# February 20

February 20 is the 51st day of the year in the Gregorian calendar. There are 314 days remaining until the end of the year (315 in leap years).

# **Events**

[change | change source]

# **Up to 1900**

[change | change source]

- 1472 Orkney and Shetland are annexed to the crown of Scotland.
- 1547 Edward
  VI of England is
  crowned King of
  England at
  Westminster
  Abbey.
- 1724 The premiere of Giulio Cesare, an Italian opera by George Frideric Handel, takes place in London.
- 1725 The first reported case of white men scalping Native Americans takes place in New Hampshire colony.
- <u>1792</u> The <u>Postal Service</u>

## 2024 Calendar

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Blackbrook Reservoir in Leicestershire, England, breaks.

- 1810 Andreas Hofer, Tyrolean patriot and leader of rebellion against Napoleon's forces, was executed.
- <u>1816</u> <u>Gioachino Rossini</u>'s <u>The Barber of Seville</u> debuts at <u>Teatro</u> <u>Argentina</u>, with a *fiasco*.
- 1835 Concepción, Chile is destroyed by an earthquake
- <u>1846</u> <u>Polish</u> insurgents lead an uprising in <u>Krakow</u> to incite a fight for independence.
- 1864 American Civil War: The Battle of Olustee takes place in Florida.
- 1865 The <u>Uruguayan War</u> ends.
- <u>1872</u> In <u>New York City</u> the <u>Metropolitan Museum of Art</u> opens.
- 1873 The <u>University of California</u> opens its first <u>medical school</u> in <u>San</u> Francisco, California.
- <u>1877</u> Tchaikovsky's <u>ballet Swan Lake</u> is first performed at the <u>Bolshoi Theatre</u>, <u>Moscow</u>.
- 1878 Pope Leo XIII is elected.

#### **1901 - 2000**

- 1901 The legislature of Hawaii Territory convenes for the first time.
- <u>1909</u> The <u>Futurist Manifesto</u> is published by the French <u>journalist Le Figaro</u>.
- <u>1913</u> <u>King O'Malley</u> drives in the first <u>survey</u> peg to mark commencement of work on the construction of <u>Canberra</u>.
- 1915 The "Panama-Pacific International Exhibition", a World's Fair, is held in <u>San Francisco</u>, to show the city's recovery from the <u>1906 San Francisco earthquake</u>.
- 1919 Emir of Afghanistan Habibullah Khan is murdered during a hunting trip.
- 1921 The movie *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, starring Rudolph Valentino, premieres.
- 1929 American Samoa becomes a US Territory.

