

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



The 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Offices of Instruction, (A.P.A pg. 291): "My bounden duty is to follow Christ, to worship God every Sunday in his Church; and to work and pray and give for the spread of his kingdom."

Sunday

The first Christians, who were Jews, observed Saturday as their Sabbath and added Sunday in honor of the resurrection. Converted pagans, released from Judaic laws, observed the first day of the week. St Ignatius of Antioch (d. 98-117 AD) when writing to the Magnesians, Chapter IX, exhorted them to "no longer keep the Sabbath after the Jewish manner . . . But, after a spiritual manner . . . keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection day, the queen and chief of all days." St. Athanasius wrote: "The Sabbath was the end of the first creation, the Lord's day was the beginning of the second . . . so we honor the Lord's day as being the memorial of the new creation (*On Sabbath and Circumcision*, A.D. 345). The Council of Elvira (300) decreed that missing three Sundays in a row was cause for excommunication. The Reformation did away with days of obligation, but most Christian churches hold Sunday worship in common as a sacred duty and for Anglicans it a "bounden duty."