

ALL SAINTS NEWS

7th January 2024
The Baptism of Christ
The 1st Sunday of
Epiphany

The Ten Days That Vanished

When it comes to calendars, small errors can add up over time. The Julian Calendar—the prevalent calendar in the Christian world for the first millennium CE and part of the second millennium—was an improvement over the Roman Republican Calendar that it replaced, but it was 11 minutes and 14 seconds longer than the tropical year (the time it takes the Sun to return to the same position, as seen from Earth). The result was that the calendar drifted about one day for every 314 years.



One of the most pressing problems caused by the error was the increasing difficulty of calculating the date of Easter, which the Council of Nicaea in 325 had decreed should fall on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox, which at the time fell on March 21.

The growing discrepancy between the date set by the council and the actual vernal equinox was noted in the 8th century CE, if not earlier, and a number of proposals for reform were brought before popes in the Middle Ages. But no action was taken, and the Julian calendar, flawed as it was, remained the official calendar of the Christian church.

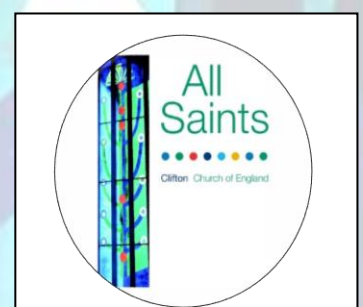
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In its session of 1562–63, the Council of Trent passed a decree calling for the pope to fix the problem by implementing a reformed calendar. But it took another two decades to find a suitable fix and put it into place. After years of consultation and research, Pope Gregory XIII signed a Papal Bull in February 1582 promulgating the reformed calendar that came to be known as the Gregorian Calendar. The reforms were based on the suggestions of the Italian scientist Luigi Lilio, with some modifications by the Jesuit mathematician and astronomer Christopher Clavius.

Ten days vanished in 1582

The most surreal part of implementing the new calendar came in October 1582, when 10 days were dropped from the calendar to bring the vernal equinox from March 11 back to March 21. The church had chosen October to avoid skipping any major Christian festivals.

So, in countries that adopted the new calendar, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4, 1582, was directly followed by October 15. France made the transition separately in December.

Something as complex as implementing a new calendar couldn't go off without some complications, though. The Protestant and Orthodox countries didn't want to take direction from the pope, so they refused to adopt the new calendar. The result was that Catholic Europe—Austria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, and the Catholic states of Germany—suddenly jumped ahead of the rest of the continent by 10 days, and traveling across a border often meant traveling forward or backward on the calendar.

Britain Caught up in 1752

Eventually, non-Catholic countries did begin to adopt the Gregorian calendar. The Protestant regions of Germany and the Netherlands switched in the 17th century. Great Britain and the territories of the British Empire followed suit in 1752, spreading the Gregorian calendar around the globe.

However, Orthodox Christians felt this was wrong and stuck with the Julian Calendar. By 1923, there was a 13-day difference between the two calendars, putting Orthodox Christmas 13 days after December 25, on 7 January; and thus the Feast of the Epiphany on 19 January.

But not in Ukraine

Ukraine moved its official Christmas to 25 December in a break with the Russian Orthodox church, which celebrates it on 7 January.

The bill signed by President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Friday (28 July 2023) and highlights the deepening rift between churches in Kyiv and Moscow since Russia's invasion of its pro-western neighbour.

"The relentless and successful struggle for their identity contributes to ... the desire of every Ukrainian to live their own life with their own traditions and holidays," reads an explanatory note to the bill on the parliament's website.

The Orthodox Church of Ukraine has traditionally observed Christmas on 7 January, at the same time as the Moscow patriarchate, which has given its blessing to Putin's attack on Ukraine. Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox church, is a prominent Putin supporter and has said Russian soldiers who are killed will be cleansed of all their sins.

Unofficially, in 2023, last year, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine allowed worshippers to celebrate Christmas on 25 December.

What is the Key Event at Epiphany

Though it's known by different names in different cultures and countries, Epiphany has its origins in the Christian church's belief that Jesus Christ was the human incarnation of God.

The first known references to the Christian ritual suggest it was common by the fourth century A.D. In the second century, theologian Clement of Alexandria wrote that a sect of Syrian Gnostic Christians, the Basilidians, celebrated Christ's baptism in January. By 361, Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus wrote that Christians called that January festival Epiphany. It took its name from the Greek word ἐπιφάνεια / epipháneia, which refers to a deity's physical manifestation or revelation to mortals.

Orthodox and non-Orthodox Perspectives: Baptism or Magi



In the Orthodox Church, the holiday is known as Theophany and commemorates **Christ's baptism**. After fasting, Orthodox Christians attend a church ceremony where a priest blesses water, then uses it to bless the congregation. They then take holy water home and use it to bless themselves and their homes all year long. Orthodox Christians believe that all water is sanctified on Theophany, and in Eastern Europe many take icy dips in lakes in a bid to wash away their sins.

