

APRIL 2025 English

Calendar and Feasts

CALENDAR

- 1 April – St. Ceallach (Celsus)
- 2 April – St. Francis of Paola - Hermit
- 4 April – St. Isidore – Bishop of Seville
- 5 April – St. Vincent Ferrer
- **6 April - Fifth Sunday of Lent**
- 7 April – St. John Baptist de la Salle
- 11 April – St. Stanislaus - Bishop
- **13 April – Palm Sunday of the Lords's Passion**
- **14 April – Monday in Holy Week**
- **15 April – Tuesday in Holy Week**
- **16 April – Wednesday in Holy Week**
- **17 April - Holy Thursday Chrism Mass**
- **17 April - Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**
- **18 April – Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
- **19 April – Holy Saturday – The Easter Vigil**
- 20 April- Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection
- 21 April – Easter Monday – St. Anselm – Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 22 April – Easter Tuesday – St. George and St. Adalbert of Prague
- 24 April- Easter Thursday – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- 25 April - Easter Friday – St. Mark – Evangelist
- 26 April – Easter Saturday –
- 27 April – Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday
- 28 April – St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort
- 29 April – St Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe
- 30 April – St. Pius V

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



The logo shows **four stylized figures**, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity, which should unite all peoples.

The figure at the front is holding onto the **cross**. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of **hope**, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope.

That is why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of **an anchor which is let down into the waves**. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon, the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms.

It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross.

The **cross** in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.



‘CELEBRATING 5 in 2025!’

This Jubilee Year of Hope, the Dublin Diocese will celebrate the lives of five special people. Two of these people, St Oliver Plunkett and St Laurence O’ Toole are saints in the Church and God’s people celebrate their feast days annually.

This year, the Diocese will celebrate the particular anniversary of each one throughout 2025. In addition, Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonised a saint in April 2025. In addition, The Pope announced Sister Clare Crockett on the first stage of her beatification from Derry, as Sister Clare Crockett, Servant of God in 2024.

From now, March 2025 until the closing of the Jubilee Year in 2026, the Church will celebrate the lives of these people. Through the resources, the Education Secretariat will provide through the year, principals and teachers will invite the children to learn about the lives of these people and we invite you to help and encourage them to pray through their intercession.

It is important that we remember and children learn what sainthood is about. How does one become a saint? A saint is an extraordinary person that lived an extraordinary life of love.

In the time ahead, we will explore how the saints loved God and their neighbour in an extraordinary way. In their humanity, we notice that every saint has a past and sinners have a future.



Sister Clare Crockett, Servant of God (1982-2016)



Carlo Acutis (1991 – 2006)



Venerable Matt Talbot 1856-1925



Saint Laurence O'Toole (1128-1180) – Archbishop of Dublin



Saint Oliver Plunkett (1625 – 1681) – Archbishop of Armagh

Saints celebrated in April 2025

Saint Ceallach (Celsus) 1080-1129 – 1 April



Saint Ceallach was born in 1080. He became abbot of Armagh in 1105 and was ordained priest. He was influenced by the reform then in progress in Munster. He presided at the Synod of Rathbreasail in 1111. In 1129, on a visitation of Munster, he died and is buried in Lismore in accordance with his own request.

Saint Francis of Paola 1416 - 1507 – 2 April - Hermit



St. Francis was born in the town of Paola in southern Italy. He was devoted to St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment. He lived simply and humbly. He was educated by the Franciscans at San Marco and went to live as a hermit in a cave at age 15. Five years later two companions joined him. This is the date believed to be the origin a community of men known as the Minim Friars. Later, Charles V111, King Louis' son had monasteries built in France and Rome for the Minims. Francis died on Good Friday in 1507.

We pray,

'Lord, you give wisdom to the simple and make the merest child wise. Give me the reward you promise to the humble.'

Saint Isidore 560 – 636, religious – 4 April -bishop and doctor



Saint Isidore was born at Cartegena. He was educated by Leander and about 600, succeeded him as Bishop of Seville.

