Happening this month...

**Sunday 4\(^{th}\) December**
Austrian Presidential Election
Right-wing Freedom Party candidate Norbert Hofer faces independent candidate Alexander Van der Bellen in the re-run of the presidential election. The original result was annulled after irregularities were revealed in the vote counting.

**Saturday 10\(^{th}\) December**
International Human Rights Day
Human Rights Day commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Saturday 10\(^{th}\) December**
Nobel Prize Award Ceremonies
Nobel Prizes are presented to Laureates on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death.

**Sunday 11\(^{th}\) December**
80 years since abdication of Edward VIII
On 11\(^{th}\) December 1936 Parliament endorsed the abdication of the King.

**Wednesday 14\(^{th}\) December**
Sakharov Prize Ceremony
The European Union human rights award will be presented to two Yazidi women who escaped sexual enslavement by so-called Islamic State and now campaign for their community.

**Friday 16\(^{th}\) December**
Rogue One released
The first Star Wars standalone film ‘Rogue One: A Star Wars Story’ is released in cinemas.
Programme Information Highlights
December 2016

Saturday 17th December
Pope Francis’ 80th Birthday
The first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church celebrates his 80th birthday.

Wednesday 22nd December
El Gordo Lottery
Spain’s annual Christmas lottery is known as ‘El Gordo’ (The Fat One) because of the amount of money which is distributed in prizes. 75 percent of adult Spaniards will play the Christmas lottery.

Sunday 25th December
Christmas Day
The Christian holy day marks the birth of Jesus, the son of God.

Monday 26th December
Istanbul Eurasia Tunnel Inauguration
Istanbul’s first-ever road tunnel under the Bosphorus Strait will link the European and Asian sides of the city. Construction of the 5km-long tunnel began in February 2011.

Saturday 31st December
New Year’s Eve
In the Gregorian calendar, New Year’s Eve, the last day of the year, is on 31st December. In many countries, New Year’s Eve is celebrated with evening social gatherings and fireworks.

Pope Francis waves to the faithful as he delivers his Christmas Day message from the central balcony of St Peter’s Basilica on December 25, 2014 in Vatican City, Vatican. (Photo by Franco Origlia/Getty Images)

All the information included in this document is correct at the time of publication (27th October 2016) but is subject to amendment.