

Monday in 4th Week of Easter – 27th April 2026

The Apostles quickly recognise the Catholic (*or universal*) dimension to Jesus' mission. However, some Christians thought that circumcision, the mark of the old covenant was still necessary if they are to be rightly considered part of God's People! However, the apostles see baptism as a more profound circumcision, as rather than being an external mark, it is an indelible character on our soul. Jesus died for the salvation of the whole world and so, the apostles at Pentecost receive the gift of languages so that they may speak to every culture. They speak language of love, of truth, hope, goodness, and of service, but above all they preach Christ crucified and risen. Pray that we too may be faithful to the message of the gospel and with the help of the Holy Spirit, practice what we preach and be another Christ for the world.

Tuesday in 4th Week of Easter – 28th April 2026:

The city of Antioch is called '*the cradle of Christianity*', for it was the place where Christians fled after the persecutions in Jerusalem. Antioch was a significant city in the Roman empire, the third biggest after Rome and Alexandria. The Church in Antioch was founded by Peter and so, had a special concern for the Apostles. They send Barnabas to oversee its growth, and it becomes a springboard for his and Paul's missionary journeys. By calling themselves '*Christians*', the Antiochian Church teaches us that in the baptismal anointing, we become '*another Christ for the world*'. And their acclamation of Jesus as '*Lord*' means that these early Christians clearly understood that Jesus had dominion over all humanity and was not just the Messiah of one nation. Indeed, the bishops of Antioch were renowned for their theology and ecclesiastic politics. For example, Ignatius of Antioch expresses an early Catholicity, especially in regard to the Eucharist and the unity of the Church around its bishop.

The Feast of St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin & Doctor – Wed. 29th April 2026:

At any early age, Catherine reports a vision of Jesus flanked by Peter and Paul, affirming a desire to take a vow of virginity and to life of prayer life outside of the convent and in time, her father allows her to join a tertiary order of Dominicans. She was dedicated in helping the poor, earning her a group of followers, to whom she gave spiritual direction. Drawn, therefore, into the politics of the day, she became a strong advocate of clergy reform, and her holiness brought her to the attention of the Pope in Avignon. Catherine is credited in convincing him to bring the Papacy home to Rome.

Thursday in 4th Easter – 30th April 2026:

Paul enters the synagogue and lists the benefits of the Covenant and how all the Messianic prophecies are fulfilled in the person of Jesus who is the Christ. He will then go onto proclaiming the gospel, that which we call the kerygma, which emphasizes:

1. God's love for humanity and his desire for a relationship with each person.
2. Sin separates humanity from God and created a need for redemption.
3. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for our sins and rose from the dead, thereby conquering sin and death.
4. Our call to conversion – that all of us are called to repent and accept Jesus as our Saviour.
5. That we are to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit who will help us leads a new life in Christ.
6. We enter into this new life by entering Christ and His Church.

The Memorial of St Joseph, the Worker – Friday 1st May 2026:

This feast, originating in 1955, gives us a correct idea of labour as a balance between two competing ideologies – that of capitalism and communism. A Christian is not merely a '*Human Resource*' or a tool to maintain a profit margin. Employers must pay a real living wage, so people can provide for their families and employees should work hard, to deserve their fair wage. Humans have an innate dignity and are commissioned to go out, and bear fruit and our work is offered '*Ad majorem Dei gloriam - to the greater glory of God*'. People, though, should '*work to live*', not '*live to work*', but we do have a responsibility to use our gifts and talents for service of God and His Church.

The Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor – Saturday 2nd May 2026:

Athanasius is remembered for his conflict with Arius which led to the Council of Nicaea. Arius accepted that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, but was nonetheless a created being, denying the Son's eternal nature. Athanasius argues for Christ's true divinity, that He is '*consubstantial*' with the Father, sharing the same essence, majesty and glory as the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thanks to Athanasius and the Creed of Nicaea we proclaim that Our Lord Jesus Christ is '*God from God*' and that he exists eternally before the creation of time. He is the '*Alpha and the Omega*', all time belongs to him, as through him all things were made. Christ is also fully human as He enters human history as the person of Jesus of Nazareth, meaning he is fully God and fully human.