

## BILL NO 1

### Explanatory Memorandum

2005 was the first occasion since 1993 that Christmas Day has fallen on a Sunday. This highlighted an anomaly in the *Calendar and Table of Readings* which had not been apparent during the years of experimental use of the calendar, namely that 1 January is designated as the First Sunday in a season of which it is manifestly the second Sunday. The Church of England, which shares the same Calendar with the Church of Ireland, used an extra schedule to a liturgical statute in its General Synod to deal with the anomaly. It is therefore expedient that minor amendments are made to *The Book of Common Prayer* so that this will be addressed in the Directory and Visual Liturgy when Christmas Day will next fall on a Sunday i.e. 2011.

#### Present Wording

#### Amended Wording

Page 19 (BCP)

Christmas Day to the eve of The Epiphany

Christmas Day to the eve of The Epiphany  
*When Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, 1 January is the Second Sunday of Christmas*

Page 29 (BCP)

#### The First Sunday of Christmas

*Between 26 December and 1 January*

#### The First Sunday of Christmas

*Between 26 December and 31 December*

Page 29 (BCP)

The Readings for The Epiphany may be preferred, Readings for Saint Stephen, Saint John the Evangelist, Holy Innocents, and The Circumcision and naming of Jesus may be used when one of those Festivals falls on this Sunday.

The Readings for The Epiphany may be preferred, Readings for Saint Stephen, Saint John the Evangelist and Holy Innocents, may be used when one of those Festivals falls on this Sunday

Page 29 (BCP)

#### The Second Sunday of Christmas

*Between 2 and 5 January*

#### The Second Sunday of Christmas

*Between 1 and 5 January*

Page 29 (BCP)

*The Readings for The Epiphany may be preferred.*

*The Readings for the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus are used when this Sunday is 1 January. The Readings for Epiphany may be preferred..*

Page 248 (BCP)

...By your grace keep us ever faithful to your word,  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

...By your grace keep us ever faithful to your word,  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*These prayers are used between 2 and 5 January inclusive*

REV CANON RB ROUNTREE  
THE BISHOP OF CASHEL AND OSSORY

(at the request of the General Synod)

## **BILL**

**To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2006 to amend *The Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Calendar, The Table of Readings and The Collects* as set out in the accompanying Schedule.**

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2006 to correct an anomaly in those parts of *The Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Calendar* and *The Table of Readings* which occurs on those occasions when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and to include a note in that part entitled *The Collects*;

WHEREAS it is expedient to correct an anomaly in those parts of *The Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Calendar* and *The Table of Readings* which occurs on those occasions when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and to include a note in that part entitled *The Collects*:

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Kilkenny in the year 2007, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Those parts of *The Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Calendar, The Table of Readings and The Collects* shall be amended as set out in the Schedule to this Bill.

## **SCHEDULE**

1. In *The Calendar* immediately after the line ‘Christmas Day to the eve of The Epiphany’ the following shall be added in italics, ‘When Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, 1 January is the Second Sunday of Christmas’;
2. In *The Table of Readings* immediately under the heading ‘The First Sunday of Christmas’, the words ‘26 and 31 December’ shall be substituted for the words ‘26 December and 1 January’;
3. In *The Table of Readings* under ‘The First Sunday of Christmas’ in the rubric beginning ‘The Readings’ the word ‘and’ shall be inserted before the words ‘Holy Innocents’ and the words ‘and the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus’ shall be deleted;
4. In *The Table of Readings* immediately under the heading ‘The Second Sunday of Christmas, for the numeral ‘2’ there shall be substituted the numeral ‘1’;
5. In *The Table of Readings* under the heading ‘The Second Sunday of Christmas’ immediately before the words ‘The Readings for The Epiphany may be preferred’ the following words shall be inserted: ‘The Readings for the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus are used when this Sunday is 1 January’;
6. In *The Collects* after the three prayers printed under ‘The Second Sunday of Christmas’ the following note shall be added: ‘These prayers are used between 2 and 5 January inclusive.’