



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2020

We're now able to meet in church for worship but for those of you who prefer to wait or if you're not able to be with us for whatever reason this outline can guide your own worship at home.

Today we join with the church throughout the world in celebrating the saints in light. You might like to have a number of candles to light as the church has done throughout the ages.



INTRODUCTION

I always have a feeling of anticipation as we leave Ordinary Time – Trinity – behind at the beginning of November. All the Sundays that follow are something special. November is the month of remembering. Today is **All Saints' Sunday**, when we remember those who have been honoured in the faith for their discipleship and dedication.

That's followed immediately on Monday 2 November by **All Souls' Day**. It seems that Hallowe'en is a bit more low key this year as we can't let children out to trick or treat. And a good thing too! For Christians it's a travesty of the festival we want to keep when we remember our own loved ones who have died. There will be a funeral in church this year, on the most fitting day of all.

Then we move to **Remembrance Sunday** on 8th November and **Armistice Day** on 11th November. It doesn't matter that the two World Wars recede ever further into the past: we need to be reminded, year after year, of the horror and futility of war, even when we are convinced it is justified.

The final special day in November is 22, when we keep the feast of **Christ the King** to remind ourselves of who we venerate and obey. What kind of king do we follow? What would the world be like if he reigned supreme?

So as we go into the darkest time of the year we're given these Sundays, to focus on those who have shone in the world or who have given their lives so that the light does not go out.

Light a candle and put it in your window to show the neighbourhood that we stand for good and for God.

Revd Jan

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord!
Let us keep the feast in honour of all God's saints,
in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God.



CONFESSION

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation:

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God, who sent his son into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen**



GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father,

Lord God Lamb of God,

**you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at
the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

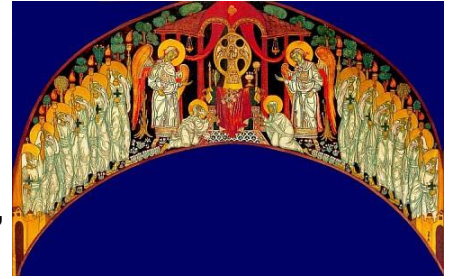
God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



FIRST READING

Revelation 7. 9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.



They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.'

Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.



They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

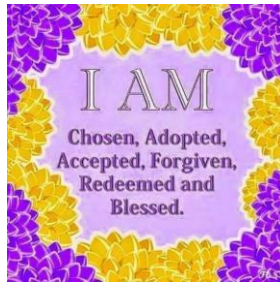
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 John 3.1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.



This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL MATTHEW 5.1-12

Alleluia, alleluia. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, called out of darkness into his marvellous light. **Alleluia.**



Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:



'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ**

REFLECTION

Reading the Beatitudes today reminds us that the saints are a very varied lot. We think they are people who are truly remarkable, who perform miracles, who make a world changing impact. But not all of them are like that.

The process of making a saint in the Roman Catholic Church today, is complex and demanding. It takes time: nothing can be started until 5 years have gone by since the death of the prospective saint.

Once 5 years have gone by an investigation is opened into the life of the person to see if that life was of sufficient holiness and virtue. Testimonies are gathered and people interviewed. If there seems to be enough evidence it is passed up the chain for further investigation and then, if approved, even further up to the Pope.

These various stages have to be gone through for the person to receive the title 'Blessed'. To pass the next hurdle to sainthood there must be evidence of at least two miracles happening attributed to prayers to the person. Even if you are a martyr and lose your life for the faith, you still have to be responsible for a miracle!

But it's good to know that there is this rigorous process: it reduces the danger of frauds and charlatans getting through.

In our own church, this process was abandoned at the Reformation. Instead, heroes of the faith were added to the Calendar when the prayer books were put together. The most recent additions to the list were made in 2000 when Common Worship was produced.

But not all of the saints were extraordinary people. St Paul refers to all those who followed Christ as the saints. He recognised that they were all trying to live lives worthy of Christ, holy lives dedicated to him and named them as such.

We are their inheritors, as we too try to live our lives for him. We are always conscious that we fall short, sometimes more seriously than others. We always know there is more we could be, whether it's to concentrate on our prayers more, or try to act as peacemaker, or give to others out of our limited means.

Our guidance is in today's gospel. As you read through that list again, ask yourself of each line 'how can I live like this? What is there in my life that demonstrates this?'

It probably won't be given to any of us to become a martyr or leader in the faith but our lives will provide opportunities to put God at the centre of our lives and live as he expects us to.

Then indeed will we be fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God and follow their ways of holiness and truth. Amen

Revd Jan

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the intercessions, we pray for the church, our country, our government, people in difficulty and those who have died. You can use your own prayers or if you *prefer here are some on today's theme.*



United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Bless David and Mark our bishops and all ministers of your Church, that by faithful proclamation of your word we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy temple in the Lord.

Pray for all who exercise ministry in the Turton Moorland Team; pray that those called to Authorised Lay Ministry and other roles recognise that calling and step forward; pray for the person called to be the team vicar at St Maxentius

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit, that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ from glory to glory.

Pray for ourselves and our calling; that God will strengthen our sense of his loving presence; that he support us as we follow his saints in holiness and truth

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above,

that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.

Pray for governments all over the world, that they protect the vulnerable, both people and the earth; pray for the people of the US as they elect their President; pray that whoever leads a government take their responsibility seriously

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness.

Pray for those who work in the NHS, that they are protected from infection as winter approaches; pray for chaplains to hospitals and hospices; pray for funeral directors

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin or disfigured by pain, that, raised from death to life in Christ, their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Pray for the sick, especially those with coronavirus and those suffering long term effects of the virus; pray for those in among our family and friends in trouble of distress; pray for children and teachers struggling with unpredictable days in or out of school

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity; preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us to your kingdom and grant us your peace at all times.

Pray for all those who have been an inspiration to us, who have been Christian models, saints in our lives

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Hasten the day when many will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power,

be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

ACCLAMATION

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised: **there is no end of his greatness.**
One generation shall praise your works to another **and shall declare your power.**
All your works praise you, Lord, **and your faithful servants bless you.**
They make known the glory of your kingdom **and speak of your power.**
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: **let everything bless his holy name forever and ever.**

THE DISMISSAL GOSPEL John 17.6-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me, I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE BLESSING

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon us the riches of his grace.

May he give us joy in their fellowship and a share in their praises.

May he strengthen us to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

