General Information Series



Latin Terminology in Roman Catholic Church Registers

Many Roman Catholic Church registers were written in Latin. This, combined with poor handwriting, scratchy pen-nibs, watery and faded ink and discoloured paper, makes the documents difficult to read. There is little that can be done to improve the physical condition of the documents but this list should help to make it easier to understand the terminology used.

Baptism

LATIN WORD/PHRASE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

Baptizandi nomen Baptism name of the child Was baptised (male)
Bapta est Was baptised (female)

Filius Son Filia Daughter

Nomina parentum

Nomina patrinorum

Name of the parents

Name of the godparents

Place of residence

Marriage

LATIN WORD/PHRASE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

Nomina sponsorum First names of those married

Cognomen Surnames

Eorum residentia Their place of residence Testes adfuerunt Witnesses present

Other Common Words

LATIN WORD/PHRASE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

Die Day Mensis Month Anno Domini Year

Personal Names

ENGLISH ALBERT	LATIN EQUIVALENT ALBERTUS	ENGLISH HENRY	LATIN EQUIVALENT HENRICUS
ALFRED ALICE	ALFREDUS ALICIA	HORACE HUGH	HORATIUS HUGO
ANDREW	ANDREAS	JAMES	IACOBUS
ANTHONY	ANTONIUS	JOAN	IOANNA
ARTHUR	ARTURUS	JOHN	IOANNES
BASIL	BASILIUS	JOSEPH	IOSEPHUS
BEATRICE	BEATRIX	JOYCE	IOCOSA
BEARNARD	BERNARDUS	LAWRENCE	LAURENTIUS
CECIL	CAECILIUS	LOUIS	LUDOVICUS
CHARLES	CAROLUS	LOUISE	LUDOVICOS
CHRISTOPHER	CHRISTOPHORUS	LUCY	LUCIA
CICELY	CAECILIA	LUKE	LUCAS
CLAUDE	CLAUDIUS	MARGARET	MARGARITA
CLEMENT	CLAUDIUS	MARK	MARCUS
CYRIL	CYRILLUS	MARY	MARIA
DENIS	DIONYSIUS	MATTHEW	MATTHAEUS
DOROTHY	DOROTHEA	MAURICE	MAURITIUS
EDWARD	EDUARDUS	NORMAN	NORMANNUS
ELLEN	HELENA	OLIVER	OLIVARUS
EMILY	AEMILIA	PATRICK	PATRICIUS
FRANCES		_	
FRANCIS	FRANCESCA	PAUL	PAULUS
	FRANCISCUS FRANCISCUS	PETER PHILLIP	PETRUS
FRANK			PHILIPPUS
FREDERICK	FREDERICUS	RALPH	RADULFUS
GEOFFREY	GAUFRIDUS	RICHARD	RICARDUS
GEORGE	GEORGIUS	ROBERT	ROBERTUS
GILLIAN	IULIANA	STEPHEN	STEPHENUS
GODFREY	GODEFRIDUS	THOMAS	THOMAS
GRACE	GRAYIA	TIMOTHY	TIMOTHEUS
GREGORY	GREGORIUS	WALTER	GUALTERUS
GUY	GUIDO	WILLIAM	GULIELMUS
HELEN	HELENA	WINIFRED	WINIFRIDA

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