

## All Saints' Day

### Liturgical colour

White

### What we celebrate

Today we celebrate the feast of all the unknown saints who are now in heaven. The Church reminds us that sanctity is within everyone's reach. Through the Communion of the Saints we can help and encourage each other.

### History of today's celebration

Since the beginnings of the Church, Christians have honoured holy people as good examples and role models. Initially, the word, "saint" meant "martyr" or a witness who had died for their belief in God. After a martyr's death, the local Christian community would bury the body with reverence in a tomb which was easily accessible. On the annual anniversary of the martyr's death, Christians would gather at the shrine to celebrate Mass and to pray.

Today, the term "All Saints" applies to both the official canonised saints of the Church as well as the unofficial saints that are in glory. Everyone in heaven is a saint because each one has reached perfection in charity.

### Message of today's celebration

*The Church ... is believed to be holy ... Therefore in the Church, everyone whether belonging to the hierarchy, or being cared for by it, is called to holiness ...*

### Prayer for today

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

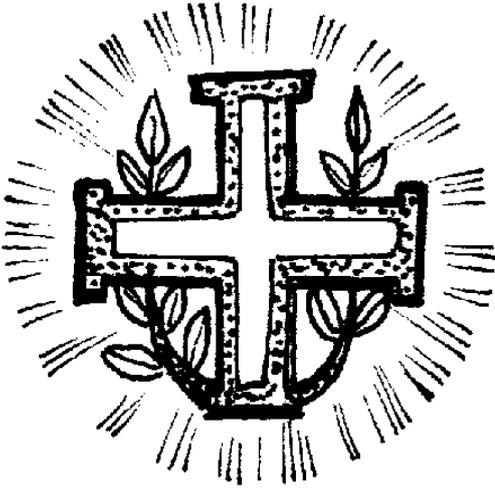
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy	Saint Athanasius	Pray for us
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy	Saint Basil	Pray for us
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy	Saint Martin	Pray for us
Holy Mary, Mother of God	Pray for us	Saint Benedict	Pray for us
Saint Michael	Pray for us	St Francis & St Dominic	Pray for us
Holy Angels of the Lord	Pray for us	Saint Francis Xavier	Pray for us
Saint John the Baptist	Pray for us	Saint John Vianney	Pray for us
Saint Joseph	Pray for us	Saint Catherine of Siena	Pray for us
St Peter & St Paul	Pray for us	Saint Teresa of Jesus	Pray for us
Saint Andrew	Pray for us	All holy men and women, Saints of God	Pray for us
Saint John	Pray for us		
Saint Mary Magdalene	Pray for us		
Saint Stephen	Pray for us		
Saint Ignatius of Antioch	Pray for us		
Saint Lawrence	Pray for us		
St Perpetua & St Felicity	Pray for us		
Saint Agnes	Pray for us		
Saint Gregory	Pray for us		
Saint Augustine	Pray for us		

Lord God, source of holiness,  
Help us to walk worthily in our vocation,  
through the prayers of your Saints, on whom  
you gave a great variety of graces on earth  
and a single reward in heaven.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



## All Souls' Day



### Liturgical colour

Either black or violet vestments can be used.

### What we celebrate

On All Saints' Day, the Church rejoiced with all those in heaven. Today on All Souls' Day, the Church prays for all who in purification of purgatory await the day when they will join the company of the Saints.

### History of today's celebration

From the earliest times, Christians have prayed for the dead. Monasteries, Convents and all Religious Communities have held annual days of prayer for their deceased members. By the eleventh century, 2 November, was designated as All Souls' Day.

*YouCat*, the *Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church* (London, CTS: 2011) explains well what we pray for on 2 November in two of its questions.

**159 What is purgatory? Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. Someone who dies in God's grace (and therefore at peace with God and people) but who still needs purification before he can see God face to face is in purgatory.** When Peter had betrayed Jesus, the Lord turned around and looked at Peter: "And Peter went out and wept bitterly"—a feeling *like being in purgatory*. Just such a purgatory probably awaits most of us at the moment of our death: the Lord looks at us full of love—and we experience burning shame and painful remorse over our wicked or "merely" unloving behaviour. Only after this purifying pain will we be capable of meeting his loving gaze in untroubled heavenly joy.

**160 Can we help the departed who are in the condition of purgatory? Yes, since all those who are baptized into Christ form one communion and are united with one another, the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory.** When a man is dead, he can do nothing more for himself. The time of active probation is past. But we can do something for the faithful departed in purgatory. Our love extends into the afterlife. Through our fasting, prayers, and good works, but especially through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we can obtain grace for the departed.

### Message of today's celebration

The Resurrection of Jesus has given us the possibility to enjoy Eternal Life in heaven. Today's celebration deepens our hope and strengthens our faith in the Resurrection.

### Prayer for today

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn 17:24-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.' The Gospel of the Lord.

For our relatives and friends who have died; that they will be received into the company of our Lord's family and friends in heaven. *Lord, have mercy.*

For fellow parishioners who have been companions on the pilgrimage of life; that they will enjoy being in the Lord's presence. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have died after carrying the cross of sickness and suffering; that they will know the joy of Resurrection. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have no one to pray for them. *Lord, have mercy.*

Our Father ...

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.