

The Opt. memorial of St Henry – Monday 13th July 2026:

Duke Henry of Bavaria was elected the Holy Roman Emperor, receiving the Imperial Crown from Pope Benedict VIII in 1014. He was a great friend of the Church, watchful over its material welfare and encouraged ecclesiastical discipline through supporting the bishops. He was forced into war on several occasions, managing to drive out the Saracens and Greeks from his country. It was said that Henry had the humility and spirit of justice proper to a saint, and on one occasion cast himself at the feet of Herbert, Bishop of Cologne, and begged his pardon for having treated him with coldness, on account of a misunderstanding. Towards the end of his reign, he wished to abdicate and retire into a monastery, but yielded to the advice of the Abbot of Verdun and retained his dignity. He lived with his wife St. Cunegundes in perpetual chastity, respecting the vow they had made, until his holy death in 1024. He is the patron saint of the childless, of Dukes, of the handicapped and those rejected by Religious Order.

Year 6 Leavers Mass on Tuesday in 15th Week in Ordinary Time (14th July 2026):

The celebration of Mass has been a key feature of school life, the beginning and end of terms, setting all that we learn in the context of our spiritual formation – recognising that primary school is a step on our pilgrimage home to The Father's house. Over the past few years, they have explored and discovered many aspects of human life: its philosophy, its history, its anthropology and especially its theology – now as they step up to Secondary School, they will delve more deeply into the History of Salvation – learning more of who we are as God's people – where we have come from and where we are going. They are now going to get ready for the most important part of their teenage years – not their GCSEs (which are important and necessary) but do not define us as a person. They will be getting ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation when they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, for upon them the Lord has chosen and consecrated them as children of God, setting his seal upon them to consolidate their discipleship, as he sends them out to be witnesses to his love and compassion.

The Memorial of St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor – Wed. 15th July 2026:

Bonaventure was a great philosopher, seeing science as handmaids of theology for many of the truths presented by science require divine illumination to understand their meaning and purpose. Bonaventure had a profound respect for tradition, his teachings showing faithful adherence to the Gospel; his aim to promote harmony in the Church.

The Opt. memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Thursday 16th July 2026:

As we shoulder the yoke of the Lord in our discipleship, we look for those who can help us on our pilgrimage. On this day, we take our inspiration from the Holy Mother of God under the title of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* and the spiritual pledges she gives through the order of the Carmelites and the gift of the brown scapular as a promise of protection and also as a pledge of salvation. Holy Scripture celebrates the beauty of Mt. Carmel, where Elijah defended Israel's pure faith in the living God. In 12th century some hermits took up residence on this mountain and eventually set up the Carmelite order, which is dedicated to living a contemplative life under the patronage of Our Lady. In the UK, Our Lady appeared to Simon Stock, handing him the brown scapular which is worn by Carmelites who see Our Lady as the perfect model of our interior life.

Friday in 15th Week in Ordinary Time – 17th July 2026:

The Sacrament of the Sick is primarily given for the health of the soul, so that when the body is near death, we are turning to the Lord to ensure that despite our physical decline, our soul is fit and healthy, made ready for its final journey by which we pass-over from death into life. The Lord might, if it is in accord with his plan for the world, restore us physically and if he does so, it is because he still has work for us to do here on earth. For a young person (*one who is below the age of reason*), they do not receive the sacrament of the sick because it is part of the sacraments of penance. They have no need for their sins to be removed. Instead, we invite them to complete their sacraments of imitation so that they can be assured of the Lord's love, presence and comfort and always know how dear the innocent, are to him.

Saturday in 15th Week in Ordinary Time – 18th July 2026:

Micah denounces those who commit social injustice, those who take advantage over the poorer members of society. Micah gives a strong warning to those who spend their time coveting, robbing and cheating, the Lord sees them and will bring disaster upon them. As Christians, we must consider our interaction with society. It is not enough to come to Mass on a Sunday and then '*tick the box*' and think we have completed our religious obligations. We cannot compartmentalise our lives, so they do not intersect with other aspects of our life. No, our faith must influence our whole life so that the decisions we make in the workplace match our duties and obligations to those in need.