

## Appendix F: Calendar of Church Feast and Fast Days

The ecclesiastical calendar below combines the information given in the OSw, ODan, OGu, OFar, OIce and ONorw laws. The language of the last three of these is throughout recorded as ON. The dates given are those known from the medieval Catholic calendar, supplemented by information from current practice. Where a saint was celebrated on a number of days in the year, the date(s) given derive either from a specific statement in the law, or from the context. Some of the dates given differ from those now current in England and these have been noted. The English equivalents given here are those that are most often used currently, whereas the actual translations employed by the individual editors of the laws are not consistent. The latter can be found in the body of the lexicon.

Ref: Lithberg and Wessén 1939, 75-113

<b>Date or extent of feast where more than one day; range of dates for the feast, where it is movable</b>	<b>Feast name in the Old Norse Laws</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>(Standard) English translation and explanatory notes</b>
movable: 27th November - 3rd December	<i>advent</i>	ODan, OSw	Advent
6th December	<i>nikulásmess</i>	ON	Feast of St Nicholas
		ON	
7th December	<i>ambrósiusmess</i>	ON	Feast of St Ambrose
13th December	<i>magnúsmess</i>	ON	Feast of the Translation of St Magnus (Erlendsson of Orkney)
21st December	<i>thomasmess</i>	ON	Feast of St Thomas
23rd December	<i>þorláksmess</i>	ON	Feast of St Þorlákr
24th December	<i>helga náttin</i>	ON	Christmas Eve
	<i>jólanátt</i>	ON	
25th December	<i>jóladagr</i>	ON	Christmas Day/Season
	<i>jólahelgr</i>	ON	

	<i>jul</i>	OSw, ODan	
	<i>jól</i>	ON	
5th January	<i>tolftidagher</i>	OSw	Twelfth Night
	<i>tolftidagher</i>	ODan	
6th January	<i>þrættandidagher</i>	OSw	Feast of the Epiphany
	<i>þrettáandi dagr jóla</i>	ON	Not Twelfth Day, but Epiphany. Twelfth Night is 5 Jan, the vigil of this Feast.
11th January	<i>brettifumessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Brictiva
21st January	<i>agnesmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Agnes
25th January	<i>pálsmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Paul (not to be confused with the Feast of SS Peter and Paul, 29 <sup>th</sup> June)
1st February	<i>brigíðarmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Brigid
movable, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday: 1st February - 7th March	<i>kötsunnudagher</i>	OSw	Sunday before Lent, Quinquagesima
2nd February	<i>maríumessa</i> recorded as <i>kyndilmessa</i> in a manuscript variant	ON	Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	<i>kyndilmæssa</i>	OSw	Candlemas
movable: 4th February - 10th March	<i>askuþensdagher</i>	OSw	Ash Wednesday
movable, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday): 4th February until 21st March - 10th March until 24th April	<i>langafasta</i>	ON	Lent

movable: 8 <sup>th</sup> February – 14 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>hvitisunnudagher (drottins dags i hvita dogum in Grg)</i>	OSw	First Sunday in Lent
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<i>pétrsmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Peter (not to be confused with the Feast of SS Peter and Paul, 29 <sup>th</sup> June)
24 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>matthiasmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Matthias
	<i>mattíasmessa</i>	ON	An alternative date is 14 <sup>th</sup> May
movable, the Sunday before Palm Sunday: 8 <sup>th</sup> March - 11 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>kæra sunnudagher</i>	OSw	Fifth Sunday in Lent, otherwise called Passion Sunday
12 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>gregoriusmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Gregory
movable, starting with Palm Sunday: 15 <sup>th</sup> March - 18 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>dymbilvika</i>	OSw	Holy Week (the week before Easter)
movable: 18 <sup>th</sup> March - 21 <sup>st</sup> April	<i>kloknaopendsdagher</i>	OSw	Wednesday in Holy Week, Wednesday next before Easter
movable: 19 <sup>th</sup> March - 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<i>skærþorsdagher</i>	OSw	Maundy Thursday
	<i>skríþórsdagr</i>	ON	
movable: 20 <sup>th</sup> March - 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<i>langafre(a)dagher</i>	OSw	Good Friday
	<i>langafriádagr</i>	ON	
21 <sup>st</sup> March	<i>benedictusmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Benedict
movable: 22 <sup>nd</sup> March - 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>paskadagher</i>	OSw	Easter Day
	<i>páskadagr</i>	ON	Easter Day
movable: 22 <sup>nd</sup> March - 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>paskar</i>	OSw	Easter season
	<i>paske</i>	ODan	

