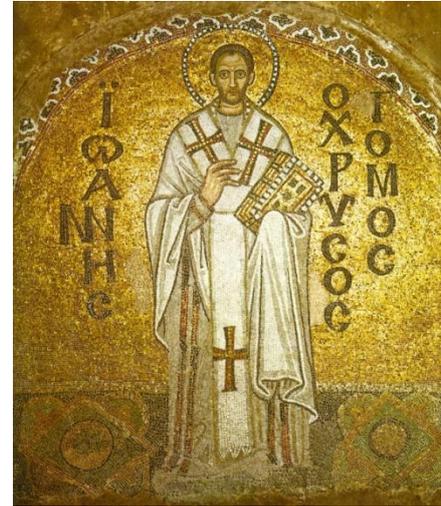


Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 12th September)

13th September

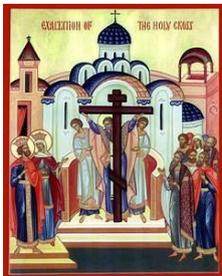
Saint John Chrysostom - *doctor of the church, bishop*

Chrysostom was born around AD347 in Antioch. Despite his pagan education, he became increasingly drawn to Christianity leading to a time as a hermit, the extreme discipline of which permanently damaged his health. He was ordained deacon in AD381. He was a popular choice when he became Archbishop of Constantinople. However, life was not peaceful there. He found himself on the wrong side of theological and political divisions and he was in and out of office. He was finally exiled from Constantinople for reasons, which are not clear; and he died on 14th September AD407. During his life he was a prolific theological author; and many of his works are still read.



14th September

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

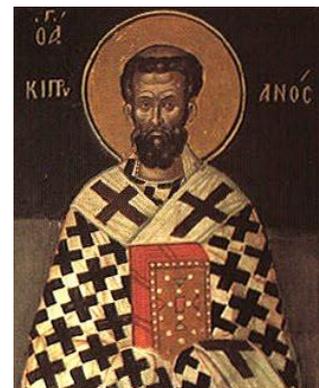


This festival is bound up with the finding of the True Cross by the Empress Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. The date of 14th September AD335 was the date of the consecration of one of the churches built by Constantine to celebrate his mother's discovery. The Cross is, of course, central to Christian Faith. This festival is related to the Veneration of the Cross at the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday.

15th September

Saint Cyprian - *martyr, bishop*

Cyprian was born in about AD200. He was a prolific theological author and became Bishop of (his probably native) Carthage in AD249. He also strengthened the ecclesiastical structures we still maintain today. His were tumultuous times for Christians, who had to cope with persecution and also the vexed question of what to do about Christians, who lapsed from the Faith in the face of danger. Not all of views have stood the test of time and he was a controversial figure even amongst his contemporaries. He was martyred during the persecution of Valerius in AD258.



16th September



Saint Ninian - *bishop, missionary*

We know next to nothing about Ninian. Saint Bede mentions him, saying that he received an education in Rome. His work was undertaken amongst the Picts of Southern Scotland. He is one of the Celtic saints, who led the conversion of Northern England and Scotland. Some think that Saint Bede may have confused him with Saint Finnian, an Irish Saint.