

11 July

**Benedict of Nursia
Abbot of Monte Cassino,
Father of Western Monasticism.
c. 550**

Eternal God, who made Benedict a wise master in the school of your service and a guide to many called into community to follow the rule of Christ: grant that we may put your love before all else and seek with joy the way of your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

11 July

**Benedict of Nursia
Abbot of Monte Cassino,
Father of Western Monasticism**

Benedict was born in Nursia, central Italy, around the year 480. As a young man he was sent to study in Rome, but was soon appalled by the corruption in society and withdrew to live as a hermit at Subiaco. He quickly attracted disciples and began to establish small monasteries in the neighbourhood. Around the year 525, a disaffected faction tried to poison him so Benedict moved to Monte Cassino with a band of loyal monks. Later in life he wrote his Rule for Monks, based on his own experience of fallible people striving to live out the gospel. He never intended to found an 'order' but his Rule was so good that it was disseminated and widely followed, becoming the model for western monasticism. Benedict died at Monte Cassino in about the year 550.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

14 July

**John Keble
Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866**

Father of the eternal Word, in whose encompassing love all things in peace and order move: grant that, as your servant John Keble adored you in all creation, so we may have a humble heart of love for the mysteries of your Church and know your love to be new every morning, in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

14 July

**John Keble
Priest, Tractarian, Poet.**

Born in 1792, the son of a priest, John Keble showed early brilliance as a scholar, becoming a fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, at the age of nineteen, a few years before his ordination. He won great praise for his collection of poems. *The Christian Year*, issued in 1827, and was elected Professor of Poetry in Oxford in 1831. A leader of the Tractarian movement, which protested at the threats to the Church from liberal developments in both politics and theology, he nevertheless did not seek preferment and in 1836 became a parish priest near Winchester, a position he held until his death in 1866. He continued to write scholarly books and was praised for his character and spiritual counsel. Yet he is still best remembered for a sermon he preached in Oxford, considered to be the beginning of the Oxford Movement, delivered on this day in 1833.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

15 July

Swithun

Bishop of Winchester c.862

Almighty God, by whose grace we celebrate again the feast of your servant Swithun: grant that, as he governed with gentleness the people committed to his care, so we, rejoicing in our Christian inheritance, may always seek to build up your Church in unity and love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

15 July

Swithun,

Bishop of Winchester

Swithun was Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century, though little is known of his life. He was Bishop for ten years and appears to have been the trusted adviser of Egbert, his King in Wessex. He had asked to be buried 'humbly' and not in a great shrine and, when he died on 2 July 862, his request was fulfilled. However, when a new cathedral was being built, Ethelwold, the new Bishop, decided to move Swithun's remains into a shrine in the cathedral, despite dire warnings that to move the bones would bring about terrible storms. He was duly translated on this day in the year 971 and, though many cures were claimed and other miracles observed, it apparently rained for forty days, as forecast. Thus the feast-day of Swithun became synonymous with long, summer storms, rather than as an occasion for celebrating Christian simplicity and holiness.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'