

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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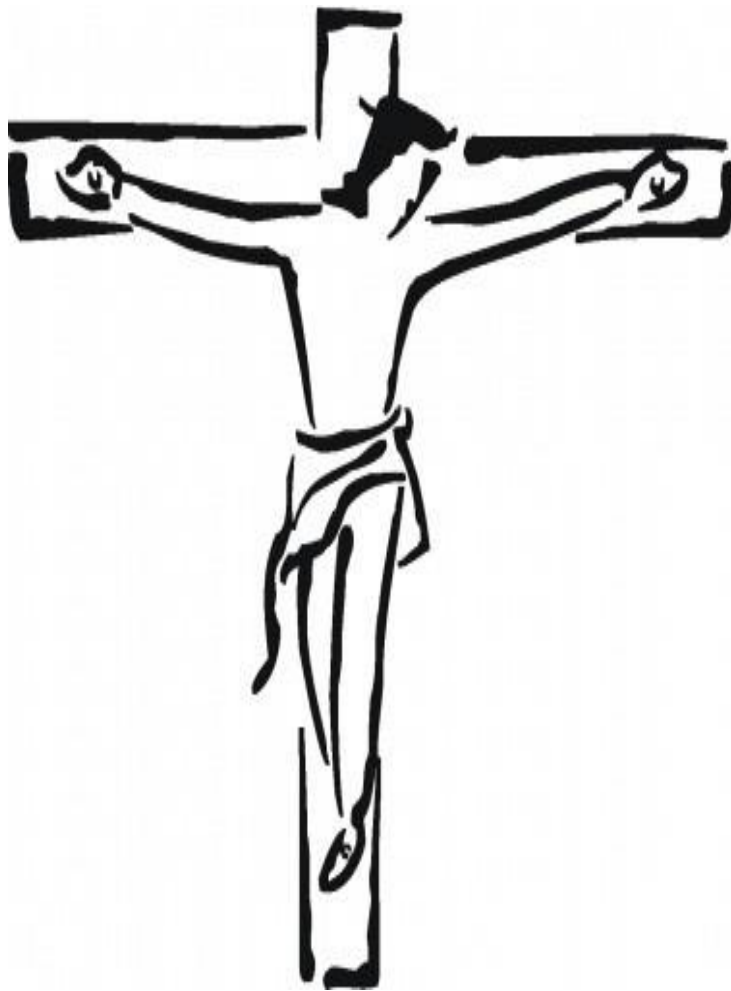
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## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 4)

### EDUCATION SUNDAY



*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son”*

For the healing of the nations, O God, you raised up your Son on the wood of the cross and exalted him as the Lord of all creation. Grant that all who believe in him may have the gift of eternal life and share in the glory of your kingdom, where you live forever and ever. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Maureen Seacombe	St John Chrysostom (memorial)
	<b>SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE</b>		<b>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>
	6.00pm	Ann Lumb	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Our Lady of Sorrows (memorial)
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Peace in the world	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian (memorial)
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Start of year school Mass</b> – for the staff, pupils and governors of the school	Feria (week 24)
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Sheila Margaret Cowsley	Feria
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Sr Hilda Wood (Stanbrook)	St Andrew KimTaegon and companions (memorial)
	<b>SECOND COLLECTION: HOME MISSIONS</b>		<b>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	6.00pm	Peter Prescott	
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	For the Parish	

**First Saturday of the month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the sick during 10.30am Mass**

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>		L Gardner		L Gardner	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>		B Cook		F Fordyce	
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	L & M Gardner
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>		G Hopkinson		G Hopkinson	
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>		F Fordyce		J Kitchen	
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

**Last weekend attendance: 105, collection: £309.00 – thank you!**

**Readings: Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17.**

My *Collins* dictionary defines the word *exalt* as to raise in rank or power etc, to praise highly, make lofty or noble and it tells me that the Latin for *Altus* means high.

And so, on this feast of the *Exaltation of the Cross*, we see references to raising on high or, in the case of our first reading, the setting on a pole the image of a fiery serpent so that anyone who looks upon it will be saved from the bite of the fiery serpents sent by God among the people as punishment for speaking against him and his servant Moses.

