

## PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS DAY

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

AMEN

ON SATURDAY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS..

THE SAINTS ARE PEOPLE WHO SAID “YES” TO GOD’S PLAN FOR THEM. SOME WERE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, SOME WERE MOTHERS AND FATHERS, SOME WERE MONKS, PRIESTS OR NUNS AND SOME SINGLE PEOPLE. ON ALL SAINTS DAY WE PRAISE AND THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US THROUGH THESE HOLY PEOPLE. WE REMEMBER THE SAINTS TO INSPIRE US SO WE MAY LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR THE WAY JESUS TAUGHT US.

THE FIRST AMONG ALL THE SAINTS IS MARY, MOTHER OF GOD. SHE LIVED A PERFECT AND HOLY LIFE. SHE SAID ‘YES’ TO GOD’S CALL TO BE THE MOTHER OF JESUS, EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS NERVOUS AND AFRAID. MARY TEACHES US TO TRUST IN GOD.

ST. PATRICK BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOD’S LOVE TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND. HE TAUGHT THEM ABOUT JESUS AND USED THE SHAMROCK TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD THE FATHER, JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. ST. PATRICK TEACHES US TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOD WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

ST. BRIGID WAS A KIND AND GENEROUS WOMAN. SHE HELPED PEOPLE WHO WERE POOR AND SICK. SHE ALSO BUILT A CHURCH AND CONVENT IN COUNTY KILDARE. LIKE ST MARY MCKILLOP OF THE CROSS, ST. BRIGID TEACHES US TO LOOK OUT FOR AND HELP PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE AS MUCH AS WE DO.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND HELPER TO PEOPLE WHO WERE POOR, IN PRISON OR HOMELESS .HE GAVE THEM WHATEVER THEY NEEDED AND NEVER ASKED FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN. ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TEACHES US TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE WITH THOSE WHO NEED IT.

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX DIED WHEN SHE WAS JUST TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD. HOWEVER, EVEN IN HER SHORT LIFE, SHE MANAGED TO BRING JOY AND HAPPINESS TO THE WORLD BY DOING SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR THE PEOPLE SHE MET .ST. THERESE TEACHES US THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO LITTLE THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CARED GREATLY FOR GOD’S CREATION. HE KNEW THAT WE NEED TO RESPECT THE NATURAL WORLD AND TAKE CARE OF IT. WE SHOW THAT WE ARE LEARNING FROM ST. FRANCIS WHEN WE PICK UP LITTER, SAVE ENERGY AND WATER AND ARE KIND TO ANIMALS.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA IS THE PATRON SAINT OF LOST ITEMS, AND FOR MANY OTHER CAUSES, INCLUDING THE POOR, SAILORS, FISHERMEN, PREGNANT WOMEN, TRAVELERS, AND THE ELDERLY. HE IS ALSO INVOKED FOR GOOD HARVESTS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

WE THANK GOD FOR THESE HOLY MEN AND WOMEN, AND ASK THEM TO PRAY FOR US, SO THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXAMPLE, AND LIVE OUR LIVES FOR GOD AND FOR OTHERS.

HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD. *PRAY FOR US:* ST. BRIGID. *PRAY FOR US:*

ST. PATRICK. *PRAY FOR US:* ST. VINCENT DE PAUL. *PRAY FOR US:*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. *PRAY FOR US:* ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX. *PRAY FOR US:*

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA *PRAY FOR US.*

ON SUNDAY WE WILL CELEBRATE ALL SOULS DAY

GOSPEL

LUKE 7:11-17

JESUS WENT TO A TOWN CALLED NAIN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DISCIPLES AND A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE. WHEN HE WAS NEAR THE GATE OF THE TOWN IT HAPPENED THAT A DEAD MAN WAS BEING CARRIED OUT FOR BURIAL, THE ONLY SON OF HIS MOTHER, AND SHE WAS A WIDOW. AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE WITH HER. WHEN THE LORD SAW HER HE FELT SORRY FOR HER. ‘DO NOT CRY’ HE SAID. THEN HE WENT UP AND PUT HIS HAND ON THE BIER AND THE BEARERS STOOD STILL, AND HE SAID, ‘YOUNG MAN, I TELL YOU TO GET UP.’ AND THE DEAD MAN SAT UP AND BEGAN TO TALK, AND JESUS GAVE HIM TO HIS MOTHER. EVERYONE WAS FILLED WITH AWE AND PRAISED GOD SAYING, ‘A GREAT PROPHET HAS APPEARED AMONG US; GOD HAS VISITED HIS PEOPLE.’ AND THIS OPINION OF HIM SPREAD THROUGHOUT JUDAEA AND ALL OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE.

‘HELD IN GOD’S HANDS’ WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE LIVES OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS. WE COMMEND ALL OF THEM INTO GOD’S LOVING ARMS.

WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ALL SOULS BECAUSE OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES TOUCHED OURS. WE ARE NOT ASKED TO FORGET THOSE WE HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED. BUT SADNESS HAS TO BE TINGED WITH GRATITUDE:

FOR THE LIVES THAT SHAPED US; FOR THE HANDS THAT HELD US;

FOR THE VOICES THAT INSPIRED US; FOR THE LOVE THAT ENRICHED OUR LIVES.

