

Christ the Worker

Sunday 3rd May 2026



Background

1st May is observed in many places around the world as International Workers' Day, or Labour Day, honouring the role of work in society and the dignity of workers. Churches around the world have adopted the first Sunday in May as a day to honour workers. Its origins lay in the late 19th and early 20th Century emergence of the campaign for the eight-hour working day, and for better pay and conditions, supported by prominent Christians. The May date was first chosen in honour of those killed in protests that turned violent that day in Chicago in 1886. Over the ensuing years, Socialist and Labour movements around the world adopted the commemoration. In 1940s Britain, there was a renewal of church engagement with the world of work and the economy, giving rise to Industrial Mission, and the setting aside of the Sunday nearest 1st May as Industrial Sunday. In 1955, Pope Pius XII chose 1st May as the date for an annual celebration of St Joseph the Worker Day, when Roman Catholics reflect on the role of Joseph in providing for family, contributing to community, and participating in the ongoing work of creation.

Website and Socials

Registration, resources and regular updates are available on the [website](#). In the run-up to and after Sunday 3rd May, we will be sharing your good news stories of connections made and blessings shared.

Those not working

Our emphasis in this initiative is to help you connect with and bless those at work. We do not forget those not working, for whatever reason. We recommend sensitivity in adapting these resources for your local context. If we can support you supporting someone out of work, please do let us know.

The theme for 2026 is 'Meeting Jesus in the Workplace' and looks at first encounters.