

## Prayers for 13<sup>th</sup> September

September 14<sup>th</sup> is a special date in our family as it is the birthday of my beloved, late cousin who was always like a sister to me. She was a devout Christian and celebrated every year, along with her birthday, the other reason why September 14<sup>th</sup> is a red letter day on the calendar. It is Holy Cross Day.

This may be unfamiliar to lots of people so I would like to take this opportunity to explain why this coming Monday is called Holy Cross Day. The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol of Christianity. In the fourth century pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at holy places associated with the life of Jesus.

The emperor at that time had a mother who was a Christian and it is said that whilst she was overseeing excavations in the city, she uncovered a cross which many believed to be the cross of Christ – the one on which he died. A basilica was built on the site and dedicated on September 14<sup>th</sup> in the year 335 and thereafter that day became known as Holy Cross Day.

A really lovely prayer for us would be the collect for Holy Cross Day:

Almighty God,  
Who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death  
to be for us the means of life and peace:  
Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake;  
Who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. Amen

And we pray for the recently departed and for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this week: Gwendoline Mabel Unstead, Carole Cecile Hodgson, Edith Margaret Ross, George Flamson, John David Brown, Janet Morgan and Doris Kathleen Hutson. Amen