

## All Saints 1 November



### About the Solemnity of All Saints

On this day, the Church honours all the saints, who have earned their heavenly reward and enjoy the Lord's presence. We honour the famous saints, like Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Saint Therese and Saint Jude to name a few; then there are others who may be obscure such as Saint Elizabeth of Hungary and other saints who are only celebrated in certain countries. Today's solemnity is to celebrate them all and to remind us that the call to sainthood is part of the vocation of every baptized person.

An observance in honour of all the saints has been celebrated on the first day of November since at least the seventh century. However, it has its origins from even earlier times with a feast in honour of all the martyrs in the year 359.

### How can apply today's feast to our lives today?

The saints were ordinary people who, by the grace of God, did extraordinary things. We should aspire to follow their example and be open to the promptings of the Spirit following wherever they lead us. Like Saint Paul, we must spend all our lives striving for the prize that awaits us.

The fact that we are called to become saints is expressed in the following words from *I sing a song of the saints of God* by Lesbia Scott:

They lived not only in ages past;  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is bright with the joyous saints  
**who love to do Jesus' will.**

You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
for the saints of God are just folk like me,  
and I mean to be one too.

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### Collect

Almighty ever-living God,  
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration  
the merits of all the Saints,  
bestow on us, we pray,  
through the 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,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

#### How happy are the poor in spirit

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.'**

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## 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 of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Hymn for the Solemnity of All Saints

O Christ, you taught us that we must  
take up our Cross to follow you,  
and we must bear it willingly  
in everything we say and do.

The Saints have followed this command  
to bear the burden of the Cross:  
living their lives of holiness  
gaining what the world sees as loss.

Mary, the first of all the saints,  
you did all that God asked of you.  
Showing us all how we should live  
**a Saint's life giving God His due.**

Some saints live out a simple life,  
others of heroic virtue,  
yet they keep their eyes on the prize  
with Christ as guide in all they do.

We must put God first then neighbour  
**if we wish to gain the Saints' prize**  
life in heaven where God will reign  
**because the world's ways we despise.**

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