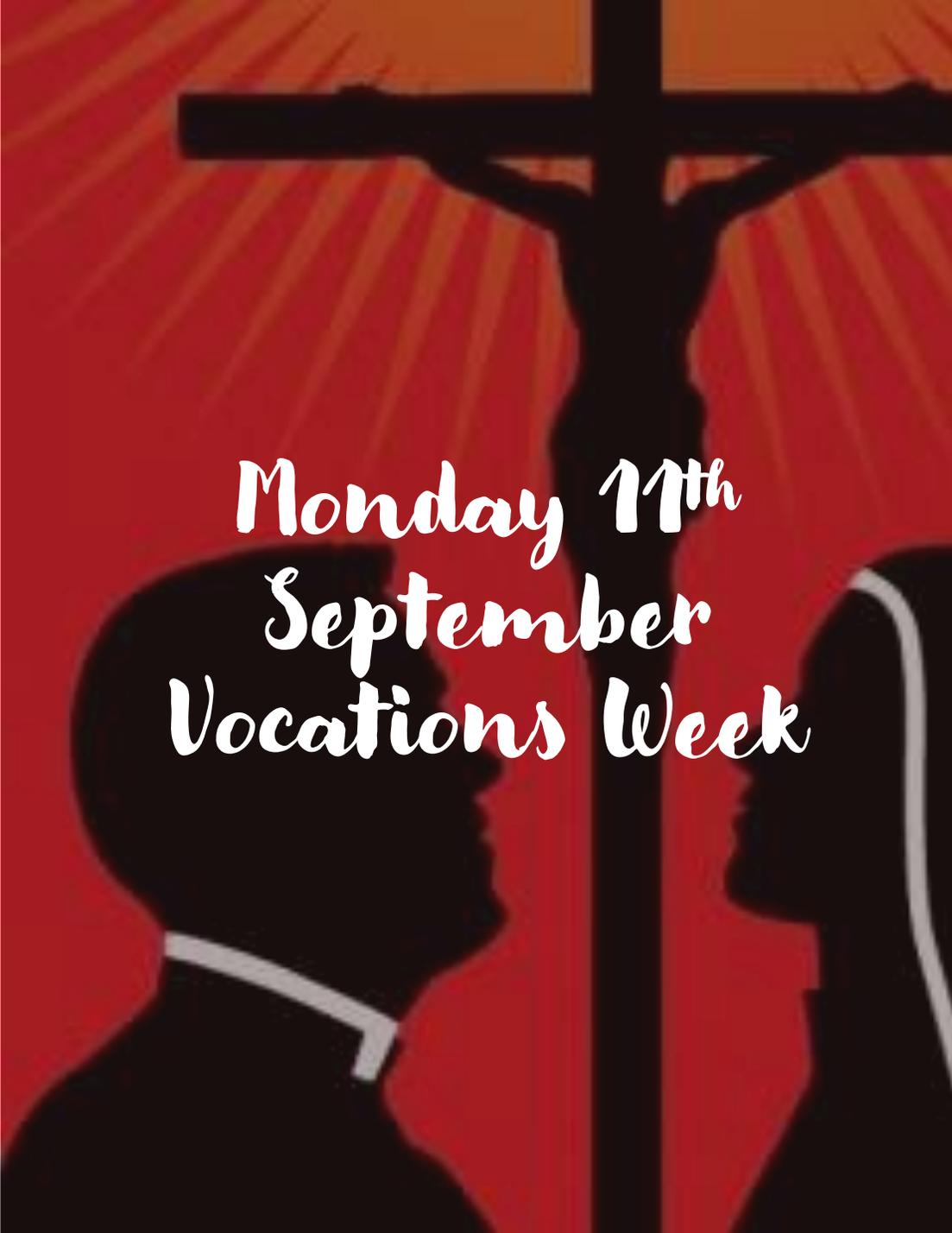


Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 11TH SEPTEMBER



*Monday 11th
September
Vocations Week*

Today, let us pray for the vocations of the young people in our Diocese.

Gracious and loving God you have blessed us with the privilege of becoming educators. We ask that you provide us with all that we need in accepting this awesome responsibility. We pray that we will be open to your spirit who is our source of strength as we witness to our pupils your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life.

We ask your help so we may guide and encourage our pupils to believe that they each have a special calling and to use their gifts and talents for others. We pray, Heavenly Father, that our pupils will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them whether it be to the vocation of single, married, ordained or consecrated life. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday 12th September

The Most Holy name of Mary

"And the name of the virgin was Mary." (St. Luke, I, 27)

In this simple phrase, St. Luke sums up the greatness of Mary, as epitomised in her holy name. That the Church recognises this is quite apparent when we realise the numerous times the name of Mary occurs in her various prayer, invocations, and seasonal liturgy.

The name of Mary was chosen by the Most High for the fairest of the daughters of Eve, the mother of His Divine Son, and was revealed to Anne and Joachim by the angel Gabriel who was later to announce to their child the great privilege accorded her by God.

