



Coloma Catholic Life.

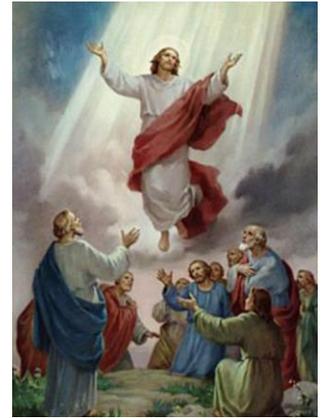
Ascension Day

Thursday 13th May is the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus and is a Holyday of Obligation. Check the times of Mass in your local parish.

Ascension Day commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses. It is one of the four most important dates in the Christian calendar. Observed generally by Catholics and Anglicans, it is also known as the Feast of Ascension, and occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter. It marks the end of the Easter season and falls ten days before Pentecost.

According to the accounts in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples during the 40 days following his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. On the 40th day, he came again to the Apostles and led them out to the Mount of Olives where he instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Then, as they were watching, he ascended into the clouds.

According to Augustine of Hippo, one of the early church fathers, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa, contemporaries of Augustine, refer to it as being one of the oldest feasts practised by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the Church honouring Ascension Day



Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for May:

The World of Finance.

‘Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its danger.’

Video:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/pope-francis-may-2021-prayer-intention-sustainable-finance.html>

Tweet: ‘The love Jesus gives us is the same with which the Father loves Him: pure, unconditional, freely given love. By giving it to us, Jesus treats us like friends, making us know the Father, and he involves us in his same mission for the life of the world.’

Liturgical Year

Week: Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Colour: White

until Augustine's time in the fourth century.

As an Ecumenical feast, Ascension Day is one of the six holy days where attendance at Mass is mandatory for Roman Catholics and Anglicans. The event is generally a one-day public commemoration, although the Church, in keeping with earlier traditions regarding festivals, offers devotions for seven days. The night before the feast, priests and deacons attend a vigil of prayers and scripture readings. On the day of the feast, Mass is celebrated and the Paschal candle, which was lit on Easter Sunday, is extinguished. Liturgies proclaiming the finished work of salvation and the ascension of the glorified Christ into Heaven are recited, followed later by evening prayers. At the end of the seven-day devotion, two additional days are kept by the priests, making a total of nine days (a novena). The novena allows for the preparation of Pentecost, which takes place the next day.

For many Christians, Ascension Day's meaning provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Jesus is near. It is a reminder of the ever-present Spirit of God, watching over and protecting them as they spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world.



Ascension Day is associated across Britain with various festivals ranging from Well Dressing in Derbyshire to the Planting of the 'Penny Hedge' (or 'Horngarth') in the harbour at Whitby, Yorkshire. It is also the day for Beating the Bounds, or Boundaries, of a church's parish. The custom was once found in almost every English parish, but now is only carried out in a few places. In modern times, it involves people in the locality walking around their farm, manorial, church or civil boundaries, pausing as they pass certain trees, walls

and hedges that denote the extent of the boundary to exclaim, pray and ritually 'beat' particular landmarks with sticks.

In England, eggs laid on Ascension Day are said to 'never go bad' and will guarantee good luck for a household if placed in the roof. In Devon, it was an ancient belief that the clouds always formed into the familiar Christian image of a lamb on Ascension Day. If the weather is sunny on Ascension Day, the summer will be long and hot. If it rains on the day, crops will do badly and livestock will suffer from disease. According to Welsh superstition, it is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day.

Christian Aid Week



This year Christian Aid Week is from 9th – 15th May.

Initiated in 1945, this week is devoted to fund raising by members of various churches, mainly through house to house collections and sales of goods of various kinds. The money given is for work with the needy throughout the world. Christian

Aid works in nearly 60 countries, helping people, regardless of religion or race, to improve their own lives and tackle the causes of poverty and injustice.

