

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

### WELCOME

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death:

One family, we dwell in him,  
one Church, above, beneath;  
though now divided by the stream,  
the narrow stream of death.

*(Charles Wesley)*

All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' Day both celebrate this mutual belonging. All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace, and for the wonderful ends to which it shapes a human life; it is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in the ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living.. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith.

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints of God who are living, and for saints still to come. We are especially thankful for the witness and works of those who have died in the faith as they modeled what it means to be both saint and sinner. Today we remember especially those who died in the past year.

**Let us for a moment remember those who have done so much for the church here in the Pas-de-Calais – and if you have a candle to hand you may like to light it now in remembrance of them :** those who brightened our services with their music Robin, Roy, Charles ... those here who led us in our worship Bob, or crossed the Channel in all weathers to do so Father William, Tony Rimmer, Andrew Marke, Gordon Manley, Michael Fulljames and Alan Duke, those who drove from one end of the chaplaincy to the other to support the congregations in their worship, Georges and Mary, those who fought to bring about social change, Bill, those who organised social events Roland, Tina, Tony and those who were always there supporting us: Henry, Georges, Alice, Denise, Dora, Ron, Paul ... the list is long and I am well aware I may have forgotten some so if you would now like to name them aloud, or name name a family member please do so now ...

Leader: For all those in our own lives who have revealed to us the love of God

and shown to us the way of holiness, we give you thanks.

We look forward to sharing with them the life that is eternal.

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

AMEN

## **Hymn**

For All the Saints who from their labours rest

1 For all the saints, who from their labours rest;  
who to the world by faith their Lord confessed,  
your name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

2 You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
you, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight,  
and in the darkness their unfailing light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

3 So may your soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

4 One holy people, fellowship divine!  
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine  
in earth and heaven the saints in praise combine:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
faintly we hear the distant triumph-song;  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west:  
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest,  
the peaceful calm of paradise the blessed.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

7 But look! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
saints all-triumphant rise in bright array  
the king of glory passes on his way!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest shore  
through gates of pearl, ascending, they adore  
the Father, Son and Spirit evermore:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

## **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.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all  
and your mercy is over all your creation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name  
and speak of the glory of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

**Worship leader:** May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**Worship leader:** The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you, just as did it your saints; now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

Let us pray that we may be strengthened by our communion with all the saints.

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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### **First Reading**

Revelation 7:9-17

7:9 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.

7:10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

7:11 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 worshiped God,

7:12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

7:13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where

have they come from?"

7:14 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.

7:15 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.

7:16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

7:17 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."

### **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

34:2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

34:5 Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

34:6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

34:9 O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

34:10 The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

34:22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

3:1 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.

3:2 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.

3:3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**HYMN: Blest Are They**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwSkmzw8dY8>**

Blest are they, the poor in spirit  
Theirs is the kingdom of God  
Blest are they, full of sorrow  
They shall be consoled  
Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God  
Blest are they, the lowly ones  
They shall inherit the earth  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst  
They shall have their fill  
Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God  
Blest are they who show mercy  
Mercy shall be theirs  
Blest are they, the pure of heart  
They shall see God

Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God

Blest are they who seek peace  
They are the children of God  
Blest are they who suffer in faith  
The glory of God is theirs

Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God

Blest are you who suffer hate  
All because of me  
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom  
Shine for all to see

Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God  
Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God

Words : David Haas / Rob Glover

## **THE GOSPEL**

Reader: Alleluia, alleluia.

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

*1 Peter 2.9*

**All Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

Matthew 5:1-12

5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

5:2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## **Reflections**

This weekend we celebrate two days in the church calendar, All Saints' Day and All Souls' day. Today we often know more about Halloween than these two religious festivals. This time last year we were in Austin Texas, where you could be forgiven for thinking that October 31<sup>st</sup> was all about pumpkins, ghosts and witches and Trick or Treat. But All Saints' Day itself was to remember those who are saints, those who had gone before us, those who had died. It was originally held to remember those saints whose names weren't known but who had died for their faith – such was their belief in Jesus Christ that even when their lives were threatened, they died for what they believe in: the unknown martyrs

Today's reflections comes with love and prayers from the Scargill community in North Yorkshire – which is supported by Vaughan and Hilary, two members of the Boulogne congregation . The reflection is based on the last verse of the first reading from Revelations

'For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' Rev 7. 17

At Scargill, life, as it has been for everybody, has been challenging, uncertain, with no one knowing what the future holds. Whether we are living in North Yorkshire or Northern France we are all in for a tough and long winter.

So how does All Saints' Day give us hope, encouragement and love?

