



## PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS

Bulletin

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – FEAST

Vocations Awareness Week

(Nm 21:4-9, Phil 2:6-11, Jn 3:13-17)



St. Peter's R.C. Church, 154 Braehead Road,

Paisley, PA2 8NG

Phone - 0141 884 2435

Email - [stpeter@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stpeter@rcdop.org.uk)

Facebook: St Peter's Catholic Church Paisley

Web: [www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk](http://www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk)

St. Fergus' R.C. Church

[35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1LU](http://35BlackstounRoad,PaisleyPA31LU)

Phone- 0141 884 2435

Email - [stfergus@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stfergus@rcdop.org.uk)

Facebook: St Fergus Catholic Church

Web: [www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk](http://www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Rev. Thomas John

*(Resident at St Peter's)*

Sunday Mass: St. Peter's 4.00pm (Sat) & 10.00 am, St. Fergus' 6pm (Sat) & 11.30 am

Weekday Mass: St Peter's – Tue & Thu 10.00am; St Fergus – Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30am

Confessions: St Peter's 3.15-3.50pm, St Fergus' 5.20-5.50pm; and on request

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** We pray for all who are sick ... For all who have recently died and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ina Gordon, John Reddy, Ellen Young, John McPhee, and George & Archibald Thorburn.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (31 August):** St Peter's - Offertory: £504.00, B. Fund: £308.00, St Fergus -Offertory: £240.00, B. Fund: 90.00

**BAPTISM:** Please pray for Nathan who will be baptised in St Peter's on Saturday 20.

**P4 & P7 PARENTS MEETING:** The sacramental preparation meeting of parents of P4 children of St Peter's is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and P7 on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in the parish hall.

**WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?** The RCIA process will be starting soon in our cluster. For more information, please contact your parish priest or fill in the enquiry form here [Diocese of Paisley | Diocese of Paisley R.C.I.A | Paisley, UK](#), where you will find more information about the process.

**100 CLUB: GOLDEN STAR:** Last month's 100 Club winner is Christine McKendrick. Congratulations.

**TEA & COFFEE** - available in the parish hall after the morning mass. All are most welcome.

**THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:** Both Eastern and Western Churches celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross every year on September 14<sup>th</sup> on the anniversary of the dedication of the basilica built by Emperor Constantine in Jerusalem.

It commemorates the discovery of the cross of Jesus by St. Helena the mother of Emperor Constantine, in the early 4th century. While Queen St. Helena, a devout Christian went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 326AD. Her desire was to identify significant sites from Christ's life and establish churches at those locations and also to find the True Cross. It is said that there was a pagan temple to the Roman goddess Venus over Calvary that was demolished at the orders of the Emperor Constantine and they found three crosses in a cistern, one which was determined to be the True Cross. Legend says the True Cross was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. Subsequently, Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of two churches, the Basilica of the *Anastasis* (the Holy Sepulchre) over the tomb of Jesus to honour his Resurrection and the Basilica of the *Martyrium* over Calvary to honour the crucifixion and dedicated on 13 September 335. As the legend goes, the following day, Christ's Cross was brought outside the newly built church for the faithful to venerate. Thus, the first showing, or Exaltation of the Holy Cross, might have occurred on September 14, 335.

The Cross was venerated with great devotion and then enshrined in the *Martyrium*. The Edict of Milan, issued in 313AD, granted religious freedom across the Roman Empire. This was a mutual agreement between Roman Emperors

Constantine I in the West and Licinius in the East. Before this edict, Christians had endured various state-sponsored persecutions over the prior two and a half centuries.

The feast was formerly known as the Triumph of the Cross, but it has been renamed the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates three historical events all which took place in Jerusalem: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its initial exaltation for public veneration of the Cross in 335, and the triumphant return of the True Cross from the Persians in 629.

The then Christian world was horrified when Jerusalem was ransacked by the Persians on May 20, 614. The *Anastasis* was destroyed and the True Cross stolen. The Byzantine emperor, Heraclius I (575-641), a Christian, assembled an army in 622 and conquered the Persian army in 628, and the relic was returned in 629. Followed by this victory on March 21, 630, the Emperor Heraclius personally carried the True Cross relic in solemn procession into Jerusalem and restored it to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There was jubilation all over; some knelt in reverence, and others danced in jubilation. All rejoiced, exalting in the glorious Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

“Exaltation” means “to lift up,” and for centuries Christians have elevated crosses so they can be clearly seen and venerated by genuflection, kneeling, a profound bow, and other expressions of respect and reverence.

The feast was formalized in the Western Church in the 7th century. After that, the Feast of the Holy Cross became a universal celebration within the Church, starting in Rome and subsequently spreading throughout the entire empire, and has been celebrated annually on September 14 ever since.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17), later became a symbol of sin and death (Gen 3:6). The tree of victory is the tree of the Cross, so that where there is death, life might again spring forth. The cross, which was once an instrument of shameful death, is now a powerful symbol of Christ's sacrifice to redeem humanity. Christians are encouraged to accept the sufferings and difficulties in their lives as a spiritual journey, as a means of spiritual growth and union with Christ and a way to unite themselves with the merits of Christ's Passion. Our primary focus is the infinite

love shown through the selfless and perfect Sacrifice of the Son of God and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result.

As we commemorate the triumph of Christ's Cross, call to mind the crosses we bear each day. Very often when faced with crosses like sufferings, injustices, hardships, and illness we seek a way out, succumb to self-pity, and are often tempted by anger and despair. Instead, try to allow Jesus to enter those crosses, transform them, and use them for His glory, your good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed. Although the suffering may remain, it must become redeemed suffering, thus bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.

We do this when we embrace Jesus' commands to share in His sufferings, unite them with His own, and allow Him to bear an abundance of good fruit through us. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 16:24–25).

The message of the cross is seen as the power of God to those who believe, even though it may seem like foolishness to those who do not. On this great feast and always, “We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered” (Gal 6:14).

The Cross is the primary symbol of the Christian faith. It represents Jesus himself, his suffering, his immeasurable love for us, his victory over sin and death, and our redemption. ‘*In Cruce salus*’ - In the Cross is our salvation.

*Prayer: Most glorious and triumphant Lord, You gave Your life for the salvation of my soul, using the most horrific act of cruelty as the means of Your redeeming grace. I pray that I will have the courage and wisdom to embrace my crosses every day of my life, uniting them to Your Cross, and trusting that You will use these sacrifices as a means of the further bestowal of Your love on the world. Saving Cross of Christ, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You. (partly taken from ‘My catholic life’)*

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER: We will be judged on how fully we commit to Safeguarding, those who are vulnerable.