

### **Monday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026:**

At Baptism, the Holy Spirit enters our soul, and by washing away original sin, makes his dwelling within it. By sanctifying our soul, the person is completely transfigured so they may claim to be a child a God. We must not allow baptism to be the last sacrament we receive, only being '*christened*' because it was the culturally acceptable thing to do or because we were after a school place. Baptism is the gateway sacrament to the Christian Life which itself is a preparation for our eternal life with God and our place in the Communion of Saints. And so, the Holy Spirit will come to us again in the Sacrament of Confirmation and in doing so, make us fit for mission. Confirmation makes our baptism stronger, able to withstand all that life throws at us, both physically and spiritually. Now sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are called to give witness to the truth of the gospel, acting in such a way that people will see in us the beauty of holiness and will want to join us in the Church, living and experiencing the Easter peace and reconciliation that was introduced to the Church on Easter Sunday.

### **The Opt. Mem. of St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026:**

St Dunstan was a talented musician, illuminator of manuscripts and a metalworker; and so, is patron of gold & silversmiths. Archbishop Dunstan ensured that parish priests were qualified for their office and urged them to teach their parishioners the truth of the Christian faith. In the secular arena, he designed the coronation ceremony, making it resemble a priestly ordination, emphasizing the sacred bond between Church and Monarch. Dunstan's influence ensured there was good order throughout the realm and there was respect for the law, one based on the Commandments and Christian morality and there was a level of peace in the kingdom unknown in living memory. Indeed, Dunstan improved the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, built and restored Churches, judged lawsuits, defended widows and orphans, and enforced a respect for purity. After his death, he was publicly acclaimed as a saint, and the Synod of Winchester ordered his feast be kept with solemnity throughout England.

### **The Opt. Mem of St Bernadine of Siena – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026:**

Bernardine came to Siena to help people suffering with the plague and encouraged others to come and help in their care. For four months Bernardine and his companions worked day and night not only to comfort the patients but to organize and clean the hospital. Only at the end of the plague did Bernardine himself fall ill -- of exhaustion.

### **Thursday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026:**

The Church was catholic already at Pentecost: it was born catholic out of the wounded heart of Jesus, at its catholicity (its universality) was set ablaze by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles who are sent out to announce the gospel to the world. They are charged in making known the reconciliation of the cross, and to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom. We call the Church '*catholic*' not only because it is spread throughout the world but because it teaches in a universal way and without defect the dogmas by which humanity comes to know the relationship between heaven and earth. It is catholic because it draws all people to worship God in spirit and in truth and by dispensing grace, heals sin, humanity's rupture from God.

### **Friday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026:**

A secular mindset thinks faith is far-fetched and should be excluded from the affairs of governments and good civil order. And even if that were true, good natural order and justice demands that the Truth must be at the forefront of our laws and governance – but unfortunately, history shows us that the truth is often manipulated to support one's position, especially if the government is committed to doing that which is popular over that what is right and just. The more the world changes, the more things stay the same. At times, due to the jealousy and envy of others, Christians are called to martyrdom – sometimes one of the blood or a white martyrdom, a cancel culture trying to exclude Christians from contributing in philosophy, politics, science and education, even though we bring value and discipline to these areas of humanity's endeavours.

#### **1. Saturday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

There is never a better time than 'now' to announce the Gospel. And while it seems difficult to be a Christian in our time, the gospel has been proclaimed in many hostile regions (e.g. the Roman Empire). Our faith flourishes when people display a radical discipleship; loving the way Christ loves; where Christians stand up to reject abuse, discrimination and all kinds of slavery or oppression to the dignity of the human person.

#### **2. The Vigil of Pentecost – 5pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026:**

On the eve of Pentecost, following the example of the Apostles, who with Our Lady, preserved in prayer awaiting the descent of the promised Holy Spirit, we gather to hear God's Word, praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost so that we may co-operate in the mission to bring perfection to God's work in the world.