



Vox Populi

11 September 2025

On Sunday, 14 September, we celebrate the Solemnity of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

The universal symbol of the Christian faith, the cross represents Jesus Christ's victory over death and source of eternal salvation.

In the Eastern Churches the feast dates back to the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Christ's tomb, in Jerusalem around 335 AD.

It was adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 7th century. This redemptive transformation of a barbaric instrument of torture into a divine symbol of hope for mankind represents the universal nature of Christ's sacrifice.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross also commemorates the discovery around 326 AD of the True Cross, of Calvary, and the tomb of Christ by St Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, which the Romans had buried under a Temple to Venus.

This day is a special reminder that crosses in life should not be avoided but transformed. Although the suffering may remain, it must be redeemed suffering, and so bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.

In your parishes this weekend you are also invited to take a copy of Bishop Anthony's second Pastoral Letter – *The Mystery of Faith: Encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist*. This Letter offers a profound opportunity, not only to celebrate, but to renew our understanding, appreciation, and lived experience of the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of Christian life.

"As we journey together toward the Eucharistic Congress of 2028, may we grow in wonder at the gift of the Eucharist and renew our commitment to be, in all we say and do, a people formed and sent by the Eucharistic Lord," Bishop Anthony said.