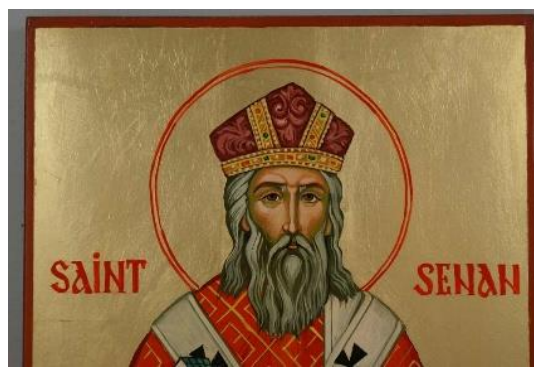
Isidore is considered one of the great figures of Spanish history. He wrote an encyclopaedia, dictionaries, works of astronomy, geography, history and theology. He reorganised the Spanish Church and created an advanced educational system that made Spain a centre of culture in Europe.

As Bishop he governed the Church wisely and enlisted the support of his people. His house was always crowded with the poor seeking his generous help. One of his last acts before his death was to give the poor all he possessed. Isidore died and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1722.

We pray,

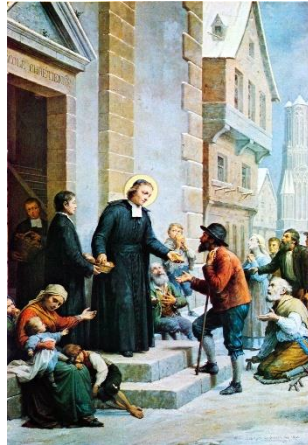
'Lord, every tree is known for its fruits. Let me give from my heart the good things you have given me.'

Saint Senan – 4 April- Irish Saint



Saint Senan was born near Kilrush, Co. Clare. His family were wealthy farmers. He was first educated at Kilnamanagh Abbey. His main monastic foundation was on Scattery Island, near Kilrush. He was a close friend of Ciarán of Clonmacnoise and Brendan. He died about the year 844.

Saint John the Baptist de la Salle – 1651 -1719 priest – 7 April



St. John Baptist de la Salle devoted his life to the care and education of poor children and to the training of teachers. He formed his companions into the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He is patron of teachers.

We pray,

'Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples to welcome little children. Bless our youth and bring them closer to you'.

Saint Stanislaus 1030 – 1097 – Bishop of Poland and Martyr 11 April 2025

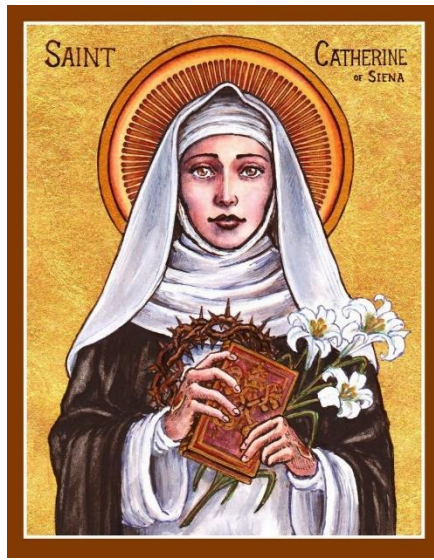


St. Stanislaus became Bishop of Krakow, in Poland in 1072. His outspoken condemnation of corruption resulted in his murder in 1097.

We pray,

'Lord, keep us strong and loyal to our faith, and protect those who proclaim your word.'

Saint Catherine of Siena 1347 – 1380 - 29 April – virgin



St Catherine was born in Siena Italy to a wealthy business family. Giacomo Benincasa and his wife Lapa. At six years of age, she had a remarkable vision of Jesus. From that time, Catherine wished to give herself to prayer and the service of God.

Catherine wished to become a Dominican Tertiary at age sixteen. She lived at home while following the rule recommended for those seeking God.

She brought peace to her native Siena, to Italy, and to fourteenth century Europe. She spent all her energies on the Church, being able to achieve the Pope's return from Avignon to Rome.

She is remembered also as a mystic and reformer of religious life. She was proclaimed doctor of the Church in 1970 and patron of Europe in 2000.

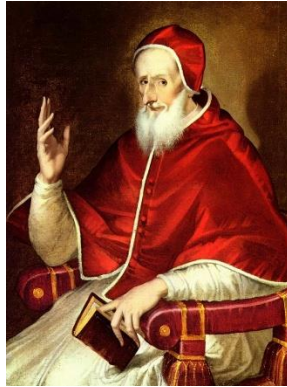
She began to nurse the sick in the Siena hospitals. In a vision, Jesus told her, 'I desire to come closer to you through the love you have for your neighbour.'