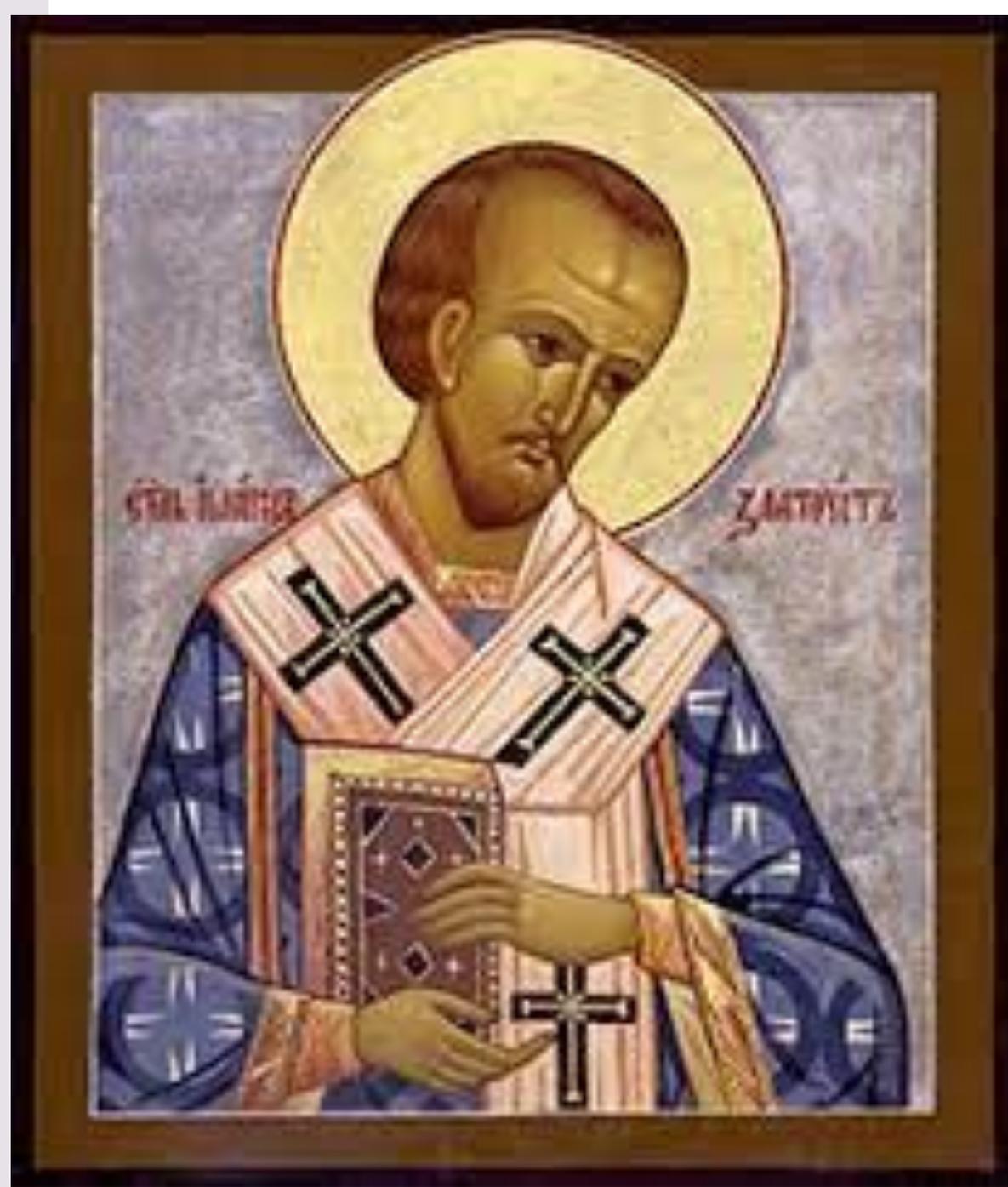
Today we pray for all mothers and female carers as they live out their vocation to care for the young as we say: Hail Mary...



Wednesday 13th
September
St John Chrysotom

Today, let us pray that the Holy Spirit inspires people in coming to know their vocation.

O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe. I join him in praying for labourers for your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire men and women to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will for my life. Amen.



Thursday 14th August

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today, let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

