

13 September

**John Chrysostom
Teacher of the Faith 407**

God of truth and love, who gave to your servant John Chrysostom eloquence to declare your righteousness in the great congregation and courage to bear reproach for the honour of your name: mercifully grant to those who minister your word such excellence in preaching, that all people may share with them in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

13 September

**John Chrysostom
Teacher of the Faith**

John was born in Antioch in about 347, He was a brilliant preacher which earned him in the sixth century the surname 'Chrysostom', literally 'golden-mouthed'. He is honoured as one of the four Greek Doctors of the Church. Against his wish he was made Patriarch of Constantinople in 398. He set about reforming the Church and exposing corruption amongst the clergy and in the Imperial administration. 'Mules bear fortunes and Christ dies of hunger at your gate,' he is alleged to have cried out. He fell foul of the Empress Eudoxia and, in spite of the support of Pope Innocent I of Rome, was sent into exile twice, finally dying of exhaustion and starvation in September 407, with the words, 'Glory be to God for everything' on his lips.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

14 September

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.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

14 September

Holy Cross Day

The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol for Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early Church, though the later has been revived in recent times. After the end of the persecution era, early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, whilst overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. A basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and dedicated on this day in the year 335.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

15 September

**Cyprian
Bishop of Carthage, Martyr 258**

Holy God, who brought Cyprian to faith in Christ, made him a Bishop in the Church and crowned his witness with a martyr's death: grant that, after his example, we may love the Church and her teachings, find your forgiveness within her fellowship and so come to share the heavenly banquet you have prepared for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

15 September

**Cyprian
Bishop of Carthage, Martyr**

Born in Carthage in about the year 200, Cyprian was a teacher of rhetoric and a lawyer in the city before his conversion to Christianity. He gave away his pagan library and set his mind to study the sacred scriptures and the commentaries that were beginning to proliferate. He became a priest and then, in the year 248 was elected Bishop of Carthage by the people of the city, together with the assembled priests and other bishops present. He showed compassion to return apostates, whilst always insisting on the need for unity in the Church. During the persecution of Valerian, the Christian clergy were required to participate in pagan worship; Cyprian refused and was first exiled then condemned to death. He died on this day in the year 258.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

16 September

Ninian

**Bishop of Galloway,
Apostle of the Picts, c.432**

Almighty and everlasting God, who called your servant Ninian to preach the gospel to the people of northern Britain: raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your Church may make known the immeasurable riches of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the
Church of England

16 September

Ninian

**Bishop of Galloway,
Apostle of the Picts**

Ninian was born in about the year 360, the son of a Cumbrian chieftain who himself had converted to Christianity. It seems Ninian visited Rome in his youth, where he received training in the faith. He was consecrated Bishop in the year 394 and returned to Britain, setting up a community of monks at Candida Casa from where they went out on missionary journeys as far as Perth and Stirling. Ninian died in about the year 432.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'