

27 February

George Herbert
Priest, Poet 1633

King of glory, King of peace,
who called your servant George
Herbert from the pursuit of worldly
honours to be a priest in the temple
of his God and King: grant us also
the grace to offer ourselves with
singleness of heart in humble
obedience to your service; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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27 February

George Herbert
Priest, Poet

Born in 1593 into the aristocratic Pembroke family, George Herbert went up to Cambridge in 1614, eventually becoming a fellow of Trinity College. At the age of twenty-five, he became a Public Orator in the University and then a Member of Parliament, apparently destined for a life at court. To everyone's surprise, he decided to be ordained and, after spending a time with his friend Nicholas Ferrar at Little Gidding, he was made deacon in 1626. He married in 1629, was priested in 1630 and given the care of souls of the parish of Bemerton, near Salisbury, where he spent the rest of his short life. He wrote prolifically, his hymns still being popular throughout the English-speaking world. His treatise, *The Country Parson*, on the priestly life, and his poetry, especially *The Temple*, earned Herbert a leading place in English literature. He never neglected the care of the souls of Bemerton, however, and encouraged attendance at the weekday recitation of the daily office, calling to mind the words of his hymn, 'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee'. He died on 1 March 1633 and was buried in his church at Bemerton two days later.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

1 March

David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales c. 601

Almighty God, who called your servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales: in your mercy, grant that, following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ, we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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1 March

David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales.

David, or Dewi, was a monk and a Bishop in the sixth century. He was reputed to be an exemplar of the ascetic, spiritual life but was also highly regarded for his kindness and compassion to others, particularly the poor and sick. He is believed to have founded the monastery at Menevia, now St Davids, and also at least a dozen other monasteries. He is said to have based his Rule for his monasteries on that of the Egyptian desert monks, with a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol and refraining from unnecessary speech. He died in about the year 601 and has been regarded as the Patron Saint of Wales since at least the twelfth century.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

2 March

Chad Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary 672

Almighty God, from the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ, you called your servant Chad to be an evangelist and Bishop of his own people: give us grace so to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life, that we may truly commend to others the faith which we ourselves profess; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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2 March

Chad Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary

Chad was born in Northumbria, the youngest of four sons, all of whom became both priests and monks. They entered the monastery on the isle of Lindisfarne and were taught by St Aidan. Chad's brother, Cedd had founded the abbey at Lastingham and, on his brother's death, Chad was elected Abbott. During the confusion in ecclesiastical discipline between Celtic-oriented, Anglo-Saxon hierarchy and the pressure from Rome for conformity, Chad became Bishop of York for a time. He graciously stepped back with the arrival in Britain of Theodore, who doubted the validity of indigenous consecrations. This was eventually rectified and Chad became Bishop of Mercia, a huge diocese the centre of which he moved from Repton to Lichfield. Chad travelled extensively and became much loved for his wisdom and gentleness in otherwise difficult situations. The plague was prevalent at this time and Chad died on this day in the year 672.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'