She died in Rome at the age of 33 years of age.

We pray.

'Eternal God, You are my Creator, and I am the work of your hands. In the blood of your Son, you have created me anew; Remade by him, I am your Beloved. Eternal God, limitless and deeper than the sea, what more can you give me than yourself? An ever-burning fire, you are never consumed. In your heat, you burn away my soul's self-love.'

Saint Pius V 1504 -1572 – 30 April – Pope



Saint Pius V was born at Bosco, Italy. He was a Dominican priest, elected Pope in 1565. He implemented the reforms of the Council of Trent, including the Breviary, Missal and Catechism. He is noted for his defence of Christendom against the Ottoman Empire.

We pray,

'Lord, give us dedication to truth and strength to stand firm for what is right.'

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR A NEW SAINT IN THE CHURCH. HIS NAME IS BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS AWAITING CANONISATION.

Facts about Carlo Acutis



Blessed Carlo Acutis 1991 – 2006

Pope Francis has recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager who died in 2006, paving the way for him to be canonised by the Catholic Church. A gamer and computer programmer who loved the Eucharist, he will be the Church's first millennial saint.

- Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London, where his father was working. Just a few months later, he moved with his parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, to Milan, Italy.
- Carlo was diagnosed with leukaemia as a teenager. Before his death in 2006, he offered his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church, saying: "I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the Pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven."
- From a young age, Carlo had a special love for God, even though his parents weren't especially devout. Antonia Salzano, his mom, said that before Carlo, she went to Mass only for her first Communion, her confirmation, and her wedding. But as a young child, Carlo loved to pray the rosary. After he made his first Communion, he went to Mass as often as possible at the parish across from his elementary school. Carlo's love for the Eucharist also inspired a deep conversion for his mother. According to the postulator promoting his cause for sainthood, he "managed to drag his relatives, his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily." Salzano spoke to "EWTN News Nightly" in October 2023 about her son's devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She said: "He used to say, 'There are queues in front of a concert, in front of a football match, but I don't see these queues in front of the Blessed Sacrament' ... So, for him the Eucharist was the centre of his life."

- Carlo's witness of faith as a child led adults to convert and be baptized. Rajesh Mohur, who worked for the Acutis family as an au pair when Carlo was young, converted from Hinduism to Catholicism because of Carlo's witness. Carlo taught Mohur how to pray the rosary and told him about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Mohur said that one of the things that most impressed him as a non-Christian was the witness of Carlo's love and concern for the poor — how he interacted with the homeless man who would sit at the entrance of the church and would bring tupperware dishes filled with food out to people living on the streets.
- Carlo wasn't afraid to defend Church teaching, even in situations when his classmates disagreed with him. Many of Carlo's high school classmates remember Carlo giving a passionate defense for the protection of life from the moment of conception when there was a classroom discussion about abortion.
- Carlo was a faithful friend. He was known for standing up for kids at school who got bullied, especially kids with disabilities. When a friend's parents were getting a divorce, Carlo made a special effort to include his friend in the Acutis' family life. With his friends, he spoke about the importance of going to Mass and confession, human dignity, and chastity.
- Carlo was fascinated with computer coding and taught himself some of the basic coding languages, including C and C++. He used his computer skills and internet savvy to help his family put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that has gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents. His spiritual director has attested that Carlo was personally convinced that the scientific evidence from Eucharistic miracles would help people to realize that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist and come back to Mass.
- Carlo loved playing video games. His mother recalls that he liked Nintendo Game Boy and GameCube as well as PlayStation and Xbox. He had conversations with his gaming buddies about the importance of going to Mass and confession and limited his video game playing to no more than two hours per week. Carlo also liked Spider-Man and Pokémon.
- Carlo died on Oct. 12, 2006, and was buried in Assisi. Initially, there were reports that Carlo's body was found to be incorrupt, but the bishop of Assisi clarified before his beatification that his body was not incorrupt. His body lies in repose in a glass tomb in Assisi where he can be seen in jeans and a pair of Nike sneakers. Thousands came to pray at his tomb at the time of his beatification in October 2020.