Called to holiness

SUNDAY Plus

1 NOVEMBER 2026

All Saints **Divine Office Week III** Year A

Recognise God's love

Ceiling in the Church of All Saints with fresco paintings of all saints, Minsk, Belarus © Jasen Wright, Shutterstock

The Saints are not supermen, nor were they born perfect. They are like us, like each one of us. They are people who, before reaching the glory of heaven, lived normal lives with joys and sorrows, struggles and hopes. What changed their lives? When they recognised God's love, they followed it with all their heart without reserve or hypocrisy. They spent their lives serving others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace. This is the life of a saint. Saints are people who, for love of God, did not put conditions on him in their life; they were not hypocrites; they spent their lives at the service of others…

Being holy is not a privilege for the few, as if someone had a large inheritance… We are all called to walk on the path of holiness, and this path has a name and a face: the face of Jesus Christ. He teaches us to become saints… In fact, the Kingdom of Heaven is for those who do not place their security in material things but in love for God, for those who have a simple, humble heart that does not presume to be just and does not judge others, for those who know how to suffer with those who suffer and how to rejoice when others rejoice. They are not violent but merciful and strive to be instruments for reconciliation and peace. Saints, whether men or women, are instruments for reconciliation and peace.

Pope Francis

> The more we taste the mystery of God, the more we are attracted to it.
>
> Pope Leo XIV

Our love continues

The real intent of our prayer for the dead is for us to stay in touch with them, to continue to be in a conscious communication, to maintain our relationship of love, to finish unfinished business, to apologise to them, to forgive them, to ask them to forgive us, to remain mindful of the special oxygen they breathed into the planet during their lives, and to occasionally share a celebratory glass of wine with them...

So, if you've lost a loved one in a situation where there was still something unresolved, where there was still a tension that needed easing, where you should have been more attentive or where you feel badly because you never adequately expressed the affirmation and affection that you might have, know it's not too late. It can still be done!

And, in having that make-up conversation, don't be afraid to share a laugh about how the inadequacy of our human situation has the devilish habit of fudging our best intentions.

Ronald Rolheiser OMI

Lord, people aren't born saints: they become saints. May every breath I breathe be an act of love for you. ✠ Amen.

Feast of the week
Monday 2 November

All Souls

The feast of All Souls is special for all of us because we are all thinking about people who have died, people whom we've known and loved, sometimes very dearly. Most of us can identify an aching corner of our heart which is occupied by memories of one or more very special individuals. However, All Souls' Day is a day of hope: the resurrection means that we will be together again, never to be parted. Love does not end at the grave: those who have died are enjoying life with God, but they are also living in our hearts and are only a thought's distance away.

We pray for those who have died – those we have loved and lost, and those known only to God. May they rest in the peace and joy of eternal life with God.

READINGS

Today:
Apocalypse 7:2-4. 9-14
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Monday:
Isaiah 25:6-9
Romans 5:5-11
Matthew 11:25-30

Tuesday:
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday:
Philippians 2:12-18
Luke 14:25-33

Thursday:
Philippians 3:3-8
Luke 15:1-10

Friday:
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 16:1-8

Saturday:
Philippians 4:10-19
Luke 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

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