Among Catholics and other non-Orthodox Christians, Epiphany focuses on another important event in Christ's life: **the arrival of the Magi**, the 'wise people' from the East sometimes characterized as kings. The gospels give different accounts of the Magi's visit to Bethlehem.



The Gospel of Matthew recounts the story of Herod I, whom Rome had appointed the king of Judea or "King of the Jews," and his suspicions of the prophesied birth of a new king of the Jews. When the Magi spoke of their plan to follow a star that would lead them to the child, the Gospel writes, Herod attempted to use them as scouts who could lead him to his rival.

But when the Magi arrived in Bethlehem, they worshiped the infant Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since they were not Jewish, the fact that the Magi saw Jesus as worthy of worship is considered proof that the baby was God's manifestation on Earth—central to the idea of epiphany.

After finding and worshipping Jesus, the Magi left by another road rather than disclose his location and endanger the child. Furious, Herod ordered the execution of all male children aged two and below in the Bethlehem area, an event now known as the Massacre or Slaughter of the Innocents.

Candlelight Concerts at All Saints, Saturday 27th January at 6.00pm and 8.30pm

A Tribute to Adele

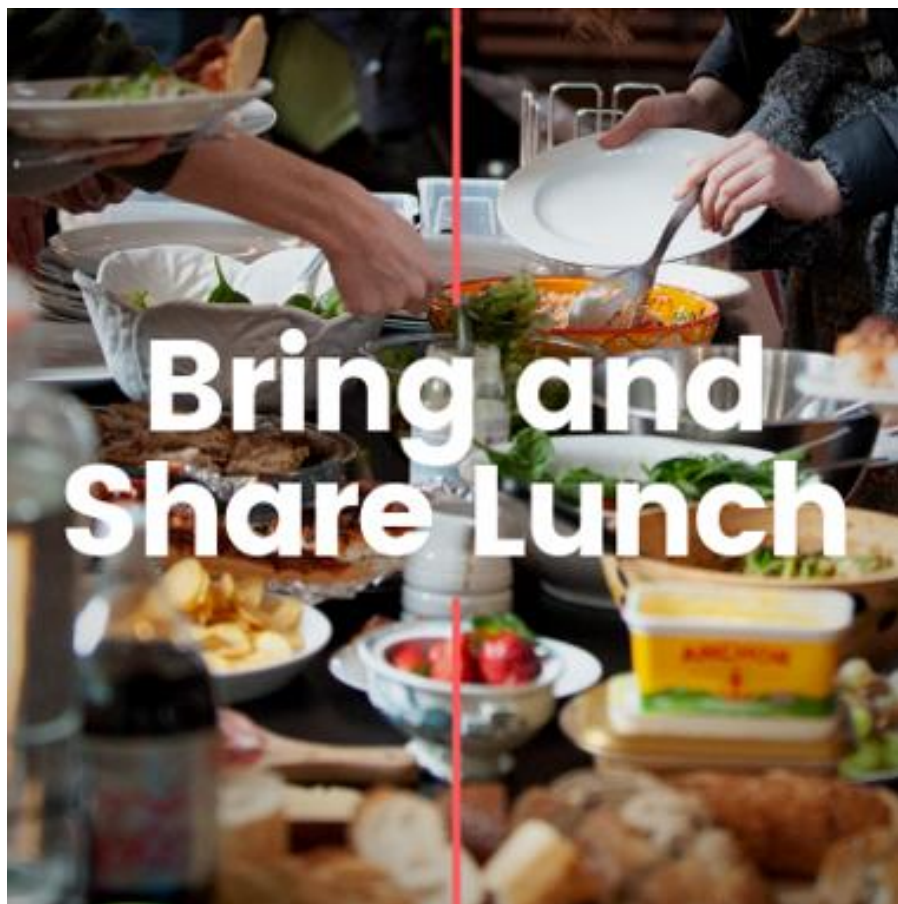


Tickets available now from
www.feverup.com

A Tribute to Bad Bunny



**Bring and Share Lunch for Epiphany Sunday 14th January 2024
after 10.30am Mass**



The First event in this year's All Saints Social Calendar.

***Please sign up on the list in the porch with your name
and the dish you will be bringing to share – just to avoid duplication
and we will all share the feast!***

Pay bar available – courtesy of the All Saints Society

Bring a friend or just come and share a delicious lunch with good company



GROWING FAITH. TOGETHER

Sat Jan 20, 2024 | 9:30am - 4pm
St Michael's Church Centre, Bristol, BS34 8PD

Come and be a part of this exciting event where we gather to strengthen our faith and grow together as a community.

