

SAN BRAIS

San Brais (316 A.D.) was the bishop of Sebastes (today Sivas, in Turkey) and a martyr as well. When the Roman emperor Licinio began the chasing of the Christians, Brais ran up but was caught and, due to the fact that he refused to abandon his Christian faith, they took the skin out of him with steel sheep combs and then he was beheaded. The legend tells that St Brais saved the life of a child who was choking to death because of a thorn. Because of this the catholic belief is that he can protect people's throats.

In addition he is considered to be the holy saint of wool trimmers due to the way in which he was tortured.

This festivity is celebrated on February 3rd.



in Monforte, on San Brais's day people adore the relic at mass. They kiss the reliquary that contains it. Many people from neighboring places come to kiss it in order to look for protection for their throats.

On the other hand, people go to mass with ribbons and a kind of doghnuts to be sanctified by the priest. The doughnuts are eaten, of course and the ribbons, blue for men and boys and pink or yellow for women and girls, are worn around the neck for at least a fortnight.



The special doughnuts

Young people like this custom very much.

This festivity is celebrated in San Vicente's Church, near the Castle of Monforte.



The ribbons



The Church