Sunday Message

ALL SAINTS SOLEMNITY

THE WORD

Year A • 1 November 2026 • Psalter Week 3

SAINT NEXT DOOR

MATTHEW 5:1-12

When we think of saints, we usually think of clergy and religious who have been officially canonised by the church. Their lives were carefully scrutinised, their writings and actions thoroughly investigated, to ensure their heroic virtues.

The title of saint or blessed is accorded only to those outstanding in sanctity – mystics, martyrs, missionaries, pastors and founders of religious orders. It seems out of reach of the rest of us.

But in his letter on holiness, Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis challenged this way of thinking. 'To be holy,' he said, 'does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious.' We do not have to be 'swooning in mystic rapture' or walking around with 'lowered eyes' to be a saint. Sanctity isn't just for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. We are all 'called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.'

The Holy Father emphasised that the call to holiness comes with our baptism and that 'in the church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness.'

Therefore, when we think of holiness, we should not 'think only of those already beatified and canonised.' Nor should we grow discouraged by examples of holiness that appear unattainable. 'The important thing' he said, 'is that each believer discerns his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts, rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness.'

Today's feast honours the multitude of ordinary saints, those described by Pope Francis as 'the saints next door' who will never be formally canonised. All of us are called to be saints. ■

LEARN

Saints surround us. Think of the good people you have known, exemplars of love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, and Godliness. Perhaps your parents, a family member, a neighbour, a teacher, a friend, or a work colleague.
A saint makes time for another even when time is short.
A saint sees those on the margins, those with empty stomachs, those without a home.
A saint treats everybody the same, no matter who they are or where they come from.
A saint is honest and just in all her dealings and relationships.
A saint never discriminates based on gender, skin colour, sexuality, or postcode.
A saint is slow to judge, rich in mercy.
A saint fosters reconciliation, seeks to forgive and be forgiven.
A saint comforts, soothes, and stands in solidarity with those who suffer.
A saint speaks good news.
A saint trusts in God at all times.
A saint knows that love is always the answer.
To be a saint is to 'bear witness' to God in all that we do. It is to live the Sermon on the Mount.

PRAY

Remember your deceased loved ones today. Pray that they may be counted among the communion of saints.

DO

Visit the grave(s) of your beloved dead this week. Ask the Lord to take them to himself.

REFLECT

In Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis described the beatitudes of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel as the key to sainthood. The beatitudes are 'the Christian's identity card.' Our identity card. Nowadays, our purses and wallets are full of cards – driving licences, social security cards, bank cards, travel passes, club cards of various kinds. We carry lots of cards, but the most important one is not in our purse or wallet. It is in our hearts, shown in our actions, showcased in our daily living.

Writes Pope Francis: 'Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the beatitudes,' which are 'the Christian's identity card.' 'If anyone asks: what must one do to be a good Christian?' then 'the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount.'

We gain true happiness by aligning our wills with the will of God, as expressed in the beatitudes. In living like this, we become saints.

Not only are we called to be holy, he continues, we are also surrounded by people who are holy. 'I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile... Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence.'

I try to think of the beatitudes as my identity card. When people see me, encounter me, do they see a saint? Am I carrying a Christian identity card? ■

SAY

'Lord, help me to witness to you by living your way. Help me to become the saint next door. Amen.'

NEWSLETTER

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY
Patrick Collins.

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Arthur Lawson, Brian Simpson, John Peach, June James, Patricia Daw, Brenda Towler, Martin Lawrence, Argentina Rogai, Joy Ellison, Joseph Begley, Grace Borremans, Rosalyn Conway, Geoffrey Hartnell, Mary Soul, Mary Travers, Sheila Conway, Marjorie Tyson, Fred Hill, John Emerson, Eleanor Begley, John Witham, Joel De Souza, Danny O'Shea, Maurice Foxwell, Kathleen Clarkson, Frank Windsor, Kenneth Hartnell, Oliva Sherlock, Mary Cullen, Albert Bird, Vee Grother.

