

April 1

# St. Gilbert de Moravia

d. 1245 • Scotland

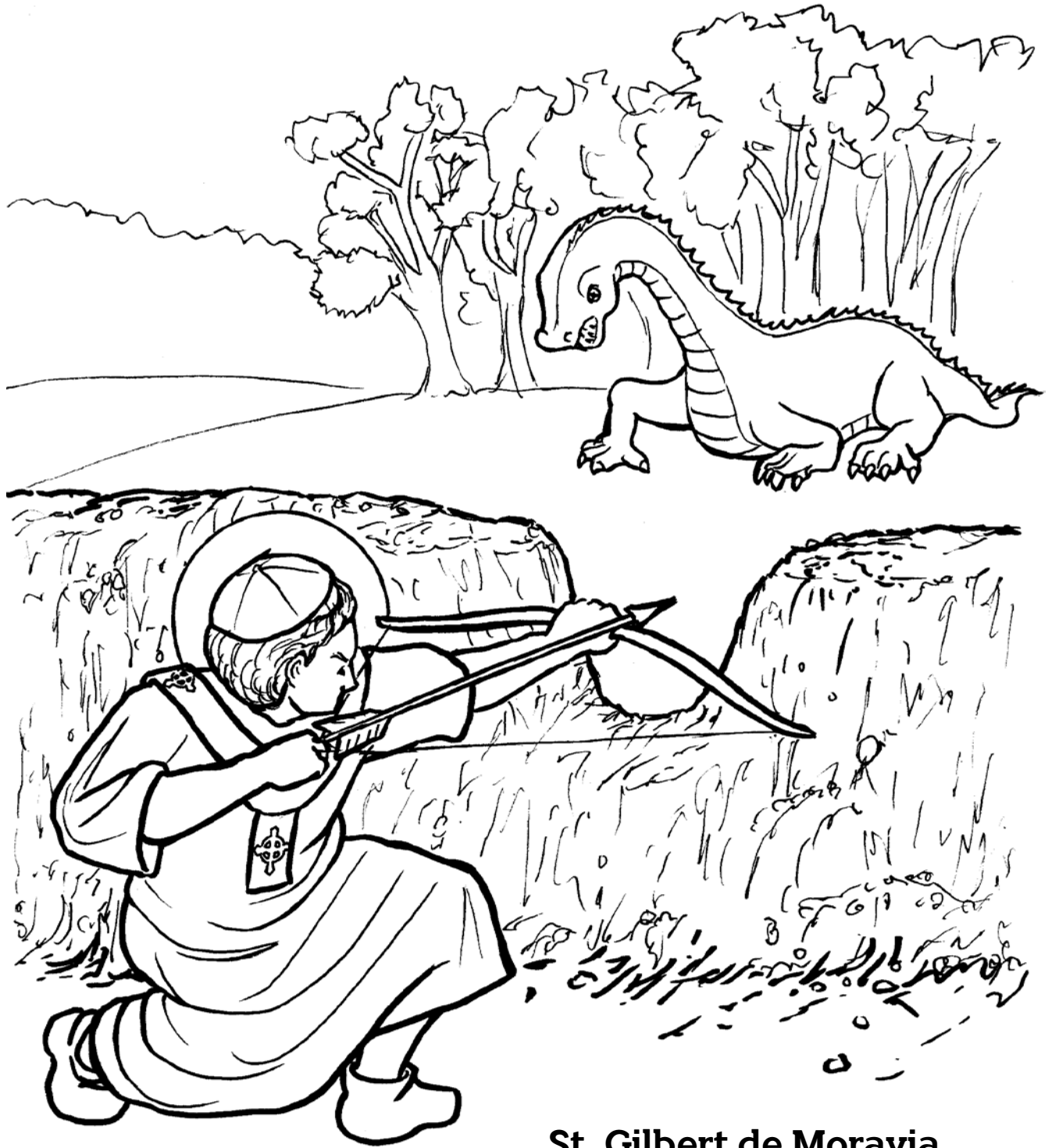
St. Gilbert de Moravia was a holy bishop who fought a dragon, according to legend. Gilbert was the bishop of Caithness. He knew that worshipping God is the most important thing we can do. He built the Dornoch Cathedral as a sacred place of worship, so that all the people of Caithness could gather to give their hearts and minds to God. Gilbert also knew that to love God means to love your neighbor, so he built many dwelling places for the poor.

Gilbert de Moravia is most famous for his legendary defeat of the dragon of Dornoch. A terrible dragon lived in the forest near the city of Dornoch. It had a long neck like a salamander and breathed fire. Every day, it would travel the same path to the city of Dornoch and stick its neck into windows to gobble up young maidens. No one dared face the dragon for fear of its powerful teeth and breath of fire.

When Bishop Gilbert heard news of the dragon, he was determined to kill it to protect his people. He put on his steel cap and armed himself with bow and arrow. Then he traveled to the city of Dornoch and investigated the path on which the dragon journeyed to-and-fro from wood to city. The path was well-worn from the dragon's claws and its great, long tail. Gilbert devised a plan. He had a deep trench dug following the path, with peepholes carved in the walls. Then he went down on his knees and waited, with a prayer to God in his heart.

Soon a great lizard of a dragon emerged from the wood, long neck arched and dragging its long tail behind him. The bishop drew his bow and waited for the dragon to come close enough for his aim to be true. Then his arrow flew into the air and pierced the dragon's hide. With a great howl of pain, the dragon blasted the peephole with its scorching breath. But the bishop was not there! He had scurried down the trench and was now at the next peephole. Again he waited for the dragon to come within range and then loosed an arrow. Again the dragon blasted the peephole with flames. But the bishop was too quick for the dragon and had made it to the next peephole safely. In this manner, Bishop Gilbert shot arrow after arrow until the dragon succumbed to its wounds and fell down dead. The people rejoiced that their holy bishop had defeated the dragon that had plagued the city of Dornoch.

The legend of St. Gilbert de Moravia shows how bishops should protect the Church from the dangers of sin and the devil. St. Gilbert de Moravia, protect me from all evil!



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