

### **The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025:**

Seven sorrows: Simeon's Prophecy (Lk 2:34-35), Flight into Egypt (Mt 2:13-21), The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Lk 2:41-50), The Carrying of the Cross (Jn 19:17), The Crucifixion (Jn 19:18-30), Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (Jn 19:39-40), Jesus Laid in the Tomb (Jn 19:39-42). Our Lady's promise to those who meditate on these sorrows: *'I grant peace to their families. They will be enlightened about the divine Mysteries. I will console them in their pains, accompanying them in their work. I give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son or the sanctification of their souls. I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy, and I will protect them at every instant of their lives. I will visibly help them at the moment of their death—they will see the face of their mother. I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolours will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy.'*

### **Mem. of Sts Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs – Tues. 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2025:**

Cornelius and Cyprian are venerated in the Eucharistic Prayer I, the Roman Canon. Cyprian was bishop of Carthage and was highly thought of and much respected for his humility, skill and gentleness. Under the persecutions of emperor Decius, all Christians were ordered to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, and human nature being what it is, some gave in. Cyprian counselled leniency, wanting to welcome home Christians, prescribing only a short time of penance and he was supported in this by Pope Cornelius, who in turn had been supported by Cyprian when Novatian challenged Cornelius for the papacy. Novatian argued for harsh treatment of those who had committed apostasy, but Cornelius proclaimed a merciful approach. In a fresh wave of persecution, Cornelius was exiled, imprisoned and inevitably beheaded.

### **The Opt. Mem of St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop – Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025:**

Robert entered the newly formed Jesuits and went on to teach at Louvain, where he became famous for his Latin sermons. As an outstanding scholar he was appointed to defend the Church against the anti-clericals in Venice and against the political tenets of James I of England. In the case against Galileo, his prudence opposed severe action against the scientist for his disobedience and his intervention ensured that he got a fair trial. Bellarmine is an icon of the need to have faith and reason in unity.

**Thursday in 24<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time (I) – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025:**

Today, we would consider Timothy too young to be a bishop, and so, St Paul urges him to give the people a good example of virtue, so that they can see he is wise beyond his years. In this way, they would listen and take to heart his preaching of the gospel because they would see he practices what he preaches. Of course, he can only do all this because of the sacred character imparted on him by the laying on of hands, the apostolic gesture of ordination, helping him hold fast to the Traditions of the Church.

**Opt. mem: Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury – Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2025:**

Canterbury is the See of Augustine; the missionary saint sent to England by Pope St Gregory the Great to unite ‘*English*’ Christians to the Church in Rome. Following Augustine, great saints such as Dunstan, Thomas a Becket and Anselm have held this see. Today, we venerate Theodore of Tarsus. The Venerable Bede’s ‘*Ecclesiastical History*’ says he had a commanding personality, but he tended to be autocratic, which today is at odds with the Synodal approach given to us by the late Pope Francis which, within the bounds of Canon Law, seeks the collaboration of the laity in the administration and pastoral care of our parishes. When Theodore arrived in England, he found a wounded Church, by the arguments about the date of Easter. Theodore was an archbishop who the Church could unite around. He desired a national unity for the English Church and as remarkable administrator, he restructured the dioceses.

**The Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions – Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2025:**

The Church in Korean is unique, as it was founded by a laity who sought out the gospel for themselves. When a Chinese priest arrived decades later, he found 4,000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest! Today’s feast venerates 103 martyrs, including 3 bishops, 7 priests and a score of heroic laity. Fr Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Hasang are of note. Andrew was the first Korean-born priest and was martyred as such. Paul Chong Hasang, a layman, was arrested for being a Christian and given the chance to renounce his faith. Instead, he gave the judge a written defence of the faith. These Korean martyrs recognized the Gospel’s value, understanding a Christian is faithful to their call to holiness and steadfast in the service the Lord has given them. Today, the Church in South Korea remains strong and will shortly host World Youth Day. In North Korea, the Church is underground, for the atheistic communist state cannot tolerate an authority higher than the state.