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When is Pancake Day?

The day moves, because Easter moves. The Church of England gives a simple rule: Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter.

Easter itself, that official page says, “always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox.” The equinox “always falls on 21 March.” In 2027, “the first full moon of spring occurs on 22 March, and thus Easter Sunday is 28 March.” Count back 47 days, and Pancake Day is 9 February. The Olney Pancake Race organisers give the same date for the next race.

The last Olney race, in 2026, was on Tuesday 17 February. Runners assembled at 11.55am; the finish in Church Street was at 12 noon; the Shriving Service followed at 12.15pm. Ash Wednesday, the Church of England says, is the first day of Lent, the day after.

A date worth remembering

In 2027, Pancake Day is Tuesday 9 February — the same morning as the next Olney race, the 80th of the modern era, and the 78th against Liberal, Kansas.

A short quiz

1. How does the Church of England fix the date of Shrove Tuesday?
2. When is Easter Sunday in 2027, according to that official page?
3. When is the next Olney pancake race?

Answers. 1. It is always 47 days before Easter. 2. 28 March 2027. 3. Shrove Tuesday, 9 February 2027.

Wording from the Church of England, “Common questions about Lent and Easter,” and the Olney Pancake Race organisers, checked 17 November 2026.
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