

Calendar Notes for 2008

Lectionary

Sunday Year A
Weekdays Year II

From 3 December 2006 the arrangement of Holydays of Obligation in England and Wales changes. These changes are included in the notes below.

Advent/Christmas

2007

Sunday 2 December	First Sunday of Advent
Saturday 8 December	Immaculate Conception BVM
Tuesday 25 December	The Birth of the Lord
Sunday 30 December	The Holy Family

2008

Tuesday 1 January	Mary, Mother of God
Sunday 6 January	Epiphany of the Lord

Cycle of Prayer

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

Migrants' Day	Monday 3 December
Bible Sunday	Sunday 9 December [2nd Sunday of Advent]
Expectant Mothers	especially on 4th Sunday in Advent, 23 December

Ordinary Time – Winter

Sunday 13 January	Baptism of the Lord
Sunday 20 January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Saturday 2 February	Presentation of the Lord
Sunday 3 February	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (last Sunday before Lent)

Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Winter), i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Students and Teachers; The Unemployed.

Peace Day	Sunday 20 January [2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time]
Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	18–25 January
World Day for the Sick	Monday 11 February (in Lent)
Education Day	Sunday 20 January [3 Sundays before 1st Sunday of Lent]
Day for the Unemployed	Sunday 3 February [Sunday before 1st Sunday of Lent]

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**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

Lent

Wednesday 6 February	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 10 February	1st Sunday of Lent
Saturday 15 March	St Joseph [transferred from Holy Week — see note on back page]

Cycle of Prayer

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Candidates for the Sacraments	especially on the Sundays of Lent
Women's World Day of Prayer	Friday 7 March [1st Friday in March]
Lent Fast Day	Friday 15 February [Friday 1st week of Lent]

Easter

Sunday 23 March	Easter Sunday
Monday 31 March	The Annunciation of the Lord [transferred from Easter Octave]
Wednesday 23 April	St George
Sunday 4 May	Ascension
Sunday 11 May	Pentecost

Cycle of Prayer

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions:

New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

St Joseph the Worker	Thursday 1 May
World Day of Prayer for Vocations	Sunday 13 April [4th Sunday of Easter]
World Communications Day	Sunday 4 May [Ascension]
The Church	especially at Pentecost, 11 May

Ordinary Time – Summer

Monday 12 May	Monday, Week 6 Ordinary Time (Psalter Week II)
Sunday 18 May	Trinity Sunday
Sunday 25 May	The Body and Blood of Christ
Friday 30 May	Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday 31 May	The Visitation of BVM [Immaculate Heart of Mary not celebrated in 2008]
Sunday 1 June	9th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday 24 June	Birth of St John the Baptist
Sunday 29 June	St Peter and St Paul
Wednesday 6 August	Transfiguration of the Lord
Friday 15 August	The Assumption of BVM

Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Summer), i.e. up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

St John Fisher and St Thomas More	[Sunday 22 June]
Europe	[St Benedict, St Bridget and St Benedicta as below. also Sts Cyril and Methodius (14 February) and St Catherine of Siena (29 April).]
St Benedict	Friday 11 July
St Bridget	Wednesday 23 July
St Benedicta of Cross	Saturday 9 August
Day for Life	Sunday 6 July [1st Sunday in July]
Sea Sunday	Sunday 13 July [2nd Sunday in July]

Ordinary Time – Autumn

Sunday 14 September	Triumph of the Cross
Sunday 2 November	All Saints
Monday 3 November	All Souls
Sunday 9 November	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Sunday 23 November	Christ the King

Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Autumn), i.e. from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

Racial Justice Day	Sunday 14 September [2nd Sunday in September]
Home Mission Day	Sunday 21 September [3rd Sunday in September]
World Mission Day	Sunday 19 October [penultimate Sunday in October]
The Harvest, etc.	Sunday 28 September [Sunday between 22–28 September] or whenever Harvest Festivals are held.
Harvest Fast Day	Friday 3 October [1st Friday in October]
Remembrance Day	Sunday 9 November [2nd Sunday in November]
Prisoners' Week	9-15 November
Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents	Sunday 16 November [3rd Sunday in November]
Youth Day	Sunday 23 November [Christ the King]

Advent/Christmas

Sunday 30 November	First Sunday of Advent
Monday 8 December	Immaculate Conception BVM
Thursday 25 December	The Birth of the Lord
Sunday 28 December	The Holy Family

Cycle of Prayer

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

Migrants' Day	Wednesday 3 December
Bible Sunday	Sunday 7 December [2nd Sunday of Advent]
Expectant Mothers	especially on 4th Sunday in Advent, 21 December

Holydays of Obligation

From the First Sunday of Advent 2006 the number of Holydays of Obligation was changed. The following are Holydays of Obligation in England and Wales:

Every Sunday	
The Birth of the Lord	25 December
St Peter & St Paul	29 June
The Assumption of BVM	15 August
All Saints	1 November

For St Peter & St Paul, The Assumption and All Saints the rule still applies where the celebration is transferred to the Sunday when it falls on Saturday or Monday.

The obligation is removed from The Epiphany of the Lord, The Ascension of the Lord and The Body and Blood of the Lord. The celebration of these Solemnities is transferred to the nearest Sunday:

The Epiphany of the Lord	Sunday between 2–8 January
The Ascension of the Lord	7th Sunday of Easter (replacing Sunday)
The Body and Blood of the Lord	Sunday after Trinity Sunday

More details can be found at www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Holydays.html

Changes to St Joseph & The Annunciation of the Lord

The following is a basic translation of information published in Notitiae (42:3–4) by the Congregation for Divine Worship.

The attention of Congregation for Divine Worship has been brought to the occurrence of some celebrations in 2008. In particular St Joseph (19 March) falls on Wednesday of Holy Week and the Annunciation (25 March) falls on Tuesday of Easter Week.

According to the Norms found in GNLY it is necessary to transfer the celebrations in this way: 'Where the Solemnity of St Joseph is a Holyday of Obligation and if it falls on 6th Sunday of Lent it is celebrated on 18 March. Where it is not day of Obligation Bishops' Conferences may transfer it outside Lent' (56.f) 'The Annunciation when it falls in Holy Week is transferred to first available day after 2nd Sunday of Easter.' (60)

Therefore in 2008 St Joseph will be celebrated on 15 March, the Saturday before Palm Sunday; the Annunciation will be celebrated on 31 March — the Monday after 2nd Sunday of Easter.

Cycle of Prayer — Web Resources

The Liturgy Office has prepared information and resources for each of the intentions in the Cycle of Prayer. These can be found at: www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle/

For each intention there is:

- background information
- a prayer
- 2 sample intercessions
- ideas how the intention might affect the liturgy and life of the community
- links to relevant resources and organisations

The material can also be downloaded in PDF format for use with parish liturgy groups etc. For each season there is a prayer leaflet as well giving a couple of prayers and scripture quotations for each intention.

There is also general guidance about the inclusion of intentions within the Sunday liturgy.