

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 31st May)

1st June



Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast commemorates events recorded in the Gospel according to Saint Luke:

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed

is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

Luke 1: 39 - 56

The text in blue was early adopted as a Liturgical text called, *The Magnificat*. It is traditionally used as the Gospel canticle at Vespers/Evensong.

4th June

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi is the Latin for "The Body of Christ." The feast of Corpus Christi is the day on which we celebrate and give thanks for the gift of the Mass, contemplating its central role in the life of discipleship and the Church.

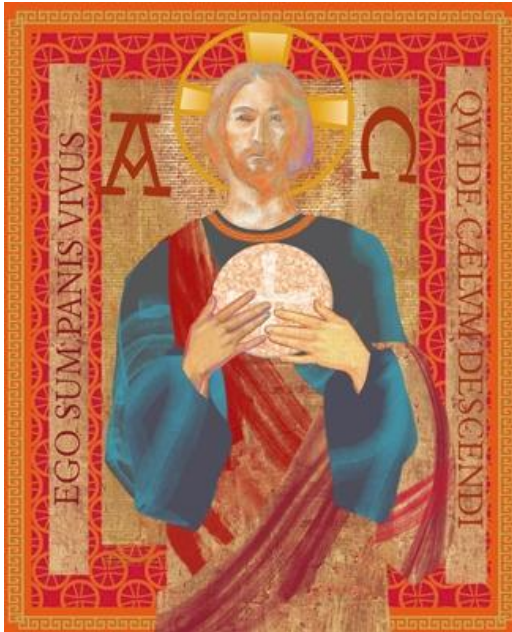
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Of course, the Mass was instituted on Maundy Thursday at the Last Supper:

When the hour had come, Jesus sat at table and the Apostles with Him ... And He bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is My Body, Which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." And likewise the cup after Supper, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you in the New Covenant in My Blood.

Luke 22: 14ff

After the Resurrection, Christians understood that the Mass was to be a foundational element of their life and work:



I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, also, the Cup after Supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11: 23ff

On Maundy Thursday our thoughts are elsewhere; so the Church instituted this festival on the first free Thursday in the calendar - the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

For more information about the Mass, return to the Liturgy page and select the "Mass/Eucharist" button.

5th June



Saint Boniface- *martyr, bishop*

Boniface was born Wynfrith in Crediton (Devon) around AD675: his name was later changed when in Rome. Against his family's wishes, so it seems, he entered the monastic life in Exeter, later moving to a monastery near Winchester, where he later taught. He was ordained priest around the age of thirty. He declined the offer to succeed as Abbot and set out on a missionary journey to Frisia where he worked for a year with S Willibrord. Caught up in a local war, he soon found himself in Rome. The Pope created him bishop to Germania - though without a diocese as such. Boniface was a man of extraordinary energy and attracted the attention of Frankish rulers, who used him in their enterprise to reform the Church in their kingdom.

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He was a constant irritant in the relationship between them and the Papacy. The ecclesiastical structures he established in Germany and still identifiable today and he is known as the *Apostle of Germania*. He was murdered whilst on an embassy to the Saxons for Charlemagne on 5th June AD754 and quickly became revered as a saint both in Germany and his native England.