

The deepest longing

[The Sage] greeted me as a friend and stood looking at me for a long time... After a long silence, he said in a quiet voice: "You are very lucky."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because you are human and you can search. A rose is beautiful, but it spends its whole life as a rose without knowing why and for whom it is beautiful."

"What value is the search if you do not find?" I asked at once...

It was then that my longing was irresistibly expressed as a fervent plea: "Help me to live! I am hungry and thirsty for life and I cannot find anything that will satisfy me..."

Very quietly and very slowly he replied: "It is a question not so much of living as of loving... Your obsession with your hunger and thirst is leading you astray. You will never satisfy them. Even if you had access to all the food and drink in the world and consumed them every moment of the day, you would still experience hunger and thirst. They are not your real hunger and thirst. They conceal another hunger and another thirst and those hidden longings are more persistent and more demanding, because they are infinite."

"The deepest longing in the heart of every man and woman is not the longing to live, but the longing to love and to be loved. That is what we are all hungering and thirsting for... that is not surprising. We are, after all made by love and for love."

Michel Quoist, The Breath of Love

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen.

Father, forgive them

By Paul Higginson

Today's feast of the Holy Cross gets to the heart of what it is to be a Christian. On the cross, Jesus is subjected to hatred and violence but he chooses not to pass this back to those who crucify him. In fact he says, "Father, forgive them: they know not what they do." We too are called to understand that we don't need to hate others when they hate us. If others speak ill

of us we don't need to give the same back. We are called to join Jesus on the cross, dying to our own ego and self-absorption, losing our life in order to find it. In today's Gospel Jesus says he comes not to condemn, but to save. And if we can be transformed by the cross into people who don't need to hurt the people who hurt us, then we can truly say with confidence that we are saved.

Paul Higginson is a retired teacher and author of Doing Christianity: how religion is about what you do, not what you believe

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

20 September

Jubilee of Justice

We need to recognise the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.

The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war... Many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called "children of God".

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025:7, 8



In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching.

Pope Leo XIV



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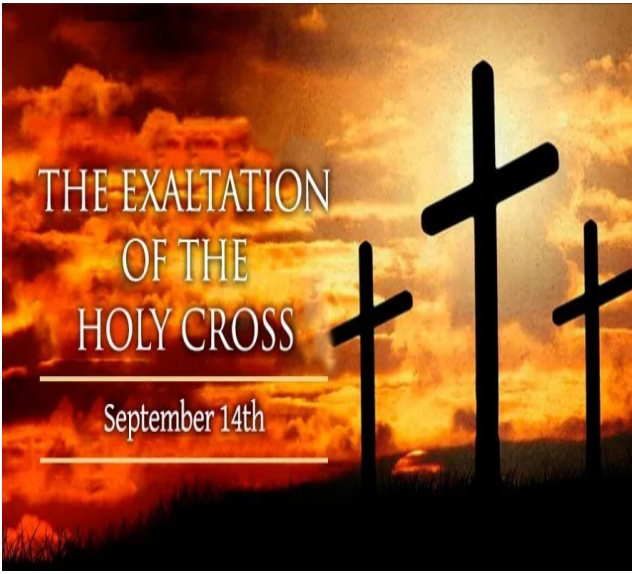
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The Exaltation of The Holy Cross

Sunday 14th September 2025

The Word This Week

The message of God's forgiveness is one that we are familiar with, but which the Lord still wishes to emphasise. Our human approach to forgiveness is so often flawed – we hold grudges, erect barriers, make demands and establish conditions. Jesus wants to remind his listeners – and us – that God's forgiveness is overflowing and bountiful. Saint Paul was well aware of this: he had persecuted the Church, calling himself "the greatest of sinners"; and yet, thanks to the "inexhaustible patience" of God, he can count himself a believer. We must be open to the gift of forgiveness for ourselves, and also (as the Parable of the Elder Brother shows) open to that forgiveness offered to other whom we would condemn.



