

## **All Saints**

*Holyday of Obligation, 1 November*

God our Father,  
Today we celebrate all the saints in heaven,  
The communion of saints, the billions of souls  
Thriving in your presence. The Church is so much bigger  
And broader than we think, with the living  
And the dead, the celebrity saints, the unknown saints,  
The saints with the cool names like Agatha, Alphonsus, Aloysius, Ambrose, Athanasius,  
Bede, Blaise, Barnabas, Bonaventure, Boniface, Clement,  
Cyril, Cornelius, Edith, Fabian, Fidelis, Gertrude, Hedwig, Ignatius, Isidore  
Joachim, Justin, Maximilian, Norbert, Pancras, Perpetua, Polycarp,  
Scholastica, Sixtus, Sylvester, Stanislaus, Titus;

And the names we know, names like our own, very much at home  
With the all-stars of heaven, the team to be rooting for  
Except it's rooting for us, interceding for us  
In the presence of God.  
For every saint, there is a candle  
So today we light a candle in our hearts for our saint,  
The one who showed us a glimpse of God –  
Our patron saint, our favourite saint, our school saint  
And we ask them to pray for us  
Through Christ our Lord  
Amen

*Raymond Friel*