



Invited

MONTHLY
REFLECTION



SEPTEMBER

Welcome to the monthly Invited reflection from the Formation Team.

On **Tuesday 14th September**
we celebrate the feast of the
Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

You are invited to reflect on the
readings and prayers for this feast.
The other scriptures are:
Numbers 21: 4-9
Philippians 2: 6-11

"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless
you; because by your Cross you have
redeemed the world."
(Gospel Acclamation verse)

John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came
down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the
serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may
have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but
may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not
to condemn the world, but so that through him the world
might be saved.'

The sculpture of the Brazen Serpent, the serpentine cross on
Mount Nebo, Jordan, was created by the Italian artist Fian
Paolo Fantoni. It merges the life-saving bronze serpent set up
by Moses in the desert and the Cross upon which Jesus was
crucified. As the Israelites were protected by looking at the
bronze serpent that had been raised up in their midst, so we
are protected and redeemed by Jesus who was raised up in
our midst on the Cross.

**Take some time to reflect on and pray with the readings and the Mass texts overleaf.
Read them slowly, maybe several times, and notice if anything particularly strikes you, especially in
their relationship with each other. Begin by making the sign of the Cross and think about that
powerful symbol.**

There are echoes of Holy Week in today's readings and prayers. The reading from Philippians was proclaimed on Palm Sunday, and the Entrance Antiphon is the same as on Holy Thursday. On Good Friday we were invited to "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world." The Good Friday liturgy moves from Christ's Passion to the triumph of the Cross, and that is the focus of today's feast – Christ is risen and the Cross is the symbol of victory over sin and death, the tree of life.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered. (Galatians 6:14)

PENITENTIAL ACT

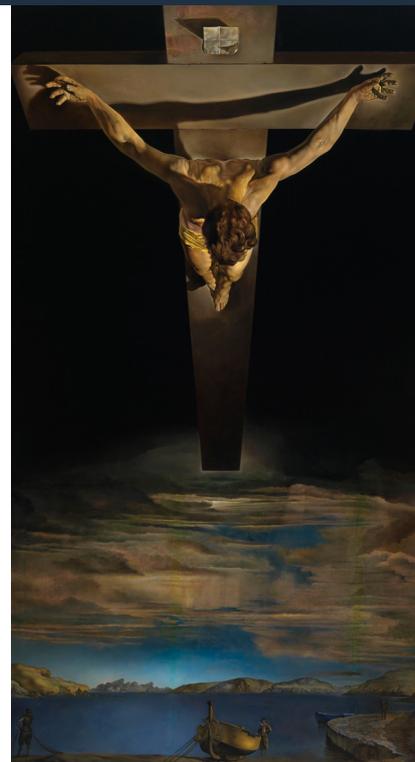
Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself: Lord, have mercy.
You shouldered the cross, to bear our suffering and sinfulness: Christ, have mercy.
You open for your people the way from death into life: Lord, have mercy.

From the PREFACE – *The victory of the glorious Cross*

For you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross,
so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth
and the evil one, who conquered on a tree,
might likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



HYMN

O Cross of Christ, immortal tree on which our Saviour died,
the world is sheltered by your arms that bore the Crucified.

From bitter death and barren wood the tree of life is made;
its branches bear unfailing fruit and leaves that never fade.

O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved while ages run
their course;
foundation of the universe, creation's binding force.

Give glory to the risen Christ and to his Cross give praise,
the sign of God's unfailing love, the hope of all our days.

from Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal
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This picture is a detail from the 12th century mosaic in the apse of the Basilica of San Clemente, Rome, one of the best-known representations of the Cross as the 'Tree of Life'.

[See here >>>](#)

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