

## St. Germanus of Paris



Saint Germanus of Paris, French Saint Germain de Paris, abbot, bishop, one of France's most revered saints, who was an important, though unsuccessful, mediator in the fratricidal conflicts among several Merovingian kings. Ordained a priest in 530 at Autun, Germanus was made abbot of the Monastery of Saint-Symphorien. Between 554 and 556 he was nominated by the Frankish king Childebert I as bishop of Paris, where he exercised considerable moral influence on the king's court and induced Childebert to found a Parisian church, which after his death was renamed Saint-Germain-des-Prés and became a royal burial place.

Germanus was eventually—and with decreasing effectiveness—enmeshed in the civil strife caused by rivalry between Childebert's nephews, Guntram, Sigebert I, Chilperic I, and Charibert I, whom he excommunicated (567) for personal wickedness and for animosity toward his authority. He protected Queen Radegunda against the abuses of her husband, the Frankish king Chlotar I, Childebert's brother. Among the many councils that Germanus attended were those of Paris (c. 556–573), Tours (567), and Paris (573). He energetically promoted the cult of the saints and was himself venerated as a saint immediately after his death.