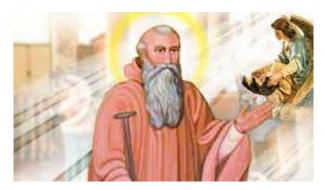# St. Porcarius

Martyr and Benedictine abbot of Lerins, off the coast of Provence, France. According to tradition, Porcarius had a vision that the monastery was about to be attacked by Saracen raiders. The youngest monks were sent away to safety while he, with the remaining brethren, were massacred a short time later. The only survivors were four monks carried off into slavery in Spain or perhaps North Africa.

Porcarius (died c. 732), known as Saint-Porchaire or Saint-Porcaire in French, was a Benedictine abbot who governed the Abbey of Lérins, off the coast of the French Riviera, (now known as Île de Saint-Honorat, as the monastery was founded by Honoratus of Arles) at a time when the monastery included over 500 monks.

According to tradition, around the year 732, Porcarius was warned by an angel in a vision that the abbey was about to be attacked by barbarians. Immediately, the abbot heeded the warning and sent off to safety by ship all the young students at the abbey and 36 of the younger monks. When the ship left fully loaded, he set about preparing the rest of the community for death and prayed with them for courage.

The community was attacked by the Saracens, probably Moors from Spain or North Africa, and were massacred, except four who were taken into slavery. Their feast day is celebrated in the Diocese of Fréjus on 12 August.