

JANUARY.

1. *Feast of the Circumcision*: In memory of the Circumcision of Our Lord, New Year's Day.

6. *Epiphany*: Manifestation of Our Lord to the Gentiles, Old Christmas Day, Twelfth Day, the children's great feast day, and conclusion of Christmas holidays.

Plough Monday—First Monday after Epiphany, still observed in many parts of England.

13. *St. Hilary*: Bishop of Poitiers, persecuted by the Arians, A.D. 368.

18. *St. Prisca*: Virgin and Martyr, aged 12 years.

20. *St. Fabian*: Bishop of Rome and Martyr, A.D. 250. The Eve of St. Agnes, on which maidens dream of their future husbands.

21. *St. Agnes*: Virgin and Martyr, A.D. 34.

22. *St. Vincent*: Martyr, A.D. 314, suffered excruciating torments. Farmers must now look to the state of the weather.

25. *Conversion of St. Paul*: It was an old saying that the weather on this day foreboded the prosperity or reverses of the coming year.

30. *King Charles the Martyr*: Anniversary of the execution of King Charles the First.

FEBRUARY.

2. *Purification*: the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple.

3. *St. Blaise*: Bishop and Martyr, A. D. 316. His flesh was torn off by combs, like those used by wool combers, whence he became the patron saint of cloth makers, &c.

5. *St. Agatha*: Martyr, A.D. 255. The flesh was nipped off with pincers, and lighted torches applied.

14. *St. Valentine Day*: St. Valentine, Bishop and Martyr, A.D. 270. "On this day the birds begin to pair," was an old adage, and it is observed as a feast whether in or out of Lent.

17. *Shrove Tuesday*, or Pancake Tuesday.

18. *Ash Wednesday*: 1st day of Lent, 40 days fast in memory of the fast of Our Lord and as a preparation for Easter.

MARCH.

1. *St. David*: Patron saint of Wales. Died A.D. 544.

2. *St. Chad*, Bishop of Lichfield, A. D. 673.

7. *St. Perpetua*, Martyr at Carthage, A.D. 203.

12. *St. Gregory the Great*: Pope, 590. Died 604. "Gregorian Music" is named from him. He sent St. Augustine to Great Britain.

17. *St. Patrick*: Patron saint of Ireland; Died A.D. 432, aged 123.

18. *St. Edward*: King and Martyr, murdered at Corfe Castle 979, at the age of 16.

21. *St. Benedict*: Founder of the Benedictine Order. Died A. D. 534.

25. *Annunciation* by the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin.

29. *Palm Sunday*: the Sunday after Easter.

APRIL.

1. *All Fools Day*.

2. *Maundy Thursday*: the day on which the feet of the poor people were washed, in

memory of Our Lord washing the feet of His disciples.

3. *Good Friday*: Anniversary of the Crucifixion of Our Lord, observed from the earliest days of Christianity.

4. *St. Ambrose*: Bishop of Milan, one of the great early fathers, and the reputed author of the *Te Deum*. Born at Trèves 350.

5. *Easter Sunday*: the first of all Christian festivals, the day on which Our Lord arose from the dead.

19. *St. Alphege*: Archbishop of Canterbury, stoned to death 1012.

20. *Cuckoo Day*: so called from a superstition in England that the cuckoo is never heard till this day.

23. *St. George*: England's patron saint, the flower of knighthood, and most renowned champion of Christendom.

25. *St. Mark*: Evangelist and Martyr, A. D. 68, dragged through the streets of Alexandria with ropes till he died.

MAY.

1. *St. Philip & St. James*: St. James, first Bishop of Jerusalem, and the cousin of Our Lord, stoned to death at Jerusalem. St. Philip, one of the 7 deacons, preached the Gospel in Phrygia. *May Day*, formerly a day of universal festivity.

3. *Invention of the Cross*: in memory of the supposed discovery of Our Lord's Cross by the Emperor Helena 326.

10. *Rogation Sunday*: Sunday before Ascension Day.

11, 12, 13. *Rogation Days*

14. *Ascension Day: Holy Thursday*: Anniversary of Our Lord's ascension.

19. *St. Dunstan*: Archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 988.

24. *Queen's Birthday*: A holiday throughout Her Majesty's Empire. *Whit Sunday, Pentecost*: from the Saxon word "witte" wisdom, in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit.

25, 26. *Whit Monday and Tuesday*: generally observed as holidays, a great festival among the working classes in England.

26. *St. Augustine*: 1st Archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 597.

27. *Venerable Bede*: Born at Jarrow, a model of learning and sanctity, died 735.

29. Restoration of King Charles the Second. *Royal Oak Day*.

JUNE.

1. *Trinity Sunday*: in commemoration of the Holy Trinity. St. Nicodeme, Martyr, A.D. 90. Scourged to death by a whip laden with lead.

5. *St. Boniface*: the Apostle of Germany, born in Devonshire, 680.

11. *St. Barnabas*: Apostle and Martyr, the companion of St. Paul, stoned to death at Salamis.

17. *St. Alban*: 1st English Martyr, A.D. 303.

20. *Queen's Accession*: Anniversary of the Translation of King Edward, the Martyr.

24. *St. John the Baptist*: Midsummer Day. The *Birthday* of the Baptist is celebrated instead of the day of his martyrdom.

29. *St. Peter*: Apostle and Martyr, crucified at Rome, with his head downwards, A.D. 65.

JULY.

1. Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

4. *St. Martin*: In Scotland, if this day is fine, an early harvest is thought to follow.