

## Reflection for All Saints Sunday

November 1st and 2nd are important days in the Christian calendar, with celebrations of **All Saints Day** followed by **All Souls Day** (see front page for how we are marking these days at St Thomas this year). The first gives us an opportunity to focus on all the holy women and men through 2000 years of Christian history who have been outstanding examples of the faith - apostles, teachers evangelists, martyrs - but still flesh and blood human beings. We might also give God thanks for those who have been saints for us on our journey of faith, but who are not recognised institutionally. The second, All Souls Day, is a day of remembrance for the dead especially those who by their friendship and love have nurtured us in the past; it is an opportunity too to pray for those who have died unmourned and with no one to pray for them.

Merciful God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection  
and the life of all the faithful:  
raise us from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness,  
that at the last, with all our departed brothers  
and sisters we may come to your eternal joy

"In his holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints."

Frederick Buechner, novelist, minister

*Fr David*

Codes for the Zoom worship at 5pm on the **FIRST Sunday** of each month

(7th November)

**Meeting ID:** 817 4532 4542

**Passcode:** 574847

**Telephone numbers:** 0203 481 5237,  
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

**NEXT SUNDAY 07.11.2021 3rd Sunday before Advent**

**SERVICES** 10.30am in Church 5pm Zoom

**READINGS:** OT Jonah 3: 1-5,10  
NT Hebrews 9: 24-28  
GOSPEL Mark 1: 14-20



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

## Sunday 31st October 2021

### All Saints Sunday

10.30am Mass in Church

4pm All Souls Liturgy

What I have started to call a **season of remembrance** is upon us, as the nights draw in and generally the temperature goes down, and we see autumn on the trees and feel an anticipation of winter. So this year the pattern is:

This Sunday: at 10.30am, Mass for All Saints; at 4pm, Liturgy for All Souls (with list of loved ones)

Wednesday 3 November: at 10am Requiem Mass for All Souls (with list of loved ones)

Sunday 14 November: Remembrance Service starting outside at the War Memorial c10.50 (weather permitting) and then into Church for Communion.

*"The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint."* This quotation by the French Catholic novelist Leon Bloy (from *La Femme Pauvre*) is more than simply a pious thought; it speaks of the deepest desire of our hearts for God and for human excellence.

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*Fr David*



## Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Wisdom 3.1–9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

## Revelation 21.1–6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe

every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

## Matthew 5: 1-12

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.'

## Post Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

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## NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is still advised by the Church of England. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish.

**Coffee and tea** will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **There are gaps in the rota. Volunteers are urgently required. No helpers, no refreshments!**

**Knit and Natter November 2021** We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm.** We are comparing other religious faiths. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell. Next **meeting on Tues 2nd November**, new people very welcome!

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

**Help wanted** to clean the gravestones in time for the Remembrance Service on 14th November. See Pat Mounce.

