

A review of the Holy Days of Obligation

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has decided that, in addition to all the Sundays in the year, the only feast days to be observed in Australia as holydays of obligation are the solemnities of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Decree of Promulgation becomes effective on 16 September, 2001. DECREE OF PROMULGATION

On 28 November 1996, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference made the following decree:

That 15 August (the solemnity of the Assumption) be a holyday of obligation in Australia, even when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday.

That decree was reviewed and confirmed by the Congregation for Divine Worship & Discipline of the Sacraments, by virtue of faculties granted it by Pope John Paul II, and by means of a recognitio (Prot. N: 366/97/L) signed on 23 January 2001 by the Prefect, Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, and the Secretary, Archbishop Francesco Pio Tamburrino.

The decree effectively modifies the decrees of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference concerning holydays of obligation effective from 1985 and 1991 so that, in addition to all the Sundays of the year, the only feast days henceforth to be observed in Australia as holydays of obligation are the solemnities of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Moreover, these two holydays of obligation are to be observed annually, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall.

As President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, I hereby decree that these provisions become effective on 16 September 2001.

Given at the Secretariat of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, Canberra Australian Capital Territory, on this 15 day of May, 2001.

Signed by: The Most Rev. Francis P. Carroll President, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference & Rev. Brian V. Finnigan Secretary, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference