

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 1944

Monday April 3, 1944



Italy: Monte Cassino monastery

Br Carlomanno Pellagalli (survived the [February 15, 1944](#) bombing of the monastery, later returned to the monastery, supported by German soldiers, possibly suffered from post-traumatic stress; **UPDATE**: likely **died**)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Monte_Cassino#Destruction_of_the_abbey

Tuesday April 4, 1944



Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp

Fr Sebastian Haselsberger (aged 50, **shot dead**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.htm

Friday April 7, 1944



Italy: Monte Tilia, Leonessa

Fr Concezio Chiaretti (aged 26, Italian military chaplain, U.S. national, **executed** along with 22 others by the German SS in reprisal for partisan attacks)

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concezio_Chiaretti - with translation



Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp

Fr Johann Gruber (aged 54, **killed**, had bribed guards to operate an underground food distribution operation that helped starving inmates)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Gruber

Sunday April 9, 1944

Easter [Pascha] – Western Calendar

Friday April 14, 1944



Estonia – now Russia: Pskov-Caves Monastery, Pechory

Bishop Macarius aka Cosmas Vasilyevich Vasiliev (aged 73, arrested in [Leningrad](#) in 1924 for concealing church valuables, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment, returned after 3 and a half years; arrested on [February 18, 1932](#); sentenced on [March 22, 1932](#) to three years' internal exile, sent to [Alma-Ata \[now Almaty in Kazakhstan\]](#), returned; left for [Central Asia](#) in 1937 to avoid arrest, later returned; **UPDATE: killed in a Soviet bombing raid**)

<http://www.orthodox.net/russiannm/macarius-schema-bishop-and-hieroconfessor-of-malovishery.html>

Sunday April 16, 1944

Pascha [Easter] – Eastern Calendar

Monday April 17, 1944



Germany: Brandenburg-Gorden prison

Fr Max Josef Metzger (aged 57, arrested by the Gestapo on [June 29, 1943](#) for writing a letter to a Swedish archbishop concerning post-Nazi Germany; **UPDATE: executed**)

Germany: Gross Rosen concentration camp

Fr Zygmunt Chmielnicki (aged 52, arrested by the Gestapo in [Lutsk, Poland](#) in [1943](#); **UPDATE: died after severe beatings**)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Josef_Metzger
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1811>

Wednesday April 19, 1944



Germany: Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia

Marcel Callo (aged 22, printer, fiancé of Marguerite Derniaux, conscripted into forced labor in [Rennes, France](#) on [March 19, 1943](#), told by Marguerite that he would die a martyr, replied "I could never deserve such an honor"; **UPDATE: arrested by the Gestapo for being "too much of a Catholic"**)

<https://catholicsaintsguy.wordpress.com/tag/mauthausen/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Callo

Monday April 24, 1944



Germany: Brandenburg-Gorden Prison

Fr Josef Kirchhoff OFM (aged 51, **executed** for making 'critical remarks')

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kilian_Kirchhoff

Thursday April 27, 1944



France: Paris

Fr Jean Joseph Rosay (aged 42, arrested in [Douvaine, France](#) on [February 11, 1944](#) for aiding Jews and shot-down Allied flight crews, implicated himself to save others; **UPDATE:** deported to Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland, described by a fellow inmate as 'radiant' and as always helping fellow inmates)

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Rosay - with translation

Friday April 28, 1944



USSR: on the road between Vilnius, Lithuania, and Riga, Latvia

Metropolitan Sergii Voskresensky (aged 47, **shot dead** along with his driver and a friend by assassins wearing German army uniforms, assassins may have been Soviet partisans under NKVD orders)

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL15844949W/The_Russian_church_under_the_Soviet_regime_1917-1982 Vol I, page 232



Hungary: Budapest

Jane Haining (aged 47, missionary, British citizen, deported to Auschwitz, had been arrested by the Gestapo earlier in the month on charges of having 'worked among the Jews' and 'weeping when putting yellow stars on the girls', had refused to leave her orphanage in 1940 when ordered by her church)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Haining

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7932547M/The_Righteous

Sunday April 30, 1944



China: Xuchang, Henan province

Fr Giovanni Botton CFX (aged 35, Italian citizen, **died from bayonet and gunshot wounds** inflicted by Japanese soldiers during his surrender, his last words included “I offer my life to the Lord for the salvation of China”)

http://www.archive.xaviermissionaries.org/M_Stories/Martyrs/Bott7.htm

April 1944, date unknown



Poland: Krakow

Jerzy Zachuta (seminarian, arrested by the Germans, **shot dead**)

Poland: Majdanek concentration camp

Daniel Trocme (aged 34, French citizen, cousin of Pastor Andre Trocme, arrested in [Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France](#) for sheltering several Jews; **UPDATE: killed**)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9_and_Magda_Trocm%C3%A9
https://openlibrary.org/books/OL22150980M/Witness_to_Hope - page 71



Italy: Milan

Teresio Olivelli (aged 28, Italian citizen, war veteran, law professor, arrested by the Germans for writing Christian and anti-Nazi literature)

<http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=it&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.teresio-olivelli.it%2Fteresio-olivelli%2Fbiografia%2F>