AND THOSE WHO ARE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Eileen Strickland, Elizabeth Smart, Brian Smart, Julia Tucker, Catherine Twomey, Sister Theresa Smythe, Madeleine Page, Alma Hamilton, Jill Tansley, Anna Hradil, Penny Watson, Michael O'Connell, Paul Thorpe, Maureen Hughes, Anna Bingham, Mary Hutchings, Margarita Gibson, Anne King, Graham King, Mavis Parsons, Marie Mackay, Richard Fairfax, Roger Dore, Sandra Jones, Christopher Browne, Eveleen O'Farrell, Jane Tolfree, Sean Carroll, Martin Connolly, Joseph Hughes, Imogen Jenkins, Paul Jones, Riza Carol Khan, Marguerite Walker, Larry Kirton, John MacNeice, Vlad, Paul White, Elizabeth Surridge, John Irwin, Elisabeth Collingridge, Jacqueline Park, Maria Margarita Gregorio, Cynthia Rafter.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sat	31st	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Mgr Patrick Lynch, RIP
Sat	31st	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Solemnity of all Saints	People of the Parish
Sun	1st	8.00am	St George	Solemnity of all Saints	Deceased members of the O'Connell & Mulqueen Families
Sun	1st	9.15am	St George	Solemnity of all Saints	Nicola Perry & deceased members of her family.
Sun	1st	11.00am	St Teresa	Solemnity of all Saints	Deceased members of the Lowe & King Families
Mon	2nd	9.30am	St George	Commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls' Day)	Deceased members of the Walker & McPhillips Families
Wed	4th	9.30am	St George	Memorial of Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop	Titus & Jean Oates, RIP
Wed	4th	6.30pm	St George	Youth Mass	For all the Young People of the Parish
Thurs	5th	9.30am	St John Fisher	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Lisa Jordan, RIP
Thurs	5th	12.30pm	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Pauline Atherton, RIP
Fri	6th	10.00am	St Teresa	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Sina Healey birthday
Sat	7th	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	David Jones, RIP
Sat	7th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Deceased Relations & Friends of the Knott Family
Sun	8th	8.00am	St George	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Deceased members of the Coleman and Warren Families
Sun	8th	9.15am	St George	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Mary Bradley, RIP
Sun	8th	11.00am	St Teresa	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Celine Stutt

There will be a second collection today in aid of the Mission Appeal

PRAYER GROUPS:
Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Wednesday 10am-11.30am St. George's Centre
Led Holy Hour: St George's on the last Wednesday of the month 7:30-8:30pm
Mother's Prayer: Every other Thurs 8-10pm Parish Centre.
Prepare for Sunday praying the Mass readings together: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1pm in the Parish Centre.
Pray the Rosary: St Teresa, Fridays after 10am Mass, for world peace. 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30am St John Fisher.
Healing Prayer Ministry: 1st weekend each month after all Masses except 8am & after Mass on 3rd Sat at St. George. At other times by appointment: healing@tauntonvalecatholics.com
Legion of Mary: Meet Thursday 6:30-pm in the Catholic Centre.
Men's Fellowship & Ladies Fellowship Groups: Meet at 8pm on alternate Tuesdays to each other in the Catholic Centre.

CONFESSION TIMES: At St George's: Sat 10am-10:30am; Thurs 12 noon -12:30pm
At St Teresa's: Fri 9:30am -10am at St John Fisher: Sat 5pm-5:25pm
ADORATION TIMES:
St George: Tue-Sun 6:30am - 7:30am;
Wed 6:30am - 9.25am; Thurs 12 -12:25pm; Fri 6:00am – 5pm and 1.00pm – 6.00pm; Sat10am - 11am.
St John Fisher: Wed 4pm - 7pm; Thurs10 -12pm
BENEDICTION: 6:30pm on Wednesdays at St George's Church
PARISH YOUTH MASS: 6.30pm First Wednesday of the Month at St George's Church
IMPACT GROUP: Temporarily suspended.
AFRICAN CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP: Meet the first Sunday of every month from 10:30am in the Parish Centre.

