

The Optional Memorial of St Edward the Confessor – Mon. 13th Oct. 2025:

St Edward the Confessor is the last Anglo-Saxon King of England, a humble servant of his people. The foundations of his life were prayer and practical kindness and so, the people quickly recognised him as a true confessor of the Christian faith. Through encouraging little acts of sacrifice from his people he was able, stone by stone, to build Westminster Abbey as an icon of heaven, the place where the Church Triumphant sings the praises of God. His death caused a power play between Harold and William Duke of Normandy, which culminated in the Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066.

The Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima – Mon. 13th Oct. 2025:

In the Portuguese town of Fatima, Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, beginning on 13th May 1917, lasting until 13th October of that same year. On 13th May, the children describe her appearance: *‘the Lady was more brilliant than the Sun’* and by 13th October, reports say that a crowd of somewhere between 30,000 to 100,000 witnessed *‘the Miracle of the Sun’*, its spinning and careening towards the earth, before zig-zagging back to its original position; others report seeing Our Lord, Our Lady and St Joseph. Others saw nothing.

Tuesday in 28th Week in Ordinary Time – 14th October 2025:

Since his conversion, St Paul’s *raison d’être* is the proclamation of the Gospel. But it is no easy task to preach the good news of salvation because the cross is at the centre of our announcement. To the overly rational, the idea of God giving his life for us is nonsense and to a rigid religious mindset, the notion is scandalous. For Christians, the proclamation is a triumph, and we lift high the cross, carrying it in procession for the world to see. By immersing ourselves into the cross at baptism and the sacraments, we allow God to transform us, by his grace, into images of his beloved Son.

The Memorial of St Theresa of Avila, Virgin & Doctor – Wed. 15th October 2025:

St Theresa of Avila advises, *‘let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, through all things pass, God does not change. Patience wins all things. But he lacks nothing who possesses God; for God alone suffices.’* She calls us to charitable mission: *‘Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now’.*

The opt memorial of St Margaret Mary Alacoque – Thurs. 16th Oct. 2025:

St Margaret Mary Alacoque received a private vision of Jesus, who invited her to rest her head upon his heart and then disclosed to her the wonders of his love, telling them to make them known to all humanity. As such, this special devotion to His Sacred Heart is promoted. As Margaret Mary says: *'Our Lord Jesus Christ desires that we should, for sanctifying ourselves, glorify his all-loving heart, for it was his heart that suffered the most in his sacred humanity'*. To those who devote themselves to his Sacred Heart, he promises them the *'great promise'* of his mercy! We pray God imprints his divine love into our hearts so that we may never be separated from Him.

The Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch – Friday 17th October 2025:

The Romans viewed Christians as subversive, considering them to be atheists because they refused to sacrifice to the Roman Gods. Many Christians were publicly executed in the arena as public entertainment. Rome was a delicate balance of Emperor, Upper Classes, the Mob and the Army. The emperor bribed the upper classes, tried to keep the Army busy, and provided the Mob with bread and entertainment. Circuses were popular with the Mob and the place of executions. Bishop Ignatius died in Rome around the year 110. Already an old man at his execution, there's a good chance he knew the apostles. As bishop he was arrested, because the Romans correctly recognised him as the figurehead of the community. They could have killed him locally but instead took him 1800 miles to Rome (very inefficient). He must, then, already have had an international profile. As he went, he wrote *'pastoral letters'* (which have survived) to the local churches that he passed.

St Luke, Evangelist and Secondary Apostle – Saturday 18th October 2025:

For people without a religious background beginning to delve into the bible and / or Christianity, the gospel of Luke is a good place to start as it is written to a gentile audience – people like us! Luke introduces them to Christ and his Mission. He has an accessible literary style: the hymns of the Benedictus, Nunc Dimittis and Magnificat form the basis of the Church at prayer, and the parables of the Good Samaritan, the Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son illustrate the moral life and the mercy and tenderness of God. Luke paints a portrait of Jesus as Lord but also as a servant of His Father, to be admired and imitated. He wonderfully illustrates the importance of piety and prayer, of love and compassion for the poor and the despised in Jesus' pastoral ministry.