- 1931 California gets the go-ahead by the <u>United States Congress</u> to build the <u>San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge</u>.
- 1933 <u>United States Congress</u> proposes the 21st <u>Amendment</u> to the United States Constitution, which will end Alcohol Prohibition.
- <u>1935</u> <u>Caroline Mikkelsen</u> becomes the first <u>woman</u> to set foot on the <u>continent</u> of <u>Antarctica</u>.
- 1942 Lieutenant <u>Edward O'Hare</u> becomes America's first <u>World War II</u> flying ace.
- 1943 American <u>movie studio</u> executives agree to allow the <u>Office of War Information</u> to <u>censor</u> movies.
- 1943 The Paricutín volcano begins to form in Paricutín, México.
- 1944 World War II: "Big Week" begins with American bomber raids on Nazi aircraft manufacturing centers.
- 1944 World War II: The <u>United States</u> takes <u>Eniwetok</u> Island.
- <u>1952</u> <u>Emmett L. Ashford</u> becomes the first <u>African-American</u> umpire in organized <u>baseball</u> by being authorized to be a substitute umpire in the <u>Southwestern International League</u>.
- <u>1952</u> The movie <u>The African Queen</u> opens at the Capitol Theatre in <u>New York City</u>.
- 1959 The Avro Arrow programme to design and manufacture supersonic jet fighters in Canada is cancelled by the Diefenbaker government amid much political debate.
- 1962 Mercury program: While aboard Friendship 7, John Glenn orbits the Earth three times in 4 hours, 55 minutes, becoming the first American to do so.
- <u>1965</u> <u>Ranger 8</u> crashes into the <u>Moon</u> after a successful mission of photographing possible landing sites for the <u>Apollo program astronauts</u>.
- <u>1974</u> <u>Science fiction</u> writer <u>Philip K. Dick</u> claims he began experiencing intense <u>qnostic visions</u> on this date.
- 1976 The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) disbands.
- 1978 The last Order of Victory is given to Leonid Brezhnev.
- 1986 Silvio Berlusconi takes over AC Milan.
- <u>1987</u> <u>Unabomber</u>: In <u>Salt Lake City</u>, in the <u>USA</u>, a bomb explodes in a computer store.
- 1988 Nagorno Karabakh votes to separate from Azerbaijan and join Armenia. War breaks out soon after.
- 1989 An IRA bomb destroys a section of the <u>British Army</u> Barracks at Ternhill, <u>England</u>.
- 1991 The giant statue of Albanian leader Enver Hoxha is brought down in Tirana by protestors.
- <u>1992</u> <u>Ross Perot</u> announces his intention to run in the <u>1992 U.S.</u> presidential election on <u>CNN</u>'s <u>Larry Kina Live</u>.
- <u>1992</u> The <u>FA Premier League</u> is formed and takes over as the professional league in <u>England</u> from season <u>1992–93</u>.
- <u>1993</u> <u>New Scientist magazine</u> reports the discovery of the youngestobserved <u>star</u>. Named *VLA 1623*, it is around 10,000 years old.
- <u>1998</u> The afternoon <u>newspaper *Nashville Banner*</u> publishes its final edition.

#### From 2001

## [change | change source]

- 2001 FBI agent Robert Hanssen is arrested and charged with spying for Russia for 15 years.
- 2002 In Reqa Al-Gharbiya, Egypt, a fire on a train injures over 65 and kills at least 370.
- 2003 In Rhode Island, USA, The Station nightclub fire kills about 100 and injures over 200.
- 2005 Spain becomes the first country to vote in a referendum on ratification of the proposed Constitution of the European Union, passing it by a substantial margin, but on a low turnout.
- 2005 Jeff Gordon wins his third Daytona 500.
- 2010 Floods and mudslides hit the <u>Portuguese</u> island of <u>Madeira</u>, killing 43 people.
- 2013 Kepler-37b, the smallest-known planet outside the Solar System, is discovered.
- 2014 After several people had been killed during clashes two days earlier, protests in <u>Kiev</u>, <u>Ukraine</u>, erupt into violence again, with at least 20 people reported to have been killed. The <u>EU</u> imposes sanctions on <u>Ukraine</u> later the same day.
- <u>2016</u> Prime Minister <u>David Cameron</u> announces that the <u>United</u> <u>Kingdom</u> is to hold a referendum on its membership of the <u>European Union</u>, on <u>June 23</u>.

# **Births**

[change | change source]

# **Up to 1900**

- 1469 Thomas Cajetan, Italian cardinal (d. 1534)
- 1631 Thomas Osborne, 1st Duke of Leeds, English statesman (d. 1712)
- <u>1633</u> <u>Jan de Caen</u>, Dutch portrait painter (d. <u>1702</u>)
- 1726 William Prescott, American Revolutionary colonel (d. 1795)
- 1753 Louis-Alexandre Berthier, French marshal (d. 1815)
- 1759 Johann Christian Reil, German physician (d. 1813)
- 1794 William Carleton, Irish novelist (d. 1869)
- 1802 Charles Auguste de Bériot, Belgian violinist and composer (d. 1870)
- 1811 Henry Hastings Sibley, American politician (d. 1891)
- 1815 Louis Le Chatelier, French engineer and chemist (d. 1873)
- <u>1819</u> <u>Alfred Escher</u>, Swiss politician and railroad entrepreneur (d. <u>1882</u>)
- 1829 Antonio Guzman Blanco, President of Venezuela (d. 1899)
- <u>1839</u> <u>Benjamin Waugh</u>, British social reformer (d. <u>1908</u>)
- 1844 Ludwig Boltzmann, Austrian physicist (d. 1906)

- 1844 Joshua Slocum, Canadian seaman and adventurer (d. 1909)
- 1848 Edward Henry Harriman, American railroad executive (d. 1909)
- <u>1860</u> <u>Karl Mantzius</u>, Danish <u>theatre</u> and <u>movie actor</u>, <u>director</u> and <u>writer</u> (d. <u>1921</u>)
- 1866 Carl Westman, Swedish architect and designer (d. 1936)
- 1867 Louise, Princess Royal and Duchess of Fife (d. 1931)
- 1874 Mary Garden, Scottish operatic soprano (d. 1967)
- 1879 Hod Stuart, Canadian ice hockey player (d. 1907)
- 1881 Dora Altmann, German actress (d. 1971)
- 1882 Elie Nadelman, Polish-born American sculptor (d. 1946)
- 1886 Béla Kun, Hungarian politician (d. 1939)
- 1887 Vincent Massey, Governor-General of Canada (d. 1967)
- 1888 Georges Bernanos, French soldier and writer (d. 1948)
- <u>1898</u> <u>Jimmy Yancey</u>, American musician (d. <u>1951</u>)
- 1899 Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, American businessman (d. 1992)
- 1900 Maryam Jinnah, second wife of Muhammad Ali Jinnah (d. 1929)

#### **1901 - 1950**

- 1901 Muhammad Naguib, 1st President of Egypt (d. 1984)
- 1901 René Dubos, French microbiologist (d. 1982)
- 1901 Louis Kahn, American architect (d. 1974)
- 1902 Ansel Adams, American photographer (d. 1984)
- 1904 Alexei Kosygin, Soviet Premier (d. 1980)
- 1906 Gale Gordon, American television and radio actor (d. 1995)
- 1909 Heinz Erhardt, German comedian, entertainer and actor (d. 1979)
- 1912 Muriel Humphrey Brown, United States Senator and Second Lady of the United States (d. 1998)
- 1914 John Charles Daly, American broadcaster (d. 1991)
- 1916 Jean Erdman, American dancer and choreographer
- 1917 Juan Vicente Torrealba, Venezuelan musician and composer
- 1918 Leonore Annenberg, American billionaire (d. 2009)
- 1920 Kathleen Cavendish, Marchioness of Hartington, sister of John F. Kennedy (d. 1948)
- <u>1920</u> <u>Karl Albrecht</u>, German <u>businessman</u> (<u>Aldi</u> Süd) (d. <u>2014</u>)
- 1923 Forbes Burnham, 1st Prime Minister and 3rd President of Guyana (d. 1985)
- 1923 Victor G. Atiyeh, 32nd Governor of Oregon (d. 2014)
- 1924 Gloria Vanderbilt, American socialite and clothing designer (d. 2019)
- 1925 Tochinishiki Kiyotaka, Japanese sumo wrestler (d. 1990)
- <u>1925</u> <u>Robert Altman</u>, American movie director (d. <u>2006</u>)
- 1926 Richard Matheson, American science fiction writer and screenwriter (d. 2013)
- 1926 Bob Richards, American pole vaulter
- 1926 Alfonso Sastre, Spanish playwright, essayist and critic
- 1926 Ken Olsen, American engineer (d. 2011)
- 1926 Philip S. Goodman, American screenwriter, producer and director (d. 2015)

- 1927 Sidney Poitier, American-Bahamian actor, director and diplomat
- 1927 Ibrahim Ferrer, Cuban musician (d. 2005)
- 1928 Jean Kennedy Smith, American diplomat and sister of John F. Kennedy
- 1929 Eduardo Mac Entyre, Argentine artist (d. 2014)
- 1929 Toshiro Mayuzumi, Japanese composer (d. 1997)
- 1930 Willie Cunningham, Northern Irish footballer (d. 2007)
- 1930 Ken Jones, English actor (d. 2014)
- 1930 Gianfranco Parolini, Italian movie director and screenwriter
- 1931 John Milnor, American mathematician
- 1936 Shigeo Nagashima, Japanese baseball player and coach
- 1936 Larry Hovis, American actor (d. 2003)
- 1937 Robert Huber, German chemist
- <u>1937</u> <u>Roger Penske</u>, American racing driver and <u>entrepreneur</u>
- 1937 Nancy Wilson, American singer and actress
- 1940 <u>Jimmy Greaves</u>, English <u>footballer</u>
- 1941 Giuseppe Arzilli, Sammarinese politician
- 1941 Buffy Sainte-Marie, Canadian musician
- 1942 Phil Esposito, Canadian ice hockey player
- 1942 Mitch McConnell, American politician
- 1942 Claude Miller, French movie director and screenwriter (d. 2012)
- <u>1943</u> <u>Mike Leigh</u>, English writer and director
- <u>1944</u> <u>Willem van Hanegem</u>, Dutch footballer
- <u>1944</u> <u>Lew Soloff</u>, American <u>jazz</u> trumpeter (d. <u>2015</u>)
- 1945 Annu Kapoor, Indian actor
- 1945 George F. Smoot, American astrophysicist
- 1945 Henry Polic II, American actor (d. 2013)
- 1946 Brenda Blethyn, British actress
- 1946 Richard Cocciante, French-Italian singer and songwriter
- 1946 Sandy Duncan, American singer and actress
- 1947 Eggert Magnusson, Icelandic businessman
- <u>1947</u> <u>Peter Osgood</u>, English footballer (d. <u>2006</u>)
- 1948 Christopher A. Pissarides, Cypriot-British economist
- 1948 Pierre Bouchard, Canadian ice hockey player
- 1949 Ivana Trump, Czech-American socialite (d. 2022)
- 1950 Walter Becker, American guitarist

#### **1951 - 1975**

- 1951 Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 1951 Randy California, American singer-songwriter and guitarist (d. 1997)
- 1952 Abdala Bucaram, former President of Ecuador
- 1953 Poison Ivy, American musician
- 1953 Riccardo Chailly, Italian conductor
- 1954 Anthony Head, British actor
- <u>1954</u> <u>Patty Hearst</u>, American heiress
- 1954 Jon Brant, American musician
- 1960 Kee Marcello, Swedish guitarist
- 1960 Joel Hodgson, American comedian

- 1961 Imogen Stubbs, British actress
- 1961 Ion Geolgau, Romanian footballer
- 1962 Pierre Quinon, French pole vaulter (d. 2011)
- 1962 Atul Chitnis, German-Indian technician (d. 2013)
- <u>1963</u> <u>Ian Brown</u>, British singer (<u>The Stone Roses</u>)
- 1963 Charles Barkley, American basketball player
- 1963 Joakim Nyström, Swedish tennis player
- 1964 Rudi Garcia, French footballer
- 1966 Cindy Crawford, American model
- 1966 Dannis Mitchell, American athlete
- 1967 Kurt Cobain, American rock musician (Nirvana) (d. 1994)
- 1967 Kath Soucie, American voice, film, stage and television actress
- 1967 Lili Taylor, American actress
- 1968 Ted Hankey, English darts player
- 1969 Kaiji Takayama, Japanese professional wrestler
- 1969 Sinisa Mihajlovic, Serbian footballer
- 1969 Danis Tanovic, Bosnian movie director and screenwriter
- 1971 Jari Litmanen, Finnish footballer
- 1971 Joost van der Westhuizen, South African rugby player (d. 2017)
- 1971 Shawn McKenzie, American programmer
- 1971 Calpernia Addams, American writer, actress, activist and musician
- 1972 Brent Gretzky, Canadian ice hockey player
- 1972 Neil Primrose, Scottish musician (Travis)
- <u>1973</u> <u>Kimberley Davis</u>, Australian actress
- <u>1974</u> <u>Karim Bagheri</u>, Iranian <u>footballer</u>
- 1975 Nicolas Wallin, Swedish ice hockey player
- <u>1975</u> <u>Brian Littrell</u>, American singer (<u>Backstreet Boys</u>)

#### From 1976

- 1977 Ed Graham, British drummer (The Darkness)
- 1978 Lauren Ambrose, American actress
- 1978 Jav Hernandez, American actor
- 1980 Imanol Harinordoguy, French rugby player
- 1980 Arthur Abraham, Armenian-German boxer
- 1980 Artur Boruc, Polish footballer
- 1980 Luis Gabriel Rev. Colombian footballer
- 1981 Tony Hibbert, English footballer
- 1981 Elisabeth Görgl, Austrian skier
- 1982 Jason Hirsh, American baseball player
- 1983 <u>Justin Verlander</u>, American <u>baseball</u> player
- 1984 Trevor Noah, South African comedian and television host
- 1984 Ramzee Robinson, American basketball player
- 1985 Yulia Volkova, Russian singer
- <u>1986</u> <u>Diego Reis</u>, Brazilian footballer
- 1987 Miles Teller, American actor
- 1988 Jiah Khan, Indian actress (d. 2013)
- 1988 Rihanna, Barbadian singer and actress
- 1990 Ciro Immobile, Italian footballer

- 1991 Antonio Pedroza, English-Mexican footballer
- 2014 Princess Leonore, Duchess of Gotland, Swedish royal

# **Deaths**

## [change | change source]

## **Up to 1900**

## [change | change source]

- 702 K'inich Kan B'Alam II, King of the Mayan city of Palengue (b. 635)
- 1154 Wulfric of Haselbury, English saint (b. 1080)
- <u>1171</u> <u>Conan IV, Duke of Brittany</u> (b. <u>1138</u>)
- 1194 King Tancred of Sicily (b. 1138)
- 1408 Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland, English politician (b. 1342)
- <u>1431</u> <u>Pope Martin V</u> (b. <u>1368</u>)
- 1513 John, King of Denmark (b. 1455)
- 1618 Philip William, Prince of Orange (b. 1554)
- 1762 Tobias Mayer, German astronomer (b. 1723)
- 1771 Jean Jacques d'Ortous de Marain, French geophysicist (b. 1678)
- 1773 King Charles Emmanuel III of Sardinia (b. 1701)
- 1778 Laura Bassi, Italian scholar (b. 1711)
- 1790 Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor (b. 1741)
- 1799 Jean-Charles de Borda, French mathematician (b. 1733)
- 1803 Marie Dumesnil, French actress (b. 1713)
- <u>1806</u> <u>Lachlan McIntosh</u>, Scottish-American military and political leader (b. <u>1725</u>)
- <u>1810</u> <u>Andreas Hofer</u>, <u>Tyrolian</u> patriot (b. <u>1767</u>)
- <u>1871</u> <u>Paul Kane</u>, Canadian painter (b. <u>1810</u>)
- <u>1893</u> <u>P. G. T. Beauregard</u>, American general (b. <u>1818</u>)
- 1895 Frederick Douglass, American abolitionist (b. 1817)

#### **1901 - 2000**

- 1907 Henri Moissan, French chemist (b. 1852)
- 1910 Boutros Ghali, Egyptian politician (b. 1846)
- <u>1916</u> <u>Klas Pontus Arnoldson</u>, Swedish writer and pacifist (b. <u>1844</u>)
- 1919 Habibullah Khan, Emir of Afghanistan (b. 1872)
- 1920 Robert Peary, American Arctic explorer (b. 1856)
- <u>1920</u> <u>Jacinta Marto</u>, Portuguese religious figure (b. <u>1910</u>)
- 1929 Maryam Jinnah, second wife of Muhammad Ali Jinnah (b. 1900)
- 1948 Robert P. Lamont, 5th <u>United States Secretary of Commerce</u> (b. 1867)
- 1952 Carlos Julio Arosemena Tola, President of Ecuador (b. 1888)
- 1961 Percy Grainger, Australian composer (b. 1882)
- <u>1963</u> <u>Ferenc Fricsay</u>, Hungarian conductor (b. <u>1914</u>)
- <u>1963</u> <u>Jacob Gade</u>, Danish composer (b. <u>1879</u>)

- <u>1965</u> <u>Fred Immler</u>, German actor (b. <u>1880</u>)
- 1966 Chester W. Nimitz, American admiral (b. 1885)
- 1968 Anthony Asquith, British movie director and writer (b. 1902)
- 1969 Ernest Ansermet, Swiss conductor (b. 1883)
- 1970 Sophie Treadwell, American playwright and journalist (b. 1885)
- <u>1972</u> <u>Maria Goeppert-Mayer</u>, German physicist (b. <u>1906</u>)
- <u>1972</u> <u>Walter Winchell</u>, American <u>journalist</u> (b. <u>1897</u>)
- <u>1976</u> <u>René Cassin</u>, French judge (b. <u>1887</u>)
- 1982 René Dubos, French microbiologist (b. 1901)
- <u>1992</u> <u>Dick York</u>, American actor (b. <u>1928</u>)
- <u>1993</u> <u>Ferruccio Lamborghini</u>, Italian automobile manufacturer (b. 1916)
- 1996 Solomon Asch, American psychologist (b. 1907)
- <u>1999</u> <u>Sarah Kane</u>, English playwright (b. <u>1971</u>)
- 2000 Anatoly Sobchak, Russian politician (b. 1937)

## From 2001

#### [change | change source]

- 2003 Orville Freeman, 29th Governor of Minnesota (b. 1918)
- 2005 Hunter S. Thompson, American writer (b. 1937)
- <u>2007</u> <u>Carl-Henning Pedersen</u>, Danish painter (b. <u>1913</u>)
- 2007 F. Albert Cotton, American chemist (b. 1930)
- 2010 Alexander Haig, American politician (b. 1924)
- 2012 Vitaly Vorotnikov, Soviet-Russian politician (b. 1926)
- 2012 Katie Hall, American politician (b. 1938)
- 2012 Sullivan Walker, American actor (b. 1939)
- 2013 Antonio Roma, Argentine footballer (b. 1932)
- 2014 Walter D. Ehlers, American soldier (b. 1921)
- 2014 Rafael Addiego Bruno, Uruguayan jurist and politician (b. 1923)
- 2014 Garrick Utley, American television journalist (b. 1939)
- 2014 Reghu Kumar, Indian composer (b. 1953)
- <u>2014</u> <u>Tea Ista</u>, Finnish actress (b. <u>1932</u>)
- 2014 Cuthbert A. Pattillo, American air force general (b. 1924)
- 2015 Henry Segerstrom, American politician (b. 1923)
- 2016 Fernando Cardenal, Nicaraguan priest and politician (b. 1934)
- 2016 Ove Verner Hansen, Danish actor and opera singer (b. 1932)
- 2016 Nando Yosu, Spanish footballer and manager (b. 1939)
- 2017 Vitaly Churkin, Russian diplomat (b. 1952)
- 2017 Mildred Dresselhaus, American scientist (b. 1930)

# **Observances**

- World Day of <u>Social Justice</u>
- Rihanna Day (Barbados)

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