

# Welshmen Today Celebrate Patron Saint Anniversary

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Montreal's Welsh - Canadian community has made certain this year that a suitable display of daffodils is shown in the city to mark the anniversary of their patron saint—St. David

Today is when the 100,000 or so Canadians of Welsh descent take time out from their normal routine to commemorate St. David, who is said to have had the power of working miracles from the moment he was born.

Occasionally in recent years there has been a lack of the long-stemmed yellow floral emblems of Wales when the titular saint's day rolled around.

But, happily this time, a Welshman said yesterday, there will be daffodils in stores, daffodils in restaurants, daffodils in hotels and, naturally, daffodils in Montreal homes.

In Montreal, the commemoration takes two chief forms — sacred and secular. The first consists of services of worship and praise on the Sundays preceding and following St. David's Day.

A service Sunday, conducted by Rev. Canon R. K. Naylor at Trinity Memorial Church, opened the week.

Highlight of the celebrations will be a banquet and dance Friday night in the Queen's Hotel, where Rev Samuel Davies, pastor of St. Andrews-by-the-Sea Presbyterian Church, will speak.

Preparations to mark the week

have been underway for some time. St. David, whose name is on churches throughout the British Commonwealth, was a renowned spiritual leader whose examples, life and work left an indelible impression on Wales.

Legend says that an angel was his constant attendant on his first appearance on earth, to minister to his wants and contribute to his edification.

According to the accounts, the Bath waters became warm through his agency; he healed complaints and re-animated the dead. Whenever he preached, a snow - white dove sat upon his shoulder.

Among other things, as pulpits were not in fashion in those times, the earth upon which he preached was raised from its level and became a hill.

But leaving the region of fiction, St. David appears to have had more honors paid him in England than in his native country. Thus, before the Reformation, the following was read in the old church of Sarum on March 1:

"Oh God, who by thy angel didst foretell thy blessed Confessor, St. David, 30 years before he was born, grant unto us, we beseech thee, that celebrating his memory, we may, by his intercession, attain to joys everlasting."