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Loving merciful Father,
We entrust to your tender care our Holy Father, Pope Leo. Be close to him in his illness, strengthen him in his recovery and fill his heart with your peace. Bless those who care for him, restore him to full and lasting health, and renew his strength for the ministry to which you have called him. May he always know the love and prayers of your people throughout the world. Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, keep him safe in your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

NOTICES

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Augustine of Canterbury, Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette, Kingswood, St Lawrence, Chipping Sodbury with St Paul, Yate.

Standing Orders: 28/06/2026
St George: £2153.42 St Teresa: £280.54,
St John Fisher: £176.08
Offertory Collection: 5/07/2026
St George: £1467.63, St Teresa: £,
St John Fisher: £249.97.

Confirmation Course 2027: For those who were unable to attend the Pre-course meeting on 9th October, there will be another meeting on **Friday 27th November 7.00pm – 8.00pm,** in the Parish Hall. If you have registered your child for this course, it is important you attend. Please confirm your attendance with the Parish Administrator.

Volunteers Needed:
Tea and Coffee Servers: We are in need of more volunteers to help with the teas and coffees after 8am and 9.15am Masses on Sundays at St George's. It does not have to be a weekly commitment, one Sunday a month would help so much.
Church Cleaner: Can you spare ½ hour after 9.30 Mass on any Wednesday to help clean our Church?
Church Flowers/ St George's and St Teresa's: If you would like to help refresh and renew the Church Flowers, we would love to hear from you.
Please contact Dale in the Admin Office if you are able to help.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Ramblers: Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no Ramblers' walk on Saturday 31st October. The next walk will take place on **Saturday 28th November**. Full details to follow. Do come and join us to enjoy the lovely countryside around here.

The Book Group will next meet at the Presbytery at 2.00 pm on Wednesday **4th November**. We are keen to recruit new members and welcome a wide range of reading. So why not give it a try? Our next book is The Chimes by Charles Dickens. Contact May Flight on 07837796480 for more details.

Flame 2027: Saturday 6th March 2027: There is an exciting opportunity for the youth of our parish to attend FLAME2027 at the OVO Wembly Arena. A Catholic youth conference that takes place annually in London which brings together young people from across the country for an inspiring day of worship and joyful encouragement in their faith. There will be enlightening talks, lively worship and the chance to meet other young Catholics and be emboldened by testimonies. The Parish will organise travel by coach to and from London and volunteers to oversee. Contact the parish office to book. The cost is £30 per person but do speak to the parish office if this is difficult as we would like to encourage as many young people as can attend.
https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/

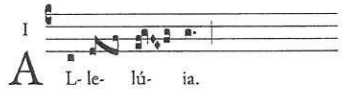
Annual Mission Appeal for the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP): Fr. Joseph Kolade, of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSP), will make the mission appeal on **Sunday 1st November**. The MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP warmly invites you to support their mission appeal.

Concert in aid of St George's Church Organ Appeal

St George's Church Choir & Junior Choir will be performing a varied programme of music.

7.00pm
Friday 6th November

Followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre

Cash donations to the Organ Appeal gratefully received.

An introduction to
Gregorian Chant

Led by Matthew Searles
Master of the Music, Buckfast Abbey

Saturday 21 November
10.30am–2.30pm
St George's Catholic Church, Taunton

An interactive workshop for beginner to intermediate singers of all voice parts, designed to develop an understanding of history and context, reading the notation, pronunciation and singing chant.

Tickets £15
including music and tea/coffee, available via the QR code

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

A reading from the Book of the Revelation.

I, John, saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.' And I heard the number of the sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?' I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R. cf. 6

R: ***Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.***

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R.**

3. Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John.

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:28

R: ***Alleluia, alleluia.***
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest.
R: ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints
be pleasing to you, O Lord,
and grant that, just as we believe the Saints
to be already assured of immortality,
so we may experience their concern for our salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy
and wonderful in all your Saints,
we implore your grace,
so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love,
we may pass from this pilgrim table
to the banquet of our heavenly homeland.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

redemptorist publications

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