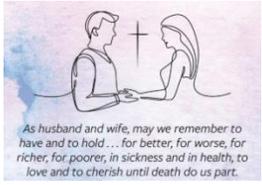
More information on the organization and work can be found here:

More Information:

[You Tube: This is Christian Aid](#)

[Meet our Neighbour – Morsheda – Watch the video](#)

National Marriage Week, 10th – 16th May (from A & B Diocese website)



Many of us love being married but too many of us take our marital happiness for granted, we move forward as one day seems to blur into the next and we forget to look at each other and see the joy we share. National Marriage Week is an opportunity to stop and take stock and perhaps invest some time in this most wonderful union we share. The words of Pope Francis inspire us:

“Marriage is like a plant. It is not an armoire, which is placed there, in the room, and it’s enough to dust it every once in a while. A plant is alive, and it needs to be cared for every day: to see how it is doing, to give it water, and so it goes. Marriage is a living reality: the life of a couple should never be taken for granted, in any phase of a family’s journey.” [Pope Francis, 21st December 2015](#)

There are lots of resources available to support you, perhaps you have a particular issue that causes tension between you, [click here](#) for some inspirational suggestions to tackle niggles in any relationship.

If you know you would like to spend some time together but have run dry with ideas [look here](#) for some fun inspiration. Another wonderful way to celebrate the joy of marriage might be to attend a weekend away together, [Marriage Encounter offer structured weekends](#), both online and (hopefully) soon in reality, to help you reboot your marriage. Another opportunity can be found through Alpha materials. [Try a Course Online.](#)

[Marriage Matters](#) provides a wonderful opportunity to pray together as a couple. They provide a reflection on the gospel for every week of the year.

Marriage is also an everyday task, I could say a craftsman’s task, a goldsmith’s work, because the husband has the duty of making the wife more of a woman and the wife has the duty of making the husband more of a man. Growing also in humanity, as man and woman. And this you do together. This is called growing together. This does not come out of thin air! The Lord blesses it but it comes from your hands, from your attitudes, from your way of loving each other.”

[Pope Francis, Address, 14th February 2014](#)

The Late Kevin Alban O’Carm



Prayers are requested across the Archdiocese of Southwark for the repose of the soul of The Very Reverend Kevin Alban, O.Carm., Prior Provincial of the Carmelites, who died peacefully on 4th May at Aylesford Priory.

Funeral Details

The Funeral Mass will take place on the Main Shrine at Aylesford Priory on Monday 17th May at 11.30am, followed by burial in the community cemetery.

Clergy who wish to concelebrate are asked to email the Prior,

Fr Francis Kemsley O.Carm, at prior@thefriars.org.uk

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Religious Festivals

End of Ramadan, Muslim – 12th May

Ramadan is the name of the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar.

The Muslim year is a lunar year which is about 11 days shorter than the solar year on which the Gregorian (British) calendar is based, so in the Gregorian calendar Ramadan occurs ten or eleven days earlier each year. During the month of Ramadan Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Fasting (sawm) is the fourth of the five pillars of Islam, requiring self-discipline and giving everyone some experience of deprivation. Those who are not able to fast are expected to give charity to compensate for the 'lost' days. While children may be encouraged to fast, the full fast is not compulsory until puberty is reached, often by the age of 12, but many young people still attempt to keep some, or even all of it. For Muslims Ramadan one of the holiest months of the year, and one they dedicate to spiritual renewal, prayer and intensive devotional reading of the *Qur'an*. It is the month in which, according to Islamic belief, the Prophet received the first revelation of verses of the *Qur'an*, though the actual night is unknown.

EID-UL-FITR / FEAST OF FAST BREAKING (1st Shawwal), Muslim - 13th – 16th May



Celebrations of this festival may extend over the first three days of the month of Shawwal, the month following Ramadan, although only the first day's celebration is religiously sanctioned. It is a time for making gifts to the poor (*Zakat-ul-Fitr*, the charity of the fast, must be paid before the *Eid* prayer). Now is a time for new clothes, good food, and presents for children. Families get together and contact friends, especially those who live far away. The community will assemble for *Eid* prayer and a sermon at the mosque or at a large place which will accommodate the whole community of the town or village. The traditional greeting is '*Eid Mubarak*' – 'a happy and blessed *Eid*'. (There is no reference in the *Qur'an* but there is in the *Hadith*, the traditions of the Prophet).

