**4 May**

**English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era**

Merciful God, who, when your Church on earth

was torn apart by the ravages of sin, raised up

men and women in this land who witnessed to

their faith with courage and constancy: give to

your Church that peace which is your will, and

grant that those who have been divided on earth

may be reconciled in heaven and share together

in the vision of your glory, through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.

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 Church of England

**4 May**

**English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era**

This day is set aside to remember all who witnessed to their Christian faith during the conflicts in church and state, which lasted from

the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries but

were at their most intense in the sixteenth century. Though the reform movement was aimed chiefly

at the papacy, many Christian men and women

of holiness suffered for their allegiance to what they believed to be the truth of the gospel. As the movement grew in strength, it suffered its own internecine struggles, with one group determined that they were the keepers of truth and that all others were therefore at best in a state of ignorance and at worst heretical. In the twentieth century, ecumenical links drew the churches closer to each other in faith and worship and all now recognise both the good and evil that evolved from the Reformation Era.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**8 May**

**Julian of Norwich**

***Spiritual Writer* c.1417**

Most holy God, the ground of our beseeching, who through your servant Julian revealed the wonders of your love: grant that as we are

created in your nature and restored by your

grace, our wills may be so made one with

yours that we may come to see you face to

face and gaze on you for ever; through Jesus

Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 Church of England

**8 May**

**Julian of Norwich**

**Spiritual Writer**

On this day in the year 1373, when she was thirty years old and suffering from what was considered to be a terminal illness, a woman of Norwich, whose own name is unrecorded, experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God. Following her recovery, she spent the next twenty years of her life pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, *The Revelations of Divine Love.* At an unknown point in her life, she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich, and it was by this name of Julian that she came to be known to later generations. She died around the year 1417.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*