



ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW

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Dear Monsignor, Canon, Father
Dear Rev Deacon,

12th October 2018

Holy Days of Obligation

As you may already know, the Holy See has recently approved a new arrangement for Holy Days of Obligation in Scotland.

Our former arrangement did sometimes cause confusion. It is hoped that the element of confusion has been diminished in the new arrangement.

A guiding intention of the new arrangement has been to ensure that the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the feast of All Saints are always of obligation.

The holy days of obligation in Scotland are as follows:

- Sundays
- The Nativity of the Lord (25 December)
- The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday of Week 6 of Easter)
- Saint Peter and Saint Paul (29 June)
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August)
- All Saints (1 November)

Please remind your parishioners that Sunday is also a Holy Day of Obligation!

The Ascension of the Lord remains on the Thursday of Week 6 of Easter.

St Peter and St Paul, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be moved to Sunday when falling on a Saturday or Monday.

All Saints will be moved to the Sunday when falling on a Saturday. When it falls on a Monday, however, it will remain on that day and be a Holy Day of Obligation. The reason for this more singular arrangement is the desirability of keeping All Saints and All Souls on consecutive days.

Further Explanatory Notes are attached/enclosed, as is also a Table of Moveable Holy Days until 2032.

I pray this new arrangement for Holy Days of Obligation, which will come into effect on 2nd December 2018, the First Sunday of Advent, will be spiritually and pastorally helpful.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠Philip Tartaglia
Archbishop of Glasgow



DECREE

On the Observance of Holy Days of Obligation in the Dioceses of Scotland

Since 1986, the holy days of obligation which in Scotland have been kept on the dates prescribed in the Roman Calendar are Sunday, the Nativity of the Lord, the Ascension of the Lord, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Peter and Saint Paul and All Saints.

Having considered further the significance and observance of holy days of obligation, in accordance with canon 1246, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland hereby decrees that the calendar for the Dioceses of Scotland be modified as follows:

1. The Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul is to be observed on the date prescribed in the General Roman Calendar (29 June) except when it falls on a Saturday or on a Monday when the solemnity is to be observed and the precept discharged in Scotland on the Sunday.
2. The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is to be observed on the date prescribed in the General Roman Calendar (15 August) except when it falls on a Saturday or on a Monday when the solemnity is to be observed and the precept discharged in Scotland on the Sunday.
3. The Solemnity of the All Saints is to be observed on the date prescribed in the General Roman Calendar (1 November) except when it falls on a Saturday when the solemnity is to be observed and the precept discharged in Scotland on the Sunday; the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) is then to be observed on 3 November. When All Saints falls on a Monday it is observed on that day with the precept to attend Mass.

The observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord remains unchanged.

This decision, reached during the Plenary Meeting of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland held at Salamanca on 23 January 2017, was submitted to the Apostolic See in accordance with the requirements of canon 1246 §2.

Having received confirmation from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 142/17), this decree comes into effect in the Dioceses of Scotland on 2 December 2018, the First Sunday of Advent.

Given at Glasgow on 14 September 2018, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

+ Philip Tartaglia
Archbishop of Glasgow
President

+ Hugh Gilbert, OSB
Bishop of Aberdeen
Episcopal Secretary

Scottish National Liturgy Commission

President: The Right Reverend Hugh Gilbert OSB, Bishop of Aberdeen

On the Observance of Holy Days of Obligation in Scotland

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE DECREE OF 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. Jesus rose from the dead on the 'first day of the week' and for Christians it has become the first of all days. Sunday, then, is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church. The celebration of other holy days as days of obligation presents important mysteries of Christ and his Church to the faithful.

In Scotland, the present observance of the celebration of holy days, and the obligation or not to attend Mass on them, has been in place since 1986. When certain feasts fell on Saturday or on Monday they were not days of obligation and, as a result, were celebrated by only a few of the faithful. The Bishops of Scotland have considered further the significance and observance of holy days of obligation, and have made the pastoral decision to clarify the obligation in years when such feasts fall on Saturday or on Monday.

With effect from the First Sunday of Advent 2018, a revised observance of the obligation to attend Mass on holy days will be in use. This decision of the Bishops of Scotland has been confirmed by the Holy See. Consequently, the holy days of obligation in Scotland are:

- Sunday
- The Nativity of the Lord (25 December)
- The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday Week 6 of Easter)
- Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles (29 June)*
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August)*
- All Saints (1 November)**

* When the Solemnities of Saint Peter and Saint Paul and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary fall on Saturday or on Monday they will be transferred to the adjacent Sunday. It is intended, in such years, that a greater number of the faithful will be gathered on a Sunday to celebrate these important feasts.

** When the Solemnity of All Saints falls on Saturday it will be transferred to the adjacent Sunday, when it falls on Monday it is kept on that day with obligation. This is to ensure that All Saints is celebrated every year as a holy day of obligation and that All Saints and All Souls are always celebrated on adjacent days. In years when All Saints is transferred to Sunday 2 November, All Souls will be transferred to Monday 3 November.

These arrangements avoid Saturday holy days of obligation which could cause confusion alongside the Sunday celebration of Masses. They also ensure that the feasts of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints are always of obligation. The faithful will be annually reminded of the significance of the Apostles, the Mother of God and the Communion of Saints in the economy of salvation. This will serve to highlight defining elements of Catholic ecclesiology, Mariology and eschatology.

Table of Moveable Holy Days of Obligation 2019-2032

	Ascension	Ss Peter & Paul	Assumption	All Saints
2019	Thu 30 May	Sun 30 Jun	Thu 15 Aug	Fri 1 Nov
2020	Thu 21 May	Sun 28 Jun	Sun 16 Aug	Sun 1 Nov
2021	Thu 13 May	Tue 29 Jun	Sun 15 Aug	Mon 1 Nov
2022	Thu 26 May	Wed 29 Jun	Sun 14 Aug	Tue 1 Nov
2023	Thu 18 May	Thu 29 Jun	Tue 15 Aug	Wed 1 Nov
2024	Thu 9 May	Sun 30 Jun	Thu 15 Aug	Fri 1 Nov
2025	Thu 29 May	Sun 29 Jun	Fri 15 Aug	Sun 2 Nov
2026	Thu 14 May	Sun 28 Jun	Sun 16 Aug	Sun 1 Nov
2027	Thu 6 May	Tue 29 Jun	Sun 15 Aug	Mon 1 Nov
2028	Thu 25 May	Thu 29 Jun	Tue 15 Aug	Wed 1 Nov
2029	Thu 10 May	Fri 29 Jun	Wed 15 Aug	Thu 1 Nov
2030	Thu 30 May	Sun 30 Jun	Thu 15 Aug	Fri 1 Nov
2031	Thu 22 May	Sun 29 Jun	Fri 15 Aug	Sun 2 Nov
2032	Thu 6 May	Tue 29 Jun	Sun 15 Aug	Mon 1 Nov

The Obligation to Participate in the Mass

The Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who intentionally fail in this obligation commit a serious sin.

Just as God 'rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done,' human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord's Day and the celebration of other important feasts help everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives.

It is hoped that this revised observance will enrich the faithfulness of Christ's members to him and his Church, and that they will strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Right Reverend Hugh Gilbert, OSB,
President, Scottish National Liturgy Commission