Interesting things to know about Eid:

1. It is customary to eat breakfast before the special prayer of Eid, as Prophet Muhammad used to eat something sweet before offering his prayers.
2. In Muslim countries Eid is an official public holiday that lasts for three days
3. As the crescent moon of Eid appears on different dates in different countries, many Muslim communities celebrate Eid on the day it appears over the sky above Mecca.
4. The Eid prayer is different from the regular prayer known as Adhaan. The special prayer can be done anytime between the Ishraq (dawn) and Zawal (midday) prayers.
5. In Turkey, Eid is called Ramazan Bayram which means Ramadan Feast. The Eid delicacies are also known as Şeker Bayram, which is inspired from the popular Turkish sweet baklava.
6. Muslims usually give a special gift of money to charity also known as Zakat-ul-Fitr which is collected and

given to Muslims who are poor or in need.

7. In Indonesia, Eid is also called Idul Fitri or Lebaran. On the day of celebrations many Indonesian Muslims visit the graves of their family members and clean the gravesite and offer prayers to Allah for forgiveness.

This festival is known as the 'lesser Eid', though it is the more popular of the two major Eids that Muslims observe. The contrast with the preceding fast days of Ramadan ensures that it is welcomed with great festivity and exciting foods.

Saints of the Week

St John of Avila, Priest and Doctor, Apostles – 10th May.



St. John of Avila was born on the feast of the Epiphany in 1499 in Extremadura in the ecclesiastical province of Toledo, the only child of his parents.² He spent four years at the University of Salamanca studying law (1513-1517), and then returned to his parents' home where he lived in seclusion for several years. On the advice of a Franciscan priest, the young man left his solitude and matriculated at the University of Alcala, an important centre for humanistic studies in Spain, where he studied from 1520-1526. After ordination to the priesthood in 1526, Avila went to Seville to prepare for departure as a missionary to the new world. While waiting to set sail, the newly ordained priest engaged in catechesis and preaching, so impressing the priest with whom he lived and worked, Father Fernando Contreras, that he urged the Archbishop of Seville to keep Avila in Spain, where an enormous mission field had opened up with the end of Muslim domination. Thus, John Avila began the missionary work in Southern Spain that would earn him the title, "Apostle of Andalusia."

During this early period of his priestly ministry, Avila lived in a loosely structured fraternity with Father Contreras and some other priests engaged in preaching, evangelizing, and catechizing. As Avila continued to work in Seville and its surrounding areas, other priests, desiring a similar mode of ministry, became his disciples and lived a simple fraternal life under his direction. By the time sickness forced his retirement, there were about one hundred priests who regarded Master Avila as their director, many of who helped in founding and staffing the schools that Avila established.

In 1531, Avila was denounced to the Inquisition and spent a year in prison (1532-33), a time during which he claimed to have learned more than in all his other studies. In prison, he began his major work, *Audi, filia*, a guide to the spiritual life, written for a young woman who was living a consecrated life under his direction. He also continued his study of the letters of St. Paul, becoming so immersed in them that later, a religious priest who heard him preaching said: "I have heard St. Paul interpreting St. Paul." In July of 1533, the Inquisition absolved Avila of all charges against his orthodoxy and he resumed his priestly ministry. He was incardinated in the diocese of Cordoba in 1535 and preached there and in Granada during the next several years, making many converts, including John of God and Francis Borgia. It is thought that in Granada, around 1538, Avila received the title of "Master in Sacred Theology." It became the custom to call him "the Master," a title with an academic connotation, but used in a more general sense for Avila, to capture the central aspect of his priestly vocation as a preacher, teacher, and director of souls.