	<i>páskar</i>	ON	
25th March	<i>maríumessa i fastu</i>	OGu	Feast of the Annunciation, also called Lady Day
	<i>maríumessa í föstu</i>	ON	
	<i>maríumessa um várít</i>	ON	
	<i>varafrudagher (i fastu)</i>	OSw	
16 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>magnúsmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Magnus (Erlendsson of Orkney)
23rd April	<i>jóhannesmessa</i> (variant of: <i>jóansmessa</i> )	ON	Feast of St Jón Ögmundarson, bishop of Hólar 1106–21 (celebrated from 1200; cf. note in the translation of <i>Grágás</i> )
25 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>(litli) gangdagher</i>	OSw	Rogation Day; despite its Nordic designation, the original and principal Rogation Day in the Catholic Calendar, possibly the successor to the Roman <i>ambarvalia</i> , a ceremony designed to guard against blight in the seed
	<i>gangdagr</i>	ON	
26th April - 2nd May	<i>crucisuke</i>	ODan	The week following the Feast of St Mark on 25 <sup>th</sup> April and thus followed by <i>krossmessa</i> , the Invention of the Cross, on 3rd May (see below)
movable, the 3 days preceding Ascension Day: 27th to 29th April - 31st May to 2nd June	<i>gangdagahelgr</i>	ON	Rogation Days (sometimes coinciding with <i>crucisuke</i> , q.v., if Easter were at its earliest date)
	<i>gangdaghar</i>	OGu	
	<i>gangdagar</i>	ON	
	<i>helgavika</i>	ON	Rogation Week

movable: 30th April - 3rd June	<i>hælgþorsdagher</i>	OSw	Ascension Day
	<i>uppstigningardagr</i>	ON	
1st May	<i>philippus messa ok jakobus</i>	ON	Feast of SS Philip and James (the lesser)
1st May	<i>valborghamæssa</i>	OSw	This is usually called Walpurgis' Day, rather than the Feast of St Walpurga, as it had and has secular overtones. It is not clear in the texts if it is the Eve, 30 <sup>th</sup> April that is referred to, or to the feast day itself.
3rd May	<i>crucismisse</i>	ODan	Invention of the Cross (3rd May according to glossary in Routledge edition. That is, the Sunday following <i>crucisuke</i> , q.v. The word "invention" in this context = "finding")
	<i>krossmessa</i>	ON	The same word is used for both this feast and for that of the Exaltation of the Cross, 14 <sup>th</sup> September
	<i>krossmessa um várit</i>	ON	
movable: 10th May - 13th June	<i>pingizdagher</i>	ODan, OSw	Whitsunday
15th May	<i>hallvarðarmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Hallvard
18th May	<i>sankta eriks dagh</i>	OSw	Feast of St Erik
9th June	<i>kolumbamessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Columba
17th June	<i>botulfsmæssa</i>	OSw	Feast of St Botulf
	<i>bótolfsmessa</i>	ON	
24 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>jónsmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St John the Baptist
	<i>jóansmessa</i>	ON	