S	E	Y	P	E	E	H	S	E	D
E	S	R	T	A	T	S	E	R	S
C	H	E	A	F	A	M	A	I	A
I	O	H	N	S	T	C	E	N	M
O	U	C	A	R	S	H	N	M	H
J	L	U	M	E	E	N	I	A	C
E	D	A	O	N	O	D	O	F	A
R	E	B	W	N	C	C	L	S	R
O	R	E	N	I	M	A	F	I	D
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SINNERS
SHEEP
WILDERNESS
SHOULDERS
REJOICE
WOMAN
DRACHMAS
SONS
ESTATE
DEBAUCHERY
FAMINE
CALF



Mass Times 14th September		
Sunday 14th	Vigil - Saturday 13th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Cicero, Jose Brenndon, Vicente Melchora
Monday 15th	Mass-	9.30 – Melvyn Littler (LD)
Tuesday 16th	No Mass Sac Prog Meeting Sac Prog Meeting	<i>SJF Children 3.30pm SJF school Hall</i> <i>StM Children 6.30pm in Parish Hall</i>
Wednesday 17th	Mass Faith in Action Meeting	9.30 – Emily McDonald (A) 6.30pm Parish Hall
Thursday 18th	6pm Exposition Mass	6.30pm – Lesley Miller (LD)
Friday 19th	Mass-	9.30 – Bryan Miller (LD)
Saturday 20th Sunday 21st	Vigil Mass	4pm - John Francis Kerwin (A) 11am –Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Polite Reminder

We love our families coming to Mass but please can we ask families with toddlers to refrain from eating snacks during Mass. (Sadly we don't have regular cleaning at present). We have some children's Missals to help them follow the Mass. Thank you

Mass Offerings:
Cicero; Jose Brendan; Vicente Melchora; Melvyn Littler (LD); Emily McDonald (A); Bryan Miller (LD); Lesley Miller (LA); John Francis Kerwin (A); Tom Lally (RIP); Forgotten Souls

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)



Altar Prayer Candles W/C 14th September 2025	
The Sanctu-ary	Paul Scanlon Successful Operation and Recovery
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	Anthony Scanlon for a successful operation and recovery

Altar Prayer Candles
Our Seven Day Candles can be lit next to the Sanctuary, Our Lady's Altar and The Sacred Heart Statue at St Mary's. To dedicate a candle for your own intentions please pick up a green form at the back of church and return in an envelope with your donation. This is another way for your special intentions to be remembered and prayed for in the Parish.



Prayer for the Exaltation of the Cross

Holy Father, as we reflect on the exaltation of the Cross, we praise Thy Holy Name for the sacrifice of Thy Son. May we embrace the message of love and redemption, drawing strength from His humility. Help us to carry our own crosses with grace, that we may grow closer to Thee.

Amen.

Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary's, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank
Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph's, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary's, Denton

What's coming up in your parish



September
Tuesday 16th September **Sacramental Programme** meeting (SJF Cohort) 3.30pm SJF School Hall
Tuesday 16th September **Sacramental Programme** meeting (StM Cohort) 6.30pm Parish Hall
Wednesday 17th September **Faith in Action** Meeting.6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

October
Tuesday 14th October **Sacramental Programme** meeting (SJF Cohort) 3.30pm SJF School Hall
Tuesday 14th October **Sacramental Programme** meeting (StM Cohort) 6.30pm Parish Hall
Wednesday 15th October **Scripture Course** 6.30pm in Parish Hall
Friday 17th October **Strung Sung Supper.** 7pm, St Mary's school Hall. (tickets on sale soon)
Wednesday 22nd October **Faith in Action** 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

November
Wednesday 12th November **Scripture Course** 6.30pm Parish Hall
Wednesday 19th November **Faith in Action** 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

December
Wednesday 3rd December **Scripture Course** 6.30pm in Parish Hall
Wednesday 17th December **Faith in Action** 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

Scripture Course
Due to the interested in the Scripture course last year. We are putting on a new course which will start in October.
It will be held on a Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
15th October	28th January
12th November	11th February
3rd December	4th March
	1st April (Holy Week)
	6th May
	11th June



New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, from 22nd October 2025, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows: 22/10/25; 19/11/25; 17/12/25; 21/01/26; 25/02/26; 18/03/26; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form

The Post Confirmation programme—A Call to Lead for our older young people will take place on the same evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Diocese Notice Board.

The Mercy Brothers

Enjoy a family-friendly night of musical entertainment with clergy band, The Mercy Brothers. The concert will raise funds for our Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, which supports our sick pilgrims and medical team. The concert takes place on Friday 3rd October at St Michael's RC Parish, Whitefield. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £15 for adults, £10 for 16-21 year olds, and free for under 16s. Food will be provided and included in the cost. Book now by email- ing Lourdes.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.