

Holy Cross Catholic Church
Centenary Celebrations Launch Speech
W/e of 7th- 8th January 2023

Good morning.....have you ever noticed the two commemorative plaques on the back wall of our church? The granite one on the right marks the dedication of Holy Cross by Bishop Christopher in 1994. However, there is a brass one on the left which is in memory of Lord & Lady Seaton who enabled the building of this church which opened on Easter Sunday 1923.

So 2023 sees us enter our centenary year! This is an achievement for the parish and all who have attended it throughout the intervening years, whether as clergy or laity.

The Parish Pastoral Council agreed last year that we should certainly celebrate our special anniversary and set up a subcommittee to work on ideas. Discussions and plans have been under way for months now as to how we can mark the year in various ways, including socially, physically and of course, spiritually. Many ideas have been floated and are either in the pipeline or are up for further discussion depending on you and your thoughts.

The one certainty is that we will hold a celebratory Centenary weekend on the 16th-17th September for the Feast of the Holy Cross.

Each of you has a part to play:-

- It could be by supporting what is happening.**
- It might be by providing photos taken at Holy Cross or memorabilia from across the years, including memories.**
- It could be by getting more involved in fundraising, organizing an event or contributing in some other way.**

As you leave the church today you will be given the first monthly bulletin which shows what we are trying to do and why we need your help. Inside there is a form which sets out ideas but also includes space for you to add suggestions of your own. Although a small sub committee has been working on the outline plans it very much depends on how much support and

enthusiasm you are prepared to give too. We definitely need YOU and YOUR help. There will be a box at the back of the church for your completed forms.

There will be a special noticeboard with a countdown calendar and posters. There will also be regular updates in both the newsletter and monthly bulletins.

One of our first social & fundraising events will be held at St Paul's Hall, Yelverton, when Bernard Mills, one of our parishioners, will be giving another of his highly informative and entertaining talks about specific railways, near and far. Tickets will be on sale after Masses as soon as we have set a date and further details will be in the newsletter.

If you haven't attended one of these talks before you should come, I am sure you will be surprised at how interesting they are. Bernard is specifically offering his time and knowledge to raise money for Holy Cross.

Please don't forget to collect your Centenary bulletin as you leave church today.

Thank you.