

Latin Forenames and their English Equivalent

Roman Catholic registers are generally written in Latin. This causes few problems since the vocabulary is fairly limited, but the Latinisation of modern names may cause some confusion. Latin nouns, including proper names, are declined, the word ending signifying the role of the person in the sentence. Two forms will be encountered in a baptism entry depending on whether the person was the subject of the sentence (nominative) or the parent (genitive). For example *Albertus filius Albertum SMITH* shows different endings applied to Albert the son (-us) and Albert the father (-um).

A further difficulty is the use, on some occasions, of fully Latinised names such as *Guilelmus* (William) and the possibility that two or more modern forenames may derive from a single Latin origin (for example *Jacobus* may be translated as either James or Jacob) so one may not always be certain as to which name the person used in everyday life.

There are also some letter substitutions which may confuse. The letter "J" may be rendered as "I" for example "*Ioannis*" may be read as "*Joannis*". "V" and "U" may be interchanged for example "*Hvmfridus*". "X" may be used as an abbreviation for "Chris(t)" as in "*Xopherus*". Abbreviations are also used at times to save time or space. "*Joh^{es}*" appearing in place of "*Johannes*".

A final problem is the sometimes limited knowledge of Latin by the priest recording the event. This may manifest itself in the use of an incorrect Latin equivalent or in an inappropriate word ending. For modern names, a variety of endings may be encountered depending on the whim of the individual priest. These difficulties are, of course, additional to the usual problems of eccentricities of spelling. Often an "appropriate" suffix will simply be added to the end of the English name.

The table below sets out some common and less common forenames with English equivalents. This information is for guidance only. Researchers are encouraged to refer to the original registers in cases where there is any uncertainty that the interpretation is incorrect and to consult surname dictionaries which may provide additional information.

Adamus – Adam
Adrianus – Adrian
Aegidius – Giles
Aemilius – Emlyn
Aeneas – Angus
Agneta – Annis; Agnes; Anne
Alannus – Alan
Alicia – Alice
Aloysius – Lewis; Llewelyn
Ambilla – Mabel
Ambrosius – Ambrose; Emrys
Amia – Amy
Amicia – Amice; Ames
Andreas – Andrew; Drew
Anna – Anne; Hannah; Nancy
Antonius – Anthony
Arturus – Arthur
Audria – Audrey
Avicia – Avis; Avice
Barnabus – Barnaby; Barnabus
Bartolomaeus – Bartholomew
Beatrix – Beatrice
Benedictus – Benedict
Beniaminus – Benjamin
Brigitta – Bridget
Caecilia – Cicely
Caelia – Celia; Sheila
Caritas – Charity
Carolus – Charles
Catalina – Catherine
Catherina . – Katherine
Catavelaunus – Cadwallader
Cecilia – Cecily; Cisley
Christiana – Christian
Christopherus – Christopher
Clemens – Clement
Coelia – Celia
Constantia – Constance
Constantius – Constant
Cornelius – Cornelius;
Crispianus – Crispin
Cuthbertus – Cuthbert
Danielis – Daniel
Davidus – David
Diana – Diana; Dinah
Dionysius – Denis
Dorothea – Dorothy
Drogo – Drew; Drury
Edmondus – Edmund
Edwardu – Edward

Egidius – Giles
Elena – Ellen; Helen
Elinora – Eleanor Eliza
Elizabetha – Elizabeth; Betty
Emmota – Emmot
Etheldreda – Audrey
Eugenius – Eugene
Eva – Eve
Ezekias – Hezekiah
Ezekielis – Ezekiel
Felicia – Phyllis
Felix – Felix
Fenella – Finola
Fida – Faith
Florens – Florence (male)
Franciscus – Francis
Francisca – Frances
Fridericus; Federicus – Frederick
Galfridus; Gaufridus – Godfrey; Geoffrey;
Jeffrey
Gartruda – Gertrude
Gasparus – Jasper
Georgius; Gorgius – George
Giraldus. Girardus – Gerald. Gerard
Grania – Grainne
Gratia – Grace
Gualterius – Walter
Guido – Guy
Guinevra – Winifred; Gwyneth; Jenifer
Gulielmus; Guglielmus – William
Hadrianus – Adrian
Hannor(i)a – Hannah; Honor; Nora
Helena – Ellen; Helen; Eileen
Henricus – Harry; Henry
Hierimias – Jeremiah; Jeremy
Hieronimus – Jerome
Jeronimo; Jeremy
Homfridus – Humphrey
Honorina – Honor
Hugo – Hugh
Humfridus – Humphrey
Isabella – Isababel
Isachus; Isaakus – Isaac
Jacobus – James; Jacob; Seamus; Hamish
Jana – Jane; Joan; Jean;
Janetta – Janet; Jennet
Jeremias – Jeremy; Jeremiah
Jeronimus – Jerome
Joannes – John
Jocosa – Joyce

Jocosus – Jocelyn
Joanna – Joan; Sian
Joannes – John; Evan; Sean
Johannis – John; Evan; Sean
Josephus – Joseph
Josias – Josiah
Josua – Joshua
Judia – Judy; Judith
Juliana – Jill; Gillian
Julianus – Julian
Kat(h)arina – Catharine;
Laurentius – Laurence
Leonardus – Leonard
Lennardus – Leonard
Lucas – Luke
Lucia – Lucy
Lodovicus – Lewis; Louis
Marcus – Mark
Maria – Mary
Marianna – Marian; Mary Ann
Matilda – Maud
Mattheus – Matthew
Matthia – Martha
Mauritius – Maurice;
Misericordia – Mercy
Micaelis – Michael
Nicholaus – Nicholas; Colin
Oliverus – Oliver

Patricius – Patrick
Peregrinus – Peregrine
Petronella – Parnel
Petrus – Peter; Pierce
Phillida – Phyllis
Phillipus – Philip
Placentia – Pleasance; Pleasant
Radulphus – Ralph
Randulphus – Randolph; Randall
Ranulphus – Reynold; Reynell; Rennell
Reginaldus – Reginald; Reynell; Reynold
Ricardus – Richard
Robertus – Robert; Rupert)
Spes – Hope
Stephanus – Stephen; Steven
Terentius – Terence
Thomas – Thomas
Thomasina – Tomasin; Thomson
Timotheus – Timothy
Tobias – Toby; Tobias
Umfridus – Humphrey
Ursula – Ursula
Willielmus – William
Wilmota; Guilmota – Willmot
Xpianus – Crispian; Crispin
Xtopherus; Xoferus; Xpoferus – Christopher