

The Masonic and Military Order of  
the Red Cross of Constantine  
and  
The Orders of the Holy Sepulchre  
and of St John the Evangelist



**Acts of Commemoration**  
**Thames Division**

The Festivals of our Order:  
**A Morning Commemoration**

*On 27 February, or 3 May, or 14 September, Worthy Knights may offer these prayers,  
either alone, or together.*

**Introduction**

O Lord open our lips;  
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto;  
sicut erat in principio, est nunc, et semper, in saecula saeculorum.  
Amen.

*(Pause and offer prayer for  
your Brother Knights of the Order.)*

**Morning Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you that you have brought us  
safely to the beginning of this day.  
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger,  
order us in all our doings  
and guide us to do always what is righteous in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Holy Cross Prayer**

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 Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.

The Festivals of our Order:  
**An Evening Commemoration**

*On 27 February, or 3 May, or 14 September, Worthy Knights may offer these prayers, either alone, or together.*

***Introduction***

O God make speed to save us;  
O Lord make haste to help us.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto;  
sicut erat in principio, est nunc, et semper, in saecula saeculorum.  
Amen.

*(Pause and offer prayer for  
your Brother Knights of the Order.)*

***Evening Prayer***

Visit, we beseech you O Lord, this place,  
and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy;  
let your holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace,  
and may your blessing be upon us evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Holy Cross Prayer***

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.

***Conclusion***

In peace we will lie down and take our rest;  
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

The almighty and merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve us. Amen.

### **27 February**

The date of Constantine's birth in the year 272.

It is our practice to commemorate Constantine on his birthday annually.

### **3 May**

This date has variously been known in the Church as "The Invention of the Cross", or "The Finding of the Cross", or "The Discovery of the Cross", all these titles having the same meaning (*invention* being from the Latin verb "to find"). The Book of Common Prayer included this festival in its calendar.

It is no longer celebrated in any of the mainstream churches, having been suppressed in 1960 by Pope John XXIII, but we continue to keep the feast within our Order. It is one of the 12 Grand Points of our Order.

### **14 September**

This date has variously been known in the Church as "The Restoration of the Cross", or "The Exaltation of the Cross", or "The Triumph of the Cross", and is a celebration of the consecration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the veneration of the True Cross there after its recovery from the heathen.

In the Anglican and Lutheran churches it is simply known as "Holy Cross Day".

In the Church of England, and in most Anglican churches, it ranks as a Principal Festival of the Church. It is one of the 12 Grand Points of our Order.