Avila's outstanding work during the middle years of his ministry was the establishment of schools at every level: schools of doctrine for children and adults; colleges-the equivalent of our high schools-and universities, the most notable of which was that of Baeza. His disciples played an important part in this enterprise since they taught in these schools. When the time came for Avila to give up this phase of his life's work, he desired that the Jesuits would take it over, especially the University of Baeza. His desire did not come to fruition as he wished, but about thirty of Avila's disciples did go, with the Master's encouragement, to the Society of Jesus.

Beginning in 1551, Avila was increasingly burdened by ill health, and, within a few years, was forced to give up his missionary endeavours. For a brief period, there was discussion with the Jesuits, including Ignatius of Loyola, of his possible entry into the Society. However, Avila's failing health prevented this move, and he spent the last years of his life in semi-retirement in Montilla in the diocese of Cordoba. He continued to engage in ministry as his health permitted and wrote a vast number of letters to people in various states of life. John of Avila died on May 10, 1569, and, in accord with his wishes, was buried in the Jesuit Church in Montilla. Beatified on September 15, 1894, he was declared patron of diocesan priests in Spain on July 2nd 1946, and was canonized on May 31, 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

St. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs – 12th May

Nereus and Achilleus were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard (the emperor's bodyguards) who were martyred at the end of the first century, and were said to have been baptized by St. Peter himself. When they became Christians they gave up their posts which they saw as immoral and were exiled and then killed under the reign of the emperor Trajan.



An epitaph written by Pope Damasus says the following: "Nereus and Achilleus the martyrs joined the army and carried out the cruel orders of the tyrant, obeying his will continually out of fear. Then came a miracle of faith. They suddenly gave up their savagery, they were converted, they fled the camp of their evil leader, throwing away their shields, armor, and bloody spears. Professing the faith of Christ, they are happy to witness to its triumph. From these words of Damasus understand what great deeds can be brought about by Christ's glory."

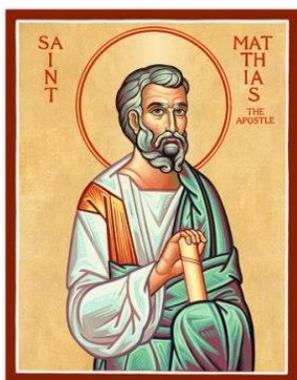
St Pancras, Martyr – 12th May



St. Pancras, or Pancratius, was a Syrian boy of pagan origin who went to Rome and was converted to Christianity. He was beheaded in 304 at the age of 14 during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. He is buried on the Via Aurelia in Rome and the church of St. Pancratius, which still stands today, was built on his grave in the fourth century.

Saints Nereus, Achilleus and Pancras have been honoured together on May 12 since the fourth century.

St Matthias, Apostle – 14th May



The Greek *Matthias* (or, in some manuscripts, *Maththias*), is a name derived from *Mattathias*. Matthias was one of the seventy disciples of Jesus, and had been with Him from His baptism by John to the Ascension. It is related in Acts 1:15-26 that in the days following the Ascension, Peter proposed to the assembled brethren, who numbered one hundred and twenty, that they choose one to fill the place of the

traitor Judas in the Apostolate. Two disciples, Joseph, called Barsabas, and Matthias were selected, and lots were drawn, with the result in favour of Matthias, who from then on became associated with the eleven Apostles.

All further information concerning the life and death of Matthias is vague and contradictory. According to Nicephorus (*Church History* II.40), he first preached the Gospel in Judea, then in Ethiopia and was crucified. The Synopsis of Dorotheus contains this tradition: Matthias preached the Gospel to barbarians and cannibals in the interior of Ethiopia, at the harbour of the sea of Hyssus, at the mouth of the river Phasis. He died at Sebastopolis, and was buried there, near the Temple of the Sun. Still another tradition maintains that Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem by the Jews, and then. It is said that St. Helena brought the relics of St. Matthias to Rome, and that a portion of them was at Trier

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAunZ5QS_Rs&autoplay=1&list=PL58g24NgWPlzvBk2IQVES_xC4WTm6-CDI

♥ Love ♥

is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy,
it does not boast, it is not proud.
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not
delight in evil but
rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8