WHEN WE HAVE LOST SOMEONE WE LOVE, IT IS DIFFICULT, PERHAPS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE, NOT TO TRY TO CLING ON TO THEM IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN. WE TRY TO HANG ONTO EVERY MEMORY WE CAN SUMMON OF THE PERSON WE HAVE LOST, BECAUSE IT FEELS AS THOUGH IT WOULD SOMEHOW DISHONOUR THEM IF WE WERE TO FORGET. WE TRY TO PROTECT OURSELVES BY SO CALLED “STAYING STRONG”.

WE DON’T ABANDON OUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES OF, OR OUR EVEN MORE PRECIOUS LOVE FOR, ALL THOSE WE MISS SO ACUTELY. IT IS ABOUT REMEMBERING THAT THEY, AND WE, ARE HELD IN A PLACE OF SAFETY IN GOD’S HANDS, IN GOD’S LOVING EMBRACE. JESUS OFFERS THE MOST PROFOUND HOPE AND REASSURANCE INTO THE PLACES OF OUR DEEPEST LOSS AND GRIEF AND FEAR.

THE PRECISE DETAILS OF MEMORIES MAY GRADUALLY FADE, BUT THOSE WHOM WE HAVE LOVED, AND WHO LOVED US, DO NOT LEAVE US. THE THINGS THEY DID AND SAID. THE THINGS THEY ENJOYED DOING, AND THE PLEASURE THEY BROUGHT TO US. THE FUNNY THINGS THAT HAPPENED. THE SHARED EXPERIENCES, BOTH GOOD AND BAD. THE DIFFERENCE THEY MADE TO OUR LIVES. THE COMPANIONSHIP SHARED. IN THE RICHNESS OF ALL THOSE THINGS, WE HAVE FLOURISHED AND BECOME WHAT WE ARE. WE HAVE BEEN SHAPED AND CHANGED BY THEM, AND BY THE LOVE THAT WE SHARED WITH THEM, FOREVER. THAT LOVE WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR OR DIE. GOD'S LOVE, OUR LOVE, IS ALWAYS STRONGER EVEN THAN DEATH.

BELIEVING THAT THOSE WE REMEMBER ARE HELD IN GOD'S EMBRACE, WE TRUST THAT WE WILL MEET THEM AGAIN, IN A PLACE WHERE THERE CAN NEVER BE FAREWELLS. SO WE MAKE OUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE WE NAME WHO NOW BELONG IN ETERNITY.

WE PRAY GOD OF ALL CREATION, WHO CANNOT BE CONTAINED BY OUR BOUNDARIES, OR BY OUR DEFINITIONS; YOU ARE PRESENT IN EVERY PLACE, IN EVERY MOMENT IN HISTORY. YOU ARE HERE NOW. HELP US TO KNOW THAT THOSE FROM WHOM WE ARE SEPARATED IN DEATH, ARE EACH OF THEM IN YOUR PRESENCE; THAT BEYOND OUR HORIZONS, BEYOND OUR BOUNDARIES, BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING, THEY ARE HELD IN YOUR ETERNAL EMBRACE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

LOVING GOD, WE ARE NEVER ALONE. WE ARE ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY A GREAT COMPANY OF THOSE WHOSE LIFE AND TRUTH HAVE TOUCHED OUR LIVES. MAKE US AWARE THAT THEY ARE WITH US AND WE ARE WITH THEM. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER.

WE THANK YOU FOR THE LIGHT THAT SHONE IN OUR WORLD; FOR MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS, FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS CHILDREN, HUSBANDS AND WIVES, NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, WHO GAVE US SOMETHING NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN AND SHARED A LOVE NEVER TO BE LOST.

ETERNAL GOD, WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOM WE REMEMBER HERE. WE HOLD ON TO AND CHERISH OUR LOVE THEM, AS WE MISS THEM, THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER.

LORD, WE PRAY IN HOPE FOR THE PROSPECT OF A DAY WHEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH OR PARTING, AND ALL SHALL BE WELL AND ALL SHALL BE ONE. MAY THEY WHOM WE REMEMBER BE AMONG THE FIRST TO WELCOME US TO HEAVEN, WHERE, WITH YOU IN UNENDING LOVE, AND IN THE COMPANY OF ALL THE SAINTS, WE WILL SHARE THE FEAST OF YOUR EVERLASTING FAMILY. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER.

UNTIL THAT DAY, KEEP US IN FAITH, FILL US WITH HOPE, DEEPEN US THROUGH LOVE: THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER.

LORD, WE GO FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE WITH THANKFULNESS, LOVE, AND HOPE FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN, WE GIVE THANKS; TO ALL THAT WILL BE, WE SAY YES. NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

*OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY, GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT*

WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING ALL WHO WE HAVE NAMED TODAY. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING WE REMEMBER AND TREASURE ABOUT THEM, FOR ALL THAT THEY MEAN TO US. ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET YOUR PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

TO GOD'S GRACIOUS MERCY AND PROTECTION WE COMMIT OURSELVES.

MAY THE LORD BLESS US AND WATCH OVER US,

THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON US AND BE GRACIOUS TO US,

THE LORD LOOK KINDLY UPON US AND GIVE US PEACE.

AND THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY, THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT BE UPON US. AMEN

November remembrance

