**28 June**

**Irenæus**

**Bishop of Lyons,**

**Teacher of the Faith**

God of Peace, who through the ministry of

your servant Irenæus, strengthened the true

faith and brought harmony to your Church:

keep us steadfast in your true religion, and

renew us in faith and love, that we may always

walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through

Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and

reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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Church of England

**28 June**

**Irenæus**

**Bishop of Lyons,**

**Teacher of the Faith**

Irenæus was probably a native of Smyrna, born in about the year 130. As a boy, he had heard Polycarp preach, who had in turn been a disciple of the apostle John. Irenæus is thus one of the important connections between the apostolic Church and the second century. He studied at Rome, and became a priest at Lyons in Gaul, succeeding as Bishop upon the martyrdom of his predecessor in 177. He contended against the mythological, unhistorical beliefs of the Gnostics, giving positive value to the full humanity of the incarnate Christ, and affirmed the public teaching rȏle of the episcopate to combat false doctrine. He is honoured as the first great Catholic theologian, one who drew upon the emerging traditions of East and West. Irenæus died in about the year 200.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**29 June**

**Peter and Paul**

**Apostles**

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter

and Paul glorified you in their death as in their

life: grant that your Church, inspired by their

teaching and example, and made one by your

Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one

foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

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Church of England

**29 June**

**Peter and Paul**

**Apostles**

Peter has often been called the ‘Prince of the Apostles’ because of the words of Jesus re-naming him from Simon to Cephas. This was the Aramaic form of the Greek word Peter, which means ‘rock’. Jesus said that on this rock he would build his Church. But both Peter and Paul came to be seen as having different rȏles to play within the leadership of the Church: Peter in witnessing to the lordship of Christ and Paul in developing an understanding of its meaning for Christ’s followers. Peter and Paul have been remembered jointly on this day since the very early days of the Church, it being regarded as the anniversary of their martyrdom in Rome in about the year 64.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*