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.**
  - 18–25 January
  - Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity: Monday 11 February (in Lent)
  - World Day for the Sick: Sunday 20 January [3 Sundays before 1st Sunday of Lent]
  - Education Day: Sunday 3 February [Sunday before 1st Sunday of Lent]
  - Day for the Unemployed: Sunday 3 February [Sunday before 1st Sunday of Lent]
## Lent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 10 February</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Lent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 15 March</td>
<td>St Joseph [transferred from Holy Week — see note on back page]</td>
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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
- Women’s World Day of Prayer
- Lent Fast Day

especially on the Sundays of Lent

- Friday 7 March [1st Friday in March]
- Friday 15 February [Friday 1st week of Lent]

## Easter

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 23 March</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31 March</td>
<td>The Annunciation of the Lord [transferred from Easter Octave]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23 April</td>
<td>St George</td>
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<td>Sunday 4 May</td>
<td>Ascension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 May</td>
<td>Pentecost</td>
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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
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- World Communications Day
- The Church

- Thursday 1 May
- Sunday 13 April [4th Sunday of Easter]
- Sunday 4 May [Ascension]
- especially at Pentecost, 11 May

## Ordinary Time – Summer

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

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

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.
Remembrance Day  Friday 3 October [1st Friday in October]
Prisoners’ Week  Sunday 9 November [2nd Sunday in November] 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]

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

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