

The seven-day celebration of Summerday in Jader

On each of the six days leading up to Summerday, the Jader Chantry holds a morning class for children and new Andrastian converts. In the evening a Summerday service is held for all.

Cloudreach 25:

The festival opening begins with the Summerday pole ceremony.



Cloudreach 26:

Celebrating Spring and renewal, and the return of the sun. Flowers, especially yellow flowers that evoke the sun, are gathered wild but also bought and sold - primrose, rowan, hawthorn, gorse, hazel, and marsh marigold – and placed in doorways and windows in homes and businesses. All representations of Andraste in homes and especially the statues in the chantry are adorned with flower crowns. Flowers are also made into garlands to wear and given as gifts.

Cloudreach 27:

Indulgence and celebrating the Maker's gifts. Pastries, oatcakes, and other delicacies are made, bought/sold and shared, along with copious wine and spirits. And often, beds. (Many children are born mid-Wintermarch.) In Jader humorous edible representations of Andraste's mortal husband Mafareth are popular.



Cloudreach 28:

Celebrating the Maker's blessings. Children, livestock, and items associated with livelihood (like an artisan's tools) are brought to the Chantry Mother to be blessed. Chantry sisters are sent out into the community and surrounding farms to bless items that can't practically be brought to the chantry.



Cloudreach 29:

Bonfire night. Home hearth fires are put out at sundown. Items that represent bad habits or elements of past behavior people want to change are burned in the community bonfire. Each family returns home with a torch from the bonfire to relight their home hearth fires.



Cloudreach 30:

Fasting. People daub themselves or each other with ashes from the previous night's bonfire. The mood is somber and reflective for some, though others are just recovering from hangovers.

Bloomingtide 1st, Summerday:

The Summerday parade. Children dressed in white tunics followed by couples intending to be married, parade through town to the Chantry, where everyone gathers. There the Chantry Mother blesses the children and charges them to be faithful to the Maker and good citizens. Then each couple seeking to be married stands before the Mother and she blesses each marital union. This ceremony is followed by a feast.



Summerday celebrations are not a good time for everyone. Servants, mainly elvhen servants, do most of the work. Bakers and shopkeepers work hard but make good money. Nights of citizen celebration, drinking, and debauchery make for a lot of thankless work for the city guard.