	<i>jónsvaka</i>	ONorw	
28th June	<i>pétrsmessuaptann</i>	ON	Vigil of the Feast of St Peter
29th June	<i>apostlamæssudagher</i>	OSw	Feast of SS Peter and Paul
	<i>petersmessa</i>	OSw	Feast of St Peter (specifically this June date, shared with St Paul, not the February date, which is only mentioned in Grg)
	<i>sankti petrs messa</i>	OGu	
	<i>pétrsmessa</i>	ON	
		ON	
2nd July	<i>svitunsmessa</i>	ON	St Swithun's Day (note that in the English calendar St Swithun's Day is 15 July)
8th July	<i>seljamannamessa</i>	ON	Feast of the Saints of Selja (i.e. St Sunniva and her companions; St Sunniva's shrine was moved to Bergen in 1170)
	<i>seljumannamessa</i>	ON	
	<i>heilagra manna (messa) í Selju</i>	ON	
10th July	<i>knútsmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Canute (celebrated on 19th January in England)
25th July	<i>jakobsmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St James (the Great)
29th July	<i>olafsdagher</i>	OSw	(Earlier) Feast of St Olaf
	<i>olafsmæssa</i>	OSw, ODan	
	<i>ólafsmessa</i>	ON	
	<i>ólafsmessa hin fyrri</i>	ON	

3rd August	<i>ólafsmessa hin øfri</i>	ON	Later Feast of St Olaf
10th August	<i>laurinzardagher</i>	OSw	Feast of St Lawrence
	<i>laurinzardagher</i>	OSw	
	<i>lafrinzsmæssa</i>	OSw	
	<i>laurentiusmessa</i>	ON	
	<i>laurentiusmessa</i>	ON	
15th August	<i>mariúmæssa (fyrra)</i>	OSw	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	<i>mariemisse fyrre</i>	ODan	
	<i>maríúmessa fyrri</i>	ON	
	<i>maríúmessa fyrri</i>	ON	
24th August	<i>bartholomeusmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Bartholomew
	<i>bartholomeusmessa</i>	ON	
1st September	<i>yliansmæssa</i>	OSw	Feast of St Giles
8th September	<i>mariúmæssa (öfra)</i>	OSw	Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady (or the Blessed Virgin Mary)
	<i>maríúmessa øfri</i>	ON	
	<i>maríúmessa síðari</i>	ON	
14th September	<i>krossmessa</i>	ON	Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. (The same name is used for both this and the Invention of the Cross, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May)
	<i>krossmessa um haustit</i>	ON	

	<i>krossmessa hin øfri</i>	ON	
21 <sup>st</sup> September	<i>mattéimessa; mattéusmessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Matthew
	<i>matthaeusmessa</i>	ON	
29th September	<i>mikialsmæssa</i>	OSw	Michaelmas
	<i>mikjalsmisse</i>	ODan	
	<i>mikjálsmessa</i>	ON	
	<i>mikialsmæssodagher</i>	OSw	Michaelmas Day
	<i>mikialsdagher</i>	OSw	
30 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> October	<i>sialadagher</i>	OSw	Monday after Michaelmas
28th October	<i>símonsmessudagr ok judas</i>	ON	Feast of SS Simon and Jude
	<i>tveggjapostulamessa/- messudagr</i>	ON	Feast of the Two Apostles
1st November	<i>hælgunamæssudagher; aldra hælguna dagher</i>	OSw	All Saints' Day
	<i>helgunamessa</i>	OGu	
	<i>allraheilagramessa</i>	ON	
2nd November	<i>sialamæssudagher</i>	OSw	All Souls' Day
11th November	<i>martinsmæssa</i>	OSw	Martinmas
	<i>marteinsmessa</i>	ON	
	<i>sancta martens dagher</i>	OSw	St Martin's Day



22nd November	<i>ceciliomessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Cecilia
23rd November	<i>klementsessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Clement
	<i>clemensessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Clement
25th November	<i>katrinamæssa</i>	OSw	Feast of St Catherine of Alexandria
30th November	<i>andreamessa</i>	ON	Feast of St Andrew
		ON	
Various: Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following St Lucy's Day (13 December), the first Sunday in Lent, Pentecost (Whitsun), and Holy Cross Day (14 September)	<i>imbrudagr</i>	ON	Ember Days (i.e. the days of fasting at the turn of the seasons: winter, spring, summer and autumn respectively)