

## KEY TO LISTS OF THE PARTICULAR ACTS OF WORSHIP

‘Particular’ occasions are those appointed for observance within a short period, normally very soon after the event and for a specified date or period within the year. The term ‘particular’ is used to contrast these acts of worship from the anniversary commemorations, ordered to be observed each year.

**The content of the columns in the lists is as follows:**

### COLUMN 1: YEAR AND CODE

For ease of reference and cross-reference each *particular* occasion in the British Isles has been given an identification code in the format 1563–E1, or 1830–1, or 1643–E10[P].

- **year** This denotes the year during which the observance was marked. If the observance extended across two or more years, only the first year is given. Dates for the period before the calendar change in 1752 are in old style, but with the year taken to begin on 1 January.
- **letter** ‘E’, ‘S’ or ‘Ir’ indicate an occasion which took place in all (or, in some cases, some part) of England and Wales, or Scotland, or Ireland. When an occasion was observed in two, but not three, of these kingdoms, both geographical identifiers have been used, e.g. 1641–ES
- **letter and number** Where one or more occasions took place in one year within the same geographical area(s), these are numbered chronologically, reckoned on the date of the first observance (e.g., 1651–E1, 1651–E2 and 1651–E3).
- **number only** When an occasion took place in all three countries, no letter is given but only a number, e.g. 1977–1.
- **(R) and (P)** During the civil war from 1642 to 1648, occasions were ordered independently by the crown (the royalists) and by parliament. These are distinguished by the suffix (R) and (P) respectively.

### Additional occasions and further material

Volume 1 of *National Prayers* contained an ‘Analytical list of particular occasions of special worship’ for the whole period of the edition. As research has proceeded, additional occasions have been found, further material (translations or supplementary documents) and corrections can now be provided. For 1533–1660, these amendments are given in Appendix 1 in volume 4. The amendments to volumes 2 and 3 are incorporated within those volumes.

The amendments are recorded in the following lists of particular occasions. In some cases, the additions require re-codings.

### Imperial observances

Occasions in the English and British lists which were also widely observed in the overseas empire are indicated as follows:

- \* occasions ordered or encouraged by authorities in London for observance in all the overseas colonies and dominions
- † occasions commonly observed in colonies and dominions by order or encouragement of the authorities within these territories

### COLUMN 2: DESCRIPTION

The type of special worship. There was some variation in type and description, particularly before the 1560s, during the 1640s and 1650s, and during the twentieth century, but the principal types were as follows:

fast day/s: whole day/s set aside for acts of repentance, including special church services

prayer/s: special supplications or intercessions added to church services  
procession/s: ecclesiastical processions inside and outside church buildings (to 1558)  
service/s (or thanksgiving service/s): used for occasions which were not ordered to be observed as special holy 'days', but when special services (in E&W and Ir with printed liturgies) were nevertheless to be held  
*Te Deum*/s: service of praise to God, with sung elements (to 1558)  
thanksgiving day/s: whole day/s set aside for thanksgiving, with special church services  
thanksgiving prayer/s

A singular description (fast day, prayer, etc.) is used when the special occasion was ordered for one specified date and for places of worship in one area (e.g. one date for the whole of E&W). Plural descriptions (fast days, prayers, etc.) are used when the special occasion was to be repeated on successive specified dates; or for a specified or unspecified period (days, weeks, months); or when the occasion was to be held on different dates in different areas (e.g. one date for the London area, and a different date for elsewhere in E&W).

### **COLUMN 3: CAUSE**

A summary description of the main cause or purpose of the appointment, given in a modernized form. The contemporary phrases (which typically contain much religious phraseology) will be found in the printed text of the orders (e.g., a proclamation) in the relevant *National Prayers* volume.