**19 May**

**Dunstan**

**Archbishop of Canterbury,**

**Monastic reformer 988**

Almighty God, who raised up Dunstan to

be a true shepherd of the flock, a restorer

of monastic life and a faithful counsellor

to those in authority: give to all pastors the

same gifts of your Holy Spirit that they may

be true servants of Christ and of all his people;

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.

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Church of England

**19 May**

**Dunstan**

**Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life**

Dunstan was born near Glastonbury around 910 into a noble family. He received a good education and spent time at the court of the King of Wessex. A saintly uncle urged him to enter the monastic life; he delayed, but followed the advice in time, on recovering from an illness. Returning to Glastonbury, Dunstan lived as a monk, devoting his work time to creative pursuits: illuminating, music, and metalwork. In 943 the new King made him Abbott, and this launched a great revival of monastic life in England. Starting with Glastonbury, Dunstan restored discipline to several monasteries and promoted study and teaching. Under two later Kings, he rose to political and ecclesiastical eminence, being chief minister and Archbishop of Canterbury under King Edgar. This enabled him and his followers to extend his reforms to the whole English Church. In 970 he fell from political favour but continued as Archbishop, preaching and teaching. He died in 988.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**20 May**

**Alcuin of York**

**Deacon, Abbot of Tours. 804**

God of wisdom, eternal light, who shone

in the heart of your servant Alcuin, revealing

to him your power and pity: scatter the

darkness of our ignorance that, with all our

heart and mind and strength, we may seek your face and be brought with all your saints to your holy presence; 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.

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Church of England

**20 May**

**Alcuin of York**

**Deacon, Abbot of Tours**

Alcuin was descended from a noble Northumbrian family. Although the date and place of his birth are not known, he was probably born in the year 735 in or near York. He entered the Cathedral School there as a child, continued as a Scholar and became Master. In 781, he went to Aachen as adviser to Charlemagne on religious and educational matters and as Master of the Palace School, where he established an important library. Although not a monk and only in deacon’s orders, in 796 he became Abbot of Tours, dying there in the year 804. Alcuin wrote poetry, revised the lectionary, compiled a sacramentary and was involved in other significant liturgical work.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*