

**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**  
**All Saints**  
**Sunday 01 Nov 2020**  
**For Families and Households during Social Isolation**

*The Introductory Rites*

A Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**All:** **Amen.**

*Greeting*

**Leader:** Blessed be Jesus who makes us one, and strengthens us  
by the power of his Spirit.  
**All:** **Blessed be God forever.**

**Leader**  
(in these or similar words): Friends in Christ,  
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,  
we gather in God's name for when two or more come together  
God is always with us. We worship in union with the whole Church  
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

**Leader:** Before listening to the Word of God let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.  
*A brief period of silence follows.*

**All:** Lord Jesus, you bless the poor and the humble: Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**All:** Christ Jesus, you are our saviour and brother: Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you gather people from every nation around your throne:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** **Amen.**

*Opening Prayer*

**Leader:** Let us pray.  
*All pause for silent prayer.*

God on high,  
today we celebrate with joy  
the saints who have gone before us.  
Help us follow their examples of holiness and service  
so that one day we may take our place among them in heaven.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

*First Reading*

Rv 7:2-4. 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Responsorial Psalm*

Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6

**(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

*Second Reading*

1 Jn 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St John

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Mt 5:1-12

**Reader:** From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.

Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*A short period of reflection may be observed.*

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** In union with the whole Church let us profess our faith.

**All:** **I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.*

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.**

## Universal Prayer

**Leader:** Jesus in glory intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father.  
With confidence we now bring our prayers to the Father.

1. For the Church: that she may shine out as a beacon of hope in the world, especially in