A clue is in the day itself – it is ALL – SAINTS.

It is a day, where we are reminded that in Jesus Christ we are mysteriously and wonderfully connected, not just across the English Channel, with our friends in the UK and Scargill, but with those who have gone before us. Hebrews 12.1 tells us – 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,'

This is such an encouraging verse – we are not alone, in Christ, in his love, peace and joy we are together; together with the saints that have gone before, cheering us on, with those of us running the race with perseverance.

And in a wonderful way, by the gift of the Holy Spirit the Scargill community and the church here in Northern France are connected. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. So we can pray for one another, and encourage one another.

And we are all in need of prayer. The race we are currently in is over very challenging terrain, and we really don't know the way through it, and it feels like a marathon that just seems to go on....and on....and on.

Perseverance is most definitely needed and this is nurtured by the love of the saints who, when we stumble, can pick us up, dust us down, and run alongside us. Who have been those saints for us during these unprecedented days? Let us pause for a moment and give thanks to God for them,

The NT reading for today is from Revelation; It is full of hope. It speaks of Jesus the Lamb at the centre, it speaks of Jesus the Shepherd who leads us to springs of water.

Yet isn't this a bit difficult to understand? Jesus is the Lamb and the Shepherd! What does that mean? How does it encourage us on this All Saints Day?

A couple of thoughts on this:

We are saints through the grace of God – It is in Jesus that we are saints – Jesus, the one who John says comes with 'grace upon grace'. Jesus shows us the love of the Father. He shows us what his loving Father is like – never more than on the cross. The Lamb that was slain. The Lamb full of grace, forgiveness, and calls us his children. We are saints, never by our own endeavours, but by his grace – freely given, undeserved.

And Jesus is the Shepherd. There are literally thousands of sheep in the Yorkshire Dales. The local farmer when he comes into the reception at Scargill you know he is there because he smells...he smells of his sheep. Jesus the Shepherd smells of his sheep, because he is *with* us. Jesus says in John 10:14 'I'm the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me'. In the current circumstances we can feel quite lost – but we are reminded that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us. We are his, and whatever circumstances we face we cannot be snatched from his love.

And finally he is the one- 'who leads us to springs of water' – Through the Holy Spirit how would Jesus use us this week to bring hope to another? To be a spring of water? What would an act of kindness look like for you? And who to?

As Saints we reflect the life of Jesus, the Lamb and Shepherd, and in these 'dry and arid' days, how can we be springs of water? How can we show the compassion and tenderness of Jesus? Yes - to be truly saintly!

So let us give thanks for all those who have gone before us – for those who made us what and who we are today – and let us work together with the grace of God to bring God's kingdom here where we are in the Pas-de-Calais.

#### **HYMN: FOR ALL THE SAINTS**

For all the saints who've shown your love  
in how they live and where they move,  
for mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,  
who sang your songs and share your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed the kingdom coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.



## CREED

**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; he 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.**

## INTERCESSIONS led by Pauline

In the Power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
Let us pray to the Father.

For the peace of the whole world,  
For the welfare of the Holy Church of God,  
And for the unity of all,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Robert and David our bishops,  
For the leaders of our sister Churches,  
And for all clergy and people,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the victims of the terrorist attack in Nice,  
For their families and friends,  
For the congregation of Notre Dame de Nice and the wider community,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those many places in the world struggling against tyranny and dictatorship, give wisdom  
to those who thirst for justice,  
For the Church in Nigeria, that it may be a peacemaker and supporter of the people,  
For refugees who face another winter in camps with little health care,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have lost their jobs due to the restriction,  
For the charities running food banks under increasing pressure,  
For local growers maintaining food supplies,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the world wide health situation,  
For the medical staff dealing with the second wave when many are exhausted,  
For those in pain awaiting rescheduled operations,

For all who have lost loved ones during this difficult year,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For world security,  
For the people of the USA during the coming week,  
For those in authority across Europe,  
For the police and ambulance paramedics,  
Let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith  
(short silence)  
And in communion with all the Saints,  
We commit ourselves, one another,  
To the Lord our God.  
**Amen**

A prayer for All Saints.

We give you thanks, our God and Father, for all those who have died  
in the faith of Christ; for the memory of their words and deeds and all  
they accomplished in their time; for the joyful hope of reunion with  
them in the world to come; and for our communion with them now in  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Source unknown.

**HYMN: IN CHRIST ALONE**  
In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

Words : Keith Getty / Stuart Townend  
In Christ Alone © Capitol Christian Music Group

### **THE BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

*All:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen