# September: the Month of the Holy Cross

# We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in who is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered. Cf Gal 6:14

THE FEAST of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14<sup>th</sup> September) is the focus for September, the Month of the Holy Cross. The Cross is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and his Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened. It is called in Greek "Yuuou tou Yuu Zuonotou Staugou ('Raising Aloft of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross') and in Latin *Exaltatio Sancta Crucis*. Anglicans and Lutherans sometimes refer to the observance as Holy Cross Day.

The feast celebrates two historical events: the discovery of part of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in 320, under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which mark the site of the Crucifixion. The date of the feast marks the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was a two-day festival: the consecration of the church was on 13<sup>th</sup> September (the date still kept by the Armenians for the feast) and the relic of the Cross was brought outside the church on 14<sup>th</sup> September so that the clergy and faithful could pray before it and come forward to venerate it.

The basilica, called the *Martyrium*, and the shrine, called the *Calvarium*, were destroyed by the Persians in 614. They carried away the relic of the True Cross and it remained missing until it was recaptured by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius in 628. Initially taken to Constantinople, the relic of the True Cross was returned to the Church in Jerusalem the following year. The church now on the site was built by the crusaders in 1149.



# THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

#### SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Today is Home Mission Sunday and there will be a second collection

### ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course is running again in Abingdon, hosted bt St. Edmund's parish. Alpha is a wonderful opportunity to explore the main questions of life and the Christian faith in a relaxed, hospitable way. For those of no faith and also for those who maybe living their faith as a routine but would like to discover a closer relationship with the Lord. Starting in **late September**, there will be 3 parallel courses on Thursday mornings, Friday mornings and Sunday evenings. Please ring Clare 01235 847804.

# GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. All welcome. We meet in the parish rooms at 7.30 pm and finish between 8.30 and 9.00. For more information, contact Denis Smith; 01235 765564; **djbm.smith@ntlworld.com** 

# CANONISATION OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

There are limited seats available for the Canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman. From **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Includes Return Flights from Gatwick, half board accommodation in Rome Hotel, airport transfers, tour of St Peter's, and the Canonisation Mass. Please call Leisure time Travel 0151 287 8000, 07512 856 045.

### **RED BOXES**

It is time again to collect your hard earned money that you have kindly put in your boxes. Time does fly doesn't it, so could you please get the boxes to your promoters, so that it can be collected and the results for the year be forwarded to the Missio Headquarters. Thank you again. Margaret Maytham.

# BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S EMMY NOMINATED FILM

Alongside Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: Our Catholic community in Winchester is showing a short film by Bishop Robert Barron peering into the mind of this great artist and seeing paintings through the lens of faith. Parish Centre in Jewry Street on **Friday afternoons (3pm)**. More information at **www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk** 

# PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection raised £1016.95 of which 86.00 % was Gift aided. .

FORTHCOMING COLLECTION Our Lady of Walsingham: 29th September



# **NEWSLETTER** | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to **hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk** by <u>Wednesday 10 am</u>

# WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

# BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

# THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadvyga Adasko, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary Mc Nichol and Katherine Eyston.

# THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: George Joseph Castle, John Henry Savile, Eileen Harper, Bob Ryan, Albert Wheatley, James Bridger, Gertrude (Gay) Keenex.

HOLY FATHER'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION - May politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

### **CONFIRMATION (ADULTS)**

Any Adults (16+) who have not been received into the Catholic Church, or who have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation, please speak to Fr Andrew. We run a fireside group during the winter months during which further consideration is given to these matters and whether to proceed formally.

# CONFIRMATION (CHILDREN)

We are contacting parents of children aged 11 or over who may want to join our Confirmation Programme in the autumn. Have a word with Maria or Fr Andrew.

### DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS AND CHILDREN LITURGY LEADERS

On **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am to 4pm at Portsmouth Cathedral, lunch provided. A day to celebrate and give thanks for our Mission. A day to form our understanding of this mission, at the service of Jesus Christ. A day to discover how to foster intimacy with Jesus Christ. Book your place at **www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/catechists** 

### PILGRIMAGES

**EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES & SPECIAL SAINTS OF ITALY** 16<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September with Fr Marcin Drabik, cost £980pp includes airfares, shared accommodation, all meals and transport to sites. See stswithuns.org.uk/pilgrimage-sep-2019

ROME & ASSISI № 11<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October with Canon Dominic Golding. Please see poster in church or contact E blessings41@gmail.com

HOLY LAND ♥ 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Cost pp £1,195, includes flights, accommodation, meals and full religious programme. Please see information in the porch. Bookings : aglowpilgrimages.com or call Jonathan on 0800 6894792

### **COFFEE AFTER MASS**

Please join us for a cup of coffee at St Mary's Parish Rooms after every Sunday Mass and at St Michael's Room on the **first** Sunday of the month.