

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the feast of All Saints. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

There are some beautiful words in the introduction to liturgy for today's feast:

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members of one another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death. All Saints Day celebrates the men, women and children in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. We give thanks for that grace and the wonderful way it shapes a human life and we can find encouragement from the example of the saints to recall that holiness can grow in ordinary circumstances as well as the extraordinary crises of human living.

As we come to join our praise with the company of heaven, let's give thanks for all the ways that God's grace is at work in us, helping us to follow in the footsteps of the saints, revealing God's love and light in the world.

And let's pause and acknowledge the ways that in thought and word and deed we resist God's grace and obscure God's love. For healing and forgiveness we pray in confession:

Lord you are gracious and compassionate,

Lord have mercy

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation

Christ have mercy

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your Kingdom

Lord have mercy

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life Amen

Let us pray:

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

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 forever. Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 5:1-12

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Bless Robert our bishop and all who minister in your church, that by word and sacrament we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy Temple in the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above, that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life. Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to the sick and dying and all who bring light to those in darkness

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless all with whom we share our lives. That we may see the light of Christ in them, and in turn, bring that light into their lives too.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Touch and heal all whose lives are disfigured by pain, that in the comfort of your presence their sorrows may be turned to joy

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Remember in your mercy all those who have gone before us, who have been well pleasing to you from eternity; preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us into your Kingdom and grant us your peace at all times

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come

spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

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

May God give you joy in fellowship with the saints and a share in their praises.

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

And the blessing of God:

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.