Holy Habits • Sabbath rest • New resources • Building hope

Featuring Keynote speaker:
Christopher Jamison



Former Abbot of Worth Abbey; reluctant star of the BBC2 series, The Monastery; Director of Vocations for England and Wales from 2010-2017 will speak on spiritual patterns for every day life and lead a workshop on learning from Benedictine rhythms.

Don't miss our other events!

Everyday Faith
11.05.24

We're in this Together
13.07.24

Creating Pathways into Faith
14.09.24

For more information, visit eventbrite.co.uk




Would you like to try Church Flower arranging ?

I am sure you will agree that the Church Christmas Flower arrangements and our magnificently decorated tree this year are beautiful.

Many Thanks to the All Saints Flower Team for their vision and hard work.

The Flower Team are offering an opportunity to try your hand at church flower arranging on either the 19th of January at 2.00pm or the 2nd of February at 10.15am.

An interest in flowers and/or gardening and enthusiasm is all that is required and there will be plenty of support from the team.

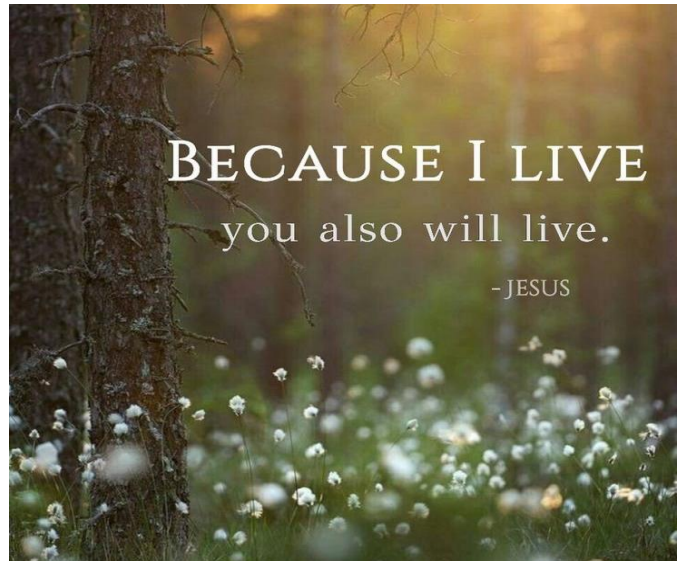
If you have always wanted to 'have a go' now is your chance !

Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



Those who we remember in our Prayers.

Sunday Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sue Hilliar Mary Greenacre Nadine Benn Lorna Osbon Elisabeth Morgan June Matthews Sathia Aruliah Ryan Lindsey

Monday

Tuesday.

Wednesday , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Diana Verity, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry Maureen Mumford George Lympelopoulos

Thursday

Friday Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza.

Saturday

The Departed

Joanne Wilkins Eileen Davies Len Hughes John Morley-Bunker (Pr))
Ruth Burrows O.M.C Erna Sacof Betty Shaw Richard Sleaford Irene Cameron

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Derek Jay Molly Micheal Cliff Hawkins Jack Ashford Elizabeth Ralph Anne Hurst
Donald Hawley Mervyn Stockwood (Bp)

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 8	Pray for Physicists and also Earth Scientists who study all aspects related to planet earth. May their work inform us so that we are better able to care for creation. (Today is Rotation of the Earth Day and we remember Leon Foucault and his pendulum)
Tue 9	Pray for all those who work in the broadcasting industry. Television and radio (and on-line streaming) are hugely important in bringing news and entertainment to all. Pray for those whose main connection with others is through TV and radio.
Wed 10	Mass 10.00am William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645 Pray for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. Laud, as well as being a supporter of more catholic practice, worked to generate uniformity on the Church. Pray for our divided Church and the challenging debates and decisions on human sexuality.
Thurs 11	Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915 Pray for all who work on behalf of Women's Rights. Even today equality, justice and safety are not guarded in law for women. Pray for Christians in Nigeria who experience some of the most violent persecution in the world.
Fri 12	Mass 10.00am Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167 Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689 Pray for the industrial areas of the NE – Teesside and Tyne and Wear. Areas that have seen huge change over the last decades and will continue to do so as global need for chemicals, oil, shipping, mining and steel change.
Sat 13	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367 Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603 George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691 Pray for brother and sister Christians who are 'Quakers'. Quakers are renowned for their active campaigning for economic justice, peace, sustainability and human rights – may the whole church become an increasingly active voice on these subjects.
Sunday 14	Epiphany 2 Celebrating the Greek Orthodox Epiphany The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God. Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below

Parochial Church Council of All Saints
Account No. 65256747
sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office
office@allsaintsclifton.org

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :
The Parish Safeguarding Officer - Stephen O'Keefe
stephen.c.okeefe@gmail.com and Caroline Davenport
c2davbristol@hotmail.com