And in the Gospel, Jesus compares the raising up of the fiery serpent on the pole to the raising of the Son of Man: ... *as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

Finally, in the letter to the Philippians, St Paul speaks of Jesus who was in the form of God, emptying himself of his divinity and taking on the form of a servant and the likeness of men. But through humble obedience, to the point of death on a cross, *God has highly exalted him and bestowed upon him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*

With regard to this feast, *St John Paul II* writes *On the cross, human misery and divine mercy meet. The adoration of this unlimited mercy is for man the only way to open himself to the mystery which the cross reveals. The cross, he goes on to say, though planted in human malice, reaches up to the heavens and the goodness of God.*

We could add to this vertical image, the horizontal transoms or cross beam – stretching, reaching out and imparting God's love across humanity or even; as loving arms gathering humanity to himself.

Uplifting images perhaps, but such images should not soften the reality of what the cross was – an instrument of the cruellest form of torture and death upon which our blessed Lord chose to die.

The people whom Moses was leading chose not to recognise God as their Saviour, who had freed them from the tyranny of evil and who, through Moses, was leading them to freedom and new life.

The alternative to life in God is death; hence the fiery serpents with their deadly bite.

In Jesus Christ, God again offers humanity freedom from evil and new life in and with him.

There is no other truth, no other life; there is either life in God or life without God which isn't life at all, the horrors of which are beyond description – the living death of hell.

When those people in the desert looked upon the image of a fiery serpent which God had told them to raise up on a pole, they were looking at that which had power over both death and life.

There is only one who has that power but who empties himself of it, in order to give us life, and he did that through his death and exaltation on a cross.

Of course, the ultimate raising up was Christ's ascension to heaven, but it was through the cross that it was accomplished.

On this feast of the *Exaltation of the Cross*, let us look upon the Cross, as did Mary and St John to whom Jesus entrusted her, that we too may have *Life* and a share in Christ's own *Exaltation*.

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### Reflections from Scripture:

*Now is sentence being passed on this world, now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself. (John 12: 31-32.)*

*God loved us with so much love, that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved and raised us up with him and given a place with him in heaven. (Ephesians 2: 4-6)*

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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### This week's commemorations

**Our Lady of Sorrows** commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels or through tradition.

**Ss Cornelius and Cyprian.** Cornelius became Pope in 251 but died in exile in 253. Cyprian was Bishop of Carthage and was executed by the Roman emperor Valerian.

**St Andrew Kim Taegon**, Priest and Martyr and Companions (17th c): The Korean Church is unique because it was founded entirely by lay people. This fledgling Church, so young and yet so strong in faith, withstood wave after wave of fierce persecution. Thus, in less than a century, it could boast of 10,000 martyrs. The death of these many martyrs became the leaven of the Church and led to today's splendid flowering of the Church in Korea. Even today their undying spirit sustains the Christians of the Church of Silence in the north of this tragically divided land. (Pope St John Paul II at the canonization of the Korean Martyrs 1984)

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**THIS SUNDAY IS EDUCATION SUNDAY** when we are asked to pray for, and support by the **SECOND COLLECTION**, the work of the Catholic Education Service: [www.catholiceducation.org.uk](http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk).

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**MASS ON WEDNESDAY** is at **10.30am** – start of year Mass for the Primary School – all welcome.

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**NEXT SUNDAY IS EVANGELII GAUDIUM DAY** – a day of prayer for the spread of the Gospel. There will be a Second Collection for Home Missions. More information at [www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday).

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Please keep your eye on the “**TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS**” section of our website – it gets updated regularly.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Bill Warbrick who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Ann Green and Fr Laurence Mayne, as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 40 is number 62, Loz Lomax. Given the uncertainty regarding the future of the Parish, we've decided to **CLOSE THE 100 CLUB AFTER THIS WEEK**; to have to close partway through a block of 10 weeks would be just too messy. Anyone who has paid up until the end of the club year will get a refund for their unused subs. Thank you all for your support over the years – hopefully we can restart the club in the not-too distant future.

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**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** During Ordinary Time (Autumn), ie from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Student and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

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**Bidding Prayers for The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Priest:** As we think how we were saved by the Holy Cross of Christ, let us turn to the Father with our needs and those of the church.

**Reader:** Let us pray that in this Jubilee year of Hope the whole Church will be renewed in spirit and love. Lord in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of our country and those of the wider world, that their decisions will result in fairness and justice for all. Lord in your mercy...

As this is also Education Sunday, let us pray for all those in our schools and colleges as they settle in to the new school year. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for peace in the world especially in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for those in our parish who are sick or housebound and for all those who worry about the future of our parish as we ask Mary our Mother to intercede for us. Hail Mary...

In silence we put our own private petitions to God our Father.

**Priest:** We praise and thank you Father, creator of heaven and earth, as we make our prayers with confidence through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

**Priest:** As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

**All:** May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.