**Pentecost**

Whit Sunday

God, who as at this time taught the hearts

of your faithful people by sending to them

the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the

same Spirit to have a right judgement in all

things and evermore to rejoice in his holy

comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus

our Saviour.

Amen.

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**8 June**

**Thomas Ken**

**Bishop of Bath and Wells,**

**Nonjuror, hymn writer 1711**

O God, from whom all blessings flow, by whose providence we are kept and by whose grace we are directed: help us, through the example of your servant Thomas Ken, faithfully to keep your word, humbly to accept adversity and steadfastly to worship you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**8 June**

**Thomas Ken**

**Bishop of Bath and Wells, Nonjuror,**

**hymn writer**

Thomas Ken was born at Berkhampstead in 1637 and educated at New College, Oxford. He was ordained priest in 1662 and worked first in a poor parish in the diocese of Winchester and then at Winchester College for ten years. He served as Chaplain to King Charles II for two years and was then consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells. After the King’s death and the accession of the Roman Catholic James II, the new King proposed to rescind the Restoration penal laws, but Thomas and six of his fellow Bishops refused to comply with this and were imprisoned on this day in 1688. But such was the integrity of Thomas that, when the King abandoned his throne and fled, and the King’s Protestant daughter Mary was offered the throne, together with her husband William of Orange, Thomas felt unable in good conscience to forswear his living, anointed Monarch. He was deprived of his See, along with many other nonjurors, as they became known, and for a time there was schism in the Anglican fold. But Thomas spent his final twenty years in quiet retirement, anxious not to make trouble, and renounced his rights to his bishopric. He wrote many hymns, still much used, and died on 19 March 1711.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**9 June**

**Columba**

**Abbot of Iona,**

**Missionary, 597**

Almighty God, who filled the heart of

Columba with the joy of the Holy Spirit

and with deep love for those in his care:

may your pilgrim people follow him,

strong in faith, sustained by hope, and

one in the love that binds us to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**9 June**

**Columba (Columcille)**

**Abbot of Iona, Missionary**

Born a son of the royal house of Ulster at Kilcrennan in Donegal in about the year 521, Colum, whose name means ‘dove’, had such a devotion to the things of God as a child that he was nicknamed ‘Columcille’ – dove of the Church. Columba was trained as a monk by Finnian and then founded several monasteries himself, including probably that of Kells, before leaving Ireland to settle on Iona, off the coast of Scotland. He was accompanied by twelve companions and the number grew as the monastic life became more established and well-known. Columba seems to have been an austere and, at times, a harsh man who reputedly mellowed with age. He was concerned with building up both the monastery and its life and of enabling them to be instruments of mission in a heathen land. He converted Kings and built churches, Iona becoming a starting point for the expansion of Christianity throughout Scotland. In the last four years of his life, when his health had failed, he spent the time transcribing books of the gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on this day in the year 597.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**11 June**

**Barnabas, Apostle**

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts, who poured

your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas and

gave him grace to encourage others: help us,

by his example, to be generous in our judgements

and unselfish in our service; through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.

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**11 June**

**Barnabas**

**Apostle**

Though not named among the twelve apostles or the evangelists, Barnabas emerges in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant of their number. He sold his estate and gave the proceeds to the Church, since all things were to be held in common, and clearly became a leader. He is described as a Levite from Cyprus so, like his friend Paul, was from the Greek world rather than that of Palestine, and he introduced Paul to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem. He was sent to Antioch apparently to guide the Christians there in their relations with non-Jewish converts, promoting the concept of all being one in Christ. He broke with Paul to go to Cyprus and tradition has it that he was martyred there in the year 61.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*