaries, wounded when the ship was bombed by the U.S. Army Air Force, **died of his wounds** in a Japanese internment camp)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFranziskus\\_Wolf](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFranziskus_Wolf)

**Tuesday February 29, 1944**



**Netherlands: Haarlem**

**The ten Boom family is arrested by the Gestapo for harboring Jews, the Jews were not captured**

Casper ten Boom (aged 84, father of Elisabeth "Betsie" ten Boom and Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom)

Elisabeth "Betsie" ten Boom (aged 59)

Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom (aged 52)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper\\_ten\\_Boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper_ten_Boom)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betsie\\_ten\\_Boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betsie_ten_Boom)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrie\\_ten\\_Boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrie_ten_Boom)

**February 1944, date unknown**



**France: Hautecombe, Savoy**

Cardinal August Hlond (aged 62, fled Poland on September 18, 1939 at the request of the government, reported to the Vatican on the extent of German atrocities; **UPDATE:** arrested by the Gestapo, taken to Paris and then Wiedenbrück in Germany, freed at the end of the war and returned to Poland)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August\\_Hlond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_Hlond)