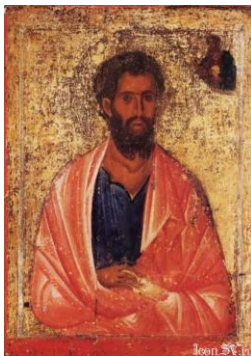
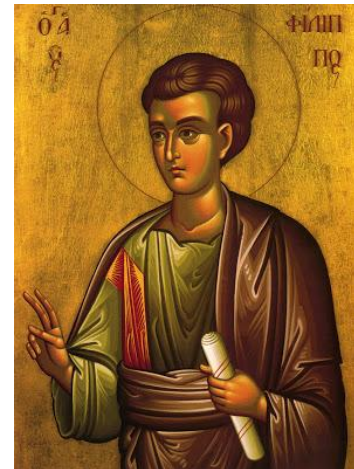


# Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 26<sup>th</sup> April)

1<sup>st</sup> May

## Saints Philip and James - *Apostles*

**Saint Philip** has a Greek name and he may have had links with Diaspora Jews (John 12:21). He is said to have come from Bethsaida like Saints Peter and Andrew. He seems to have started in John the Baptist's circle (perhaps like Jesus). He it was, who introduced Nathaniel to Jesus - Nathaniel is often identified with Saint Bartholomew the Apostle. After the Resurrection, tradition has it that he travelled to Greece and Syria to preach. He is said to have been martyred in the City of Hierapolis - being crucified upside down. His relics are said to lie in the [crypt](#) of the Basilica [Santi Apostoli, Rome](#).



**Saint James the less** is so called to distinguish him for Saint James the Great - another of the Apostles. Indeed, there are a number of men called James in the Gospels and it is not always easy to work out which is which. Tradition often identifies his as the "Son of Alphaeus" and sometimes as the son of Mary of Clopas. There is a recurring suggestion that he was related to Jesus. He is also sometimes identified as the first Bishop of Jerusalem and as the author of the Epistle General of Saint James. Later accounts state that he was martyred in AD62.

2<sup>nd</sup> May

## Saint Athanasius - *doctor of the Church, bishop*

Athanasius was born sometime in AD296 - 298. He was born into a Christian family living in or near Alexandria. His parents were wealthy but not aristocratic. He was given a secular education; but he was fluent in Coptic. He was ordained deacon in AD319 and was present at the Council of Nicaea in AD325.

In AD328, he was raised to be Bishop/Patriarch of Alexandria: a post he would hold intermittently for forty-five years until his death on 2<sup>nd</sup> May AD373. His whole life in Holy Orders was lived against the background of the Arian controversy (an heretical movement, which was very powerful in the fourth and fifth centuries); and he was a key player in the battle for Orthodoxy; and he was an highly controversial figure. He was exiled from his diocese no less than five times. He left a range of literary works, some of which are still read by theological students today: he is sometimes called, "The father of Orthodoxy." Although he was a Coptic bishop, his relics were moved to Venice where they mostly remain to this day.

