

The Memorial of St Justin Martyr – Monday 1st June 2026:

Justin (100 -165 AD) is an early Christian writer. After failing to find a philosophy to suit him, he found Christianity offered a relationship with a person – Jesus Christ. As St Peter shows us, his knowledge of God is not an intellectual exercise but comes from his familiarity with the Lord; he has spent time with him and cultivated a deep friendship – an understanding of divine grace, that allows him to see Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Justin was impressed by the asceticism of the Early Church, their piety and courage in persecution, all attesting to the superiority of their religion.

The opt. Mem of St Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs – Tues. 2nd June 2026:

Found included in EP I, the Roman Canon, are two 4th C. Martyrs. Very little is known about them, other than that they died during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian. The Roman Magistrate tried to execute them in an out of the way spot, to stop Christians from claiming the bodies, burying them and subsequently venerating them. Tradition says two women Lucilla and Firmina found the location of their bodies and had them re-buried in what is now called the Catacombs of Marcellinus and Peter.

Saint Charles Lwanga & Companions (Ugandan Martyrs) – Wed. 3rd June 2026:

The '*White Fathers*' had a mission in Uganda and after 6 years built up a community of Christian converts, who themselves quickly began instructing and leading new Christians, many who lived at the court of the Ugandan King. He was a violent ruler, a despicable man who forced himself on the young men and boys who served him as pages and attendants. The Christians tried to protect them. Joseph the leader of the Christian community, and the King's friend, demanded that he change his lifestyle. That friendship was forgotten as he was executed with a spear. Charles Lwanga took over the instruction and leadership of the Christians and tried to keep the young pages out of the King's hands. When the King found out he was very angry and killed a young page who had been kept from him, ordering the compound locked and arrested Charles Lwanga and his companions. Knowing what was to happen, Charles baptised four catechumens that night. The King gave them an opportunity to recant their Christianity. When they refused, they were all condemned to death. Soon, the '*White Fathers*' were expelled from the country but many of the converts kept the faith alive. Without their priests, liturgy and the sacraments, their faith, intelligence, courage, and wisdom kept the Church vibrant. What an inspiration they are to us in these times.

Thursday in 9th Week in Ordinary Time – 4th June 2026:

As we head to the Feast of '*Corpus Christi*' this Sunday may we see with our '*eyes of faith*', the beauty of the Eucharist, itself the living memorial and testimony of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection which rather than presented to us as an image of suffering, shows us the depth of divine love. Our worthy reception of the Eucharist clears the way for the infusion of God's grace which '*transfigure*' our souls for salvation. Our participation in the Sunday Eucharist each & every week is an act of our fidelity to Christ, who is always faithful. May we never choose to be elsewhere on a Sunday other than at the foot of the cross and thus never be far from the Kingdom of God!

The Memorial of St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr – Fri. 5th June 2026:

One might observe that Germany has often been the seedbed of Christian dissent, looking to Martin Luther and again today, some (not all) in the German Church who have adopted a vigorous approach or new Synodal Way, that might very well be considered, if not handled carefully, a new Protestantism that is at odds with the Apostolic Tradition of the Most Holy Catholic Church of God. This, then, brings us to our saint of the day, the life and example of St Boniface, an English Saint committed to a European ideal based around the Christian Faith. Born in 625AD in Wessex he went as a missionary to the Germanic Tribes and, as the '*Apostle to the Germans*' he is regarded as a unifier of Europe. He was martyred in 754AD as not all the Germanic tribes welcomed the gospel, preferring gold to the treasures of sacred scripture.

The optional memorial of St Norbert, Bishop – Saturday 6th June 2026:

St. Norbert (11th C.) from the Rhineland entered the ecclesiastical state without giving up the pleasures of the world and would never willingly choose a life of danger or discomfort. Thus, he accepted holy orders as a canon with all the benefices of that position. He was shaken to his conversion in a manner like St Paul. A thunderstorm, threw him from his horse, leaving him unconscious. When he awoke, his first words were, '*Lord, what do you want me to do?*' who replied, '*Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.*' Returning to the Rhineland, he devoted himself to prayer and penance, embracing his priesthood. Denounced as a hypocrite, he sold everything and gave the money to the poor. He became an itinerant preacher, and he slowly gained episcopal support for his measures of ecclesial reform, allowing him to form his community of the 'Norbertines', the Premonstratensians or '*White Canons*'.