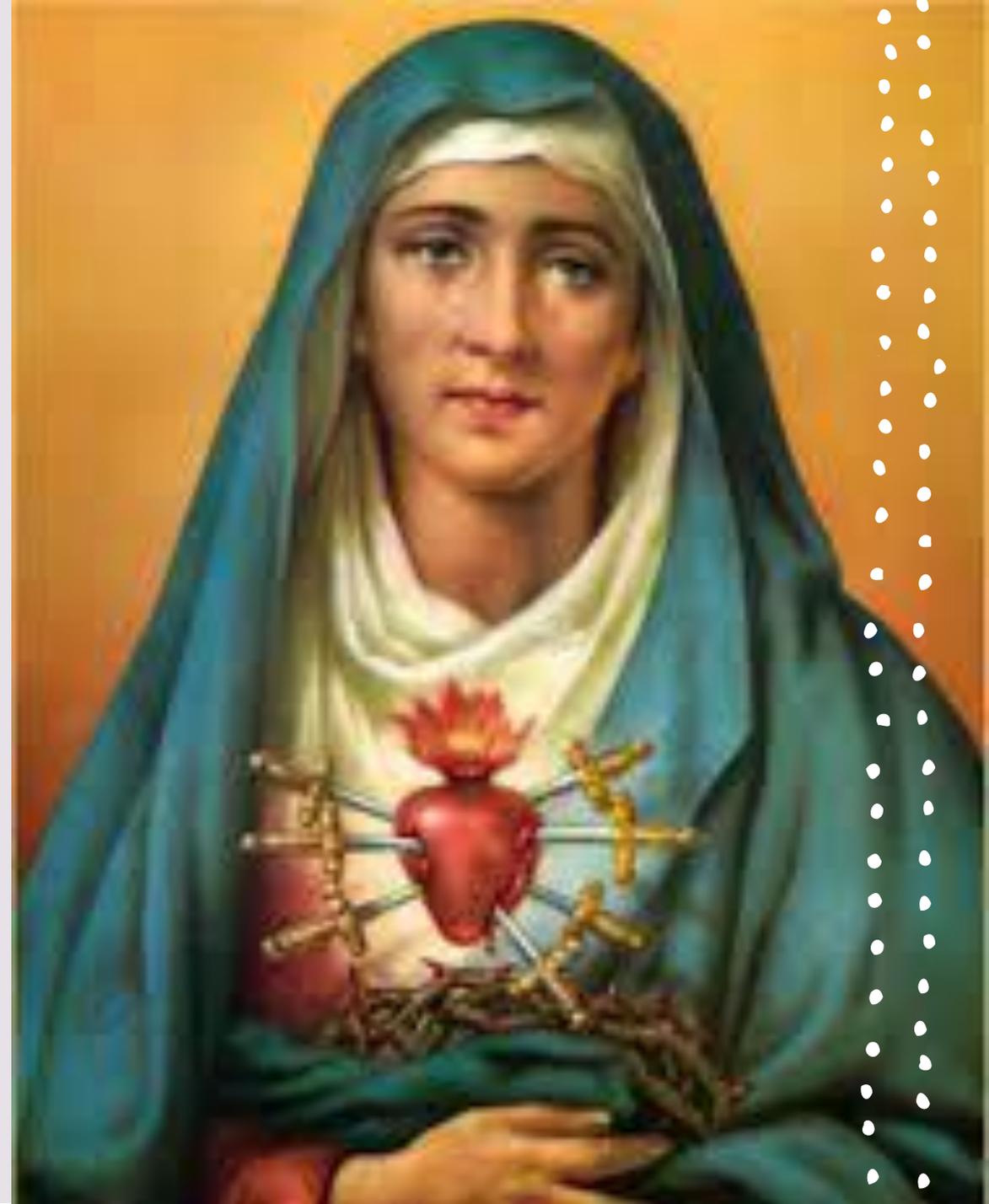
O loving and gracious God, Father of all, you bless your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of your sons and daughters to listen to your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfilment in his life when he said to you, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



Friday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows

The title, Our Lady of Sorrows, given to our Blessed Mother focuses on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the passion and death event; rather, it comprised the seven sorrows of Mary, which were foretold by the Priest Simeon who proclaimed to Mary, This child [Jesus] is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare (Luke 2:34-35). These seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother included the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when our Lord was crucified; her holding of Jesus when He was taken down from the cross; and then our Lord's burial. In all, the prophesy of Simeon that a sword would pierce our Blessed Mother's heart was fulfilled in these events.

Today we pray for all those who are suffering in any way. We ask Mary to pray with us and for us as we say: Hail Mary...





Saturday 16th September Saint Ninian

Little is known for certain about the life and ministry of St Ninian. Tradition suggests to us that he was a Briton, born during the 4th century, perhaps in Northern England. He may have travelled to Rome to learn more about the faith, and been welcomed by Pope St Damasus and after lengthy studies, ordained priest and bishop by Pope St Siricius. It is said that St Ninian knew St Martin of Tours. He returned home and settled in southern Scotland, in Galloway, at Whithorn, where he founded his mission. There he built his church, called "Candida Casa" or White House - perhaps a whitewashed stone building. He worked among his own people, the Britons of the border regions and also among the Picts, in the modern Lothian region and in Fife, and so is called the apostle to these groups. As the first known bishop working in Scotland, he occupies a very special place in Scottish religious history.

Saint Ninian, first to preach the Good News of Christ in our land, hear our prayers and present them to the Lord, whom you served so faithfully. Gain for us a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, abundant vocations to the priesthood and religious life, deeper faith in God's merciful love, stronger love for God and for our neighbour, a renewal of Christian life in our nation. May we imitate your fidelity to the call of Christ and your passion to share the truth He brought us, and also be found worthy to share the heavenly reward.

Amen.