

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son God.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gifts we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the saints, bestow on us, we pray, through prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING *Apoc 7:2-4.9-14*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God'. Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord'. Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 23*

**Response: Such are the men
who seek your face, O Lord.**

- 1.The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
- 2.Who shall climb the mountain of the
Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,

who desires not worthless things. (R.)

- 3.He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING *John.3:1-3*

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL *Mt. 5:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.
There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints be pleasing to you, O Lord, and grant that, just as we believe the Saints to be already assured of immortality, so we may experience their concern for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

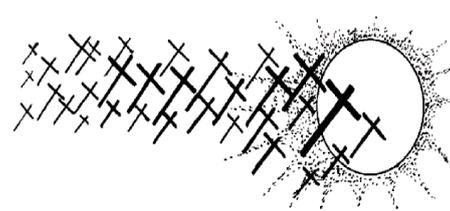
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore your grace, so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION



How many times I have felt myself glow when others recognised or praised me. And how many times I have been plunged into gloom when others ignored or criticised me. Acclaim affects me like a wedding feast. Criticism affects me like a bereavement.

But there are some who have a steady flame, shining from deep inside them. This is not extinguished when others ignore them, for it is not dependent on what others might think of them; it is what they think of themselves with a quiet certainty.

We all have two potentialities within us – to behave like a sinner or a saint. But we help people more by giving them a favourable image of themselves than by constantly harping on their faults. Each individual normally strives to be to their best image.

The saints hold up a mirror before us. In this mirror we get a most favourable image of ourselves. We see what we are capable of. All we need is the will to imitate them.

Homily

31st October 2021

All Saints Year B

Dear friends, today we celebrate what has become one of the biggest annual celebrations in our country, Halloween. Since I can remember, as a family we have always celebrated on this night with a duck apple or bob apple party, making pumpkin or turnip lanterns. But things have changed over the last 10 or so years and Halloween has developed into something huge.

Children getting dressed up, wandering the streets trick or treating, it is very much now a secular celebration with aisles devoted to costumes etc in our supermarkets. Mischief night is another name associated with Halloween. Halloween literally means All Hallows Eve, All Saints Evening.

Of course, we know what is important for us is the Feast of All Saints that we celebrate today and we remember on this Feast all the ordinary Saints who are enjoying the Banquet Feast of Heaven, all those men and women throughout the ages who have lived good, holy lives and who are now enjoying their eternal reward but have not been formally recognised by the Church.

The readings help us understand what the Feast is all about today. Throughout the scriptures, both in the Old & New Testament, they often refer to the Kingdom of God in terms of a great celebration, a Feast to which everyone is invited.

In our First Reading from the Book of the Apocalypse we hear the description of a great gathering of people, impossible to count from every nation, race, tribe and language. Their excitement is bubbling over as they celebrate God's triumph and their triumph; we are left in no doubt that these people have come through a lot, the great persecution, to have reached this moment.

In the Second Reading John asks us to reflect on the Father's love, he says that we are already children of God and in the future we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. If we have this hope we must try and be like Christ.

The Gospel gives us the clue as to how we are to do this, Jesus lists the Beatitudes those qualities that we are called to live by in our lives.

From the time of the Apostles the Church has celebrated the lives and deaths of those who have been faithful followers of Jesus who are held before us as examples to be followed. The Christian calendar is full of the Feast days of the canonised Saints, some who are universally known and revered. But today we

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honour those who have not been singled out, the countless number who have followed the example of the great Saints and taken the Beatitudes as their charter for life.

There is a temptation to imagine that the Saints were so extra special that we could never match up to them, but that is not the way that the Church invites us to celebrate today's Feast. We can all think of loved ones who have gone before us, who lived good and faithful lives and exhibited many of the qualities that are highlighted in the Beatitudes by Jesus today. I am sure that they are now counted among those who surround God's throne and rejoice in Christ's victory in Heaven.

As we remember and honour them today on this Feast we reflect on our own lives and our calling to be saints who hopefully will be honoured and celebrated one day in the future.

Joined in prayer with you on this great Feast, **Fr Phil x.**

Ps – Please remember to pray over the next two weeks for the world leaders meeting at **COP26** as they discuss what steps we need to take as a human family to protect & care for Our Common Home as we face the climate crisis. Please also remember **Fr Devan** in your prayers as he prepares this week to leave Wallasey to take up his appointment in New Delhi.

Bidding Prayers and CAFOD and Synod Prayers

31st October 2021 – Feast of All Saints Year B

Priest:

On this great Feast of All the Saints we offer our prayers to the Lord.

Reader:

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark and Christians everywhere: may we be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in this first phase of the synodal process.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For COP26 and all the political leaders who are meeting in Glasgow: may they be inspired by the Holy Spirit as they discuss how to tackle the climate crisis and commit their nations to the protection and care of Our Common Home.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: may we be good stewards of Creation as we encourage one another in ways of living on Earth wisely, sustainably, justly and reverently.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For missionaries and the spread of the Gospel particularly in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For unity and peace in our world and an end to hatred, war and violence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those in our parish who are sick, housebound or who are in any kind of need: may they experience the power of the healing love and grace of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Sir David Amess** & all who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

We ask Our Lady to join her prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

For a moment in silence we bring our own private prayers and intentions before the Lord.

Priest:

Loving Father,

We offer these and all our prayers to you,

through Jesus your Son,

who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Bidding Prayers and CAFOD and Synod Prayers

31st October 2021 – Feast of All Saints Year B

A PRAYER for the COP26 Climate Talks

Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instill in them the courage and the gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, **Amen**.

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. **Amen**