

******St. Keyne was a holy woman from the 5th Century from Cornwall, United Kingdom. She was a pious Virgin, and was one of twenty-four children. She may have lived at Keynsham in Somerset, but we know she founded St. Keyne in Cornwall, among other sites in the late 5th century.

She refused several suitors' offers of marriage and became a hermitess on the banks of the Severn River in Somersetshire, England. She later blessed a "well" on the property, and said that "whichever of the two newly-weds first drinks of this well, will have the upper hand in that marriage". Legend has it in 490, she visited her nephew St. Cadoc, at St. Michael's Mount, where a granite chair or throne supposedly is said to grant matrimonial advantage. Many marriages faced a battle between one being pagan, and the other being Christian in her time.

St. Keyne was the original patron of what is now St. Martin-by-Looe, and is linked with the River Kenwyn in Truro. We also know that she founded several churches; Llangeinor in mid Glamorgan, Llangunnor and Llangain in Dyfed, at Rockfield, Runston, in Gwent, and St Ceinwen's Church, Cerrigceinwen, where the churchyard encloses and Christianizes another holy well, in which she blessed. She is also recorded as being a dragon-slayer, on par with St. George.

She died a holy Virgin, on October 5th, in either 490 or 505. She grew up to be very beautiful, and many young men sought her hand in marriage, but she rejected them all. Her feast day is celebrated on October 8th. The well at St. Keyne can still be seen today, and on it, the plaque reads, "*The Legend of St. Keyne Well. St. Keyne was a Princess who lived about 600 AD. She laid on the waters of this well a spell thus described by Carew in 1602 AD – The quality that man or wife whom chance or choice attains first of this sacred spring to drink thereby the mastery gains*". Many drink from this well to this day. ******(Excerpted from: www.newmanconnection.com)



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Saint Keyne Wry

Feast Day: October 8



Patronage:
St Martin-by-Looe, Marital Counsel,
Christian Marriages

Saint Keyne Wry

(c.AD 461- AD 505)

(Welsh-Cain, Latin-Caginus, English-Keyne)

*Properly called Cain, though commonly known as St. Keyne, this saintly lady had a number of popular epithets: St. Cain Wry (*the Virgin*), Cain Breit (*the Bright*) or Ceinwen (*the Fair*). She was the daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog, King of Brycheiniog in South Wales, a man of many saintly children: by some accounts, twenty-four daughters besides sons. Keyne was his most distinguished child. Many noble lords sought her hand in marriage but, wishing to remain a virgin, she crossed the Severn to find a wooded solitary abode. She travelled via Kentchurch, in Herefordshire, and settled in a place where now stands the town of Keynsham on the Avon in Somerset. It is said, however, that she was warned by the local King that the area was swarming with serpents and neither man nor beast could inhabit it. St. Keyne, addressing herself to her heavenly spouse, obtained of him by the fervour of her prayer, that all this poisonous brood should be changed into stones perfectly resembling the winding of serpents. Today, these are considered to be the fossilized remains of ammonites. A similar miracle is sometimes recorded of St. Hilda.

After living an austere and saintly life in Keynsham for some years, St. Keyne made a pilgrimage to Dinsol which is traditionally said to be St. Michael's Mount, but was probably St. Keyne, near St. Neots. She gave to the Cornish people here, a well which has the wonderful property of conferring the chief domestic authority on husband or wife, whichever first, after marriage, drinks of its waters. The parish of Kenwyn near Truro is probably named after her. Keyne's nephew, St. Cadog, son of her sister, Gwladys, was surprised to find her at Dinsol and tried to persuade her to return home with him. The locals were opposed to this, but she did eventually follow him some years later. Keyne made herself a small habitation at the foot of a mountain in her native country, almost certainly at Llangeinor in Glamorgan though possibly at Llangenny in Powys. She obtained, by her prayers, a spring of water which was helpful in divers infirmities and it remains at the former still. Here she stayed for many years and finally died on 8th October AD 505, a gracious smile and a beautiful rosy colour appearing on her face. She was buried there by St. Cadog.

*(Excerpted from: www.britannia.com)