**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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’*

**17 September**

**Hildegard**

**Abbess of Bingen,**

**Visionary, 1179**

Most glorious and holy God, whose servant

Hildegard, strong in faith, was caught up in

the vision of your heavenly courts: by the

breath of your Spirit open our eyes to glimpse

your glory and our lips to sing your praises

with all the angels; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**17 September**

**Hildegard**

**Abbess of Bingen,**

**Visionary.**

Hildegard was born in 1098 at Böckelheim in Germany. From her earliest years she had a powerful, visionary life, becoming a nun at the age of eighteen. She was much influenced by her foster-mother, Jutta, who had set up the community and whom she succeeded as Abbess in 1136. Her visions of light, which she described as ‘the reflection of the Living Light’, deepened her understanding of God and creation, sin and redemption. They were, however accompanied by repeated illness and physical weakness. About twenty years later, she moved her sisters to a new abbey at Bingen. She travelled much in the Rhineland, founding a daughter house and influencing many, including the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. She was a pastor and teacher, seeing herself as a ‘feather on the breath of God’. She wrote three visionary works, a natural history and a medical compendium. She died on this day in the year 1179.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*