

SUNDAY MASS

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 of God.

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 24.

RESPONSE:

These are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and all who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. **R**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R**
3. Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia.

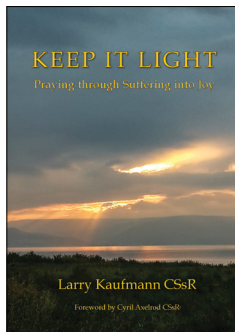
GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

In his book **KEEP IT LIGHT** Larry Kaufmann explores the grace of the Holy Spirit at work in very human realities such as depression, illness, suffering, injustice, loneliness, and relationship breakdown. Each chapter includes practical suggestions for prayer.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 2 Nov ALL SOULS

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 27; Matthew 11:25-30

"O Lord Jesus Christ, by your bitter passion and the sorrows of your Blessed Mother, have pity on the holy souls in purgatory. Let the blood and water flowing from your sacred side wash them clean." – St Alphonsus Liguori

Tue 3 Nov (St Martin de Porres, R)

Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 22; Luke 14:15-24

"Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick, could be a prayer, if it were offered to God." – St Martin de Porres

Wed 4 Nov St Charles Borromeo, B

Philippians 2:12-18; Psalm 27; Luke 14:25-33

"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head." – St Charles

Thu 5 Nov Liturgy of the Day

Philippians 3:3-8; Psalm 105; Luke 15:1-10

It is so easy to fall into the trap of judging others whom we think are not as good as we are. We do it all the time. The fact is that we are all part of sinful humanity. We are no better than anyone else.

Fri 6 Nov All Saints of Africa

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Psalm 122; Luke 16:1-8

"Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new: late have I loved you! For behold you were within me and I outside, and I sought outside, and ... fell upon those lovely things that you have made..." – St Augustine

Sat 7 Nov Liturgy of the Day

Philippians 4:10-19; Psalm 112; Luke 16:9-15

When times are lean, most of us are inclined to hoard our time, money and talents, but this is exactly the time when God calls us to stretch ourselves and share the little that we have, allowing providence to work in our lives.

Sun 8 Nov 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 6:12-16; Psalm 63; Matthew 25:1-13

"If God is a God of justice and not of power, then God can still be on our side when bad things happen to us. Bad things do happen to good people, but it is not God who wills it..." – Rabbi Harold Kushner

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
R=Religious; B=Bishop

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

Solemnity of All Saints • Year A
Divine Office: Week III • 1 November 2026

All Saints

The Feast of All Saints today is a celebration of the Church's universality in the communion of all holy people, known and unknown, who have lived good lives. Vatican

II includes those whose only light was their conscience. It is a day to honour those whose merit lies not in spectacular miracles or public triumphs, but in steadfast devotion, compassion, and fidelity to God's voice. The feast invites believers to contemplate the mystery of sainthood as a shared vocation, extended beyond time, culture, and circumstance. Historically, All Saints Day evolved from the early Christian practice of commemorating martyrs. By the 4th century, the commemoration broadened to include all who had attained the heavenly reward, not only those martyred for the faith.

The first universally celebrated Feast of All Saints began in the early 7th Century, precisely as a *triumphal* feast in contradistinction to All Souls Day on November 2 as a *penitential* day when we pray for the dead. In 1955, Pope Pius XII reaffirmed today's significance by providing it with its own liturgy. In 2002, Pope John Paul II re-emphasized the Communion of Saints as an article of faith, one that connects the "Pilgrim" Church on earth with the Church "Triumphant" in heaven and added the Church "Suffering" in purgatory. Sanctification is not the privilege of a few but the universal destiny of all, both Christians and those who have been true to their consciences.

The Gospel reading for the feast is usually the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The liturgy reflects the rich diversity of saints: those canonised by the Church, those venerated by local communities, and count-

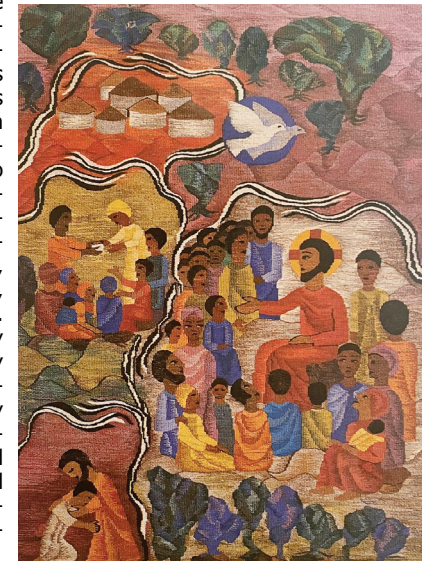
less people whose lives bore witness to the command to Love in ordinary circumstances: parents, teachers, missionaries, workers, healthcare professionals, monks and nuns

alike. United in the broadest meaning of Communion of Saints, believers ask the saints to intercede for them for multiple intentions. How relevant, true to our theme, to call on the example of those whose "watchful faith" was sensitive to the times in which they lived, times like ours flooded with competing voices and schools of thought!

Today's feast is a reminder that the Church has produced a "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Saints – both well-known and obscure – show the power of grace to transform human weakness into virtues like courage amid persecution, charity toward the poor,

patience amid suffering, and humility before God. Their stories encourage us, still living on earth, to discern God's will in daily life and to pursue the path of holiness with courage and perseverance. All Saints Day is a challenge to practical discipleship: generosity to the marginalized, fidelity to prayer and the sacraments, and a renewed commitment to living out the Gospel in concrete acts of love.

"I believe in the Communion of Saints", we proclaim in the Creed. The prayers of the saints in heaven sustain the Church's mission to heal a broken world. All Saints Day is not merely a memory of good and holy people who lived in the past. It is a Gospel call to us to participate in the holiness of God, to honour the exemplary lives of the saints, and to strive, with God's grace, to be saints in our own time.



The Beatitudes, woven by Mrs Sylvester Mbatha, Ndanyane Weaving Centre. Photo: Fr L. Mettler