

Vox Populi (The Voice of the People)

12 September 2024

This Saturday, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The Holy Cross has been a symbol of the Church since the very beginning, symbolising the redemption which was achieved through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.

What was once an instrument of death has become a symbol of salvation because of Christ's victory over death.

The celebration of this feast dates to before the 7th century and was likely celebrated in Jerusalem as early as the 6th century.

According to tradition, the True Cross was discovered in 326 by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built on the site of the discovery. The Church was consecrated over a two-day festival on September 13 and 14.

The cross has become the universal image of Christian belief, and Christ's redemption of humanity upon the Cross.

The Gospel reading on Saturday highlights the role the cross has played in the salvation of humankind, as it recounts Jesus saying to Nicodemus: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16).

Next week, the Church in Broken Bay will rejoice as Rosan Mathew is ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Anthony Randazzo at Our Lady of the Rosary, The Entrance.

The ordination will occur on September 21, the Feast of Saint Matthew, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, who was so convinced of Christ's victory over death, he became a martyr for preaching the Good News far and wide.