



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

DECREE

On the Observance of Holy Days of Obligation in the Dioceses of England and Wales

Since 1971, the Holy Days of Obligation which in England and Wales have been kept on the dates prescribed in the General Roman Calendar are Sunday, the Nativity of the Lord, the Epiphany of the Lord, the Ascension of the Lord, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles and All Saints.

In 1984, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales decreed that when the Solemnities of the Epiphany of the Lord, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles and All Saints fall on a Saturday or Monday, the solemnity is to be observed and the precept discharged in England and Wales on the Sunday.

In 2006, the Bishops' Conference decreed that the Solemnities of the Epiphany of the Lord, the Ascension of the Lord and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) be transferred to Sunday in accord with the Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar 7.

Having considered further the significance and observance of Holy Days of Obligation, in accordance with canon 1246, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales hereby decrees that the calendar for the Dioceses of England and Wales be modified as follows:

1. The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is to be observed on the date prescribed in the General Roman Calendar (6 January) except when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday when the solemnity is to be observed and the precept discharged in England and Wales on the Sunday.
2. The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is to be observed on Thursday, 6th week of Easter Time.

The observance of the Solemnities of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints is maintained as decreed in 1984. The observance of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) is maintained as decreed in 2006.

The decision, reached during the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales held at Leeds on 17 November 2016, was submitted to the Apostolic See in accordance with the requirements of canon 1246§2.

Having received approval from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 180/17), this decree comes into effect in the Dioceses of England and Wales on 3 December 2017, the First Sunday of Advent.

Given at Westminster on 1 September 2017.

+ Vincent Card. Nichols

Vincent Cardinal Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster
President



Christopher Thomas

Rev. Christopher Thomas
General Secretary