

30 January

Charles, King and Martyr 1649

King of kings and Lord of lords, whose faithful servant Charles prayed for those who persecuted him and died in the living hope of your eternal kingdom: grant us by your grace so to follow his example that we may love and bless our enemies, through the intercession of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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30 January

Charles King and Martyr

Born in 1600, the second son of James, the First of England and Sixth of Scotland, Charles became heir apparent when he was twelve years old on the death of his elder brother. He succeeded to the throne in 1625, where he came up against the increasing power of an antagonistic Parliament. Combined with the religious puritanism which was prevalent, this made Charles staunch in his resistance to the power of either force in the land. He frequently dismissed sittings of Parliament and tried to enforce high-church Anglican practice on all, throughout both kingdoms of England and Scotland. Opposition resulted in civil war. After Charles's imprisonment and trial, he was put to death on this day in 1649. A faithful member of the Church of England, catholic and reformed, he suffered and died for his beliefs.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Candlemas

Simeon held the child in his arms, and beheld his salvation; Anna gave thanks to God and proclaimed her redeemer.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

3 February

**Anskar,
Archbishop of Hamburg,
Missionary in Denmark
and Sweden, 865**

God of grace and might, who sent your servant Anskar to spread the gospel to the Nordic peoples: raise up we pray, in our generation, messengers of your good news and heralds of your kingdom that the world may come to know the immeasurable riches of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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3 February

**Anskar
Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary
in Denmark and Sweden.**

A native of Picardy, Anskar was a monk of Corbie near Amiens who, after the conversion of the King of Denmark to Christianity, went to Schleswig and attempted to start a Christian school there. He was expelled by the locals but went on to Sweden, where he is reputed to have built the first Christian church. In 832 he was consecrated Archbishop of Hamburg and sixteen years later became Archbishop of Bremen. He returned to Denmark to convert the King of Jutland. He preached widely throughout Scandinavia and was much-loved for his work with the poor and in mitigating the slave trade. He is the Patron Saint of Denmark and was popularly known as 'The Apostle of the North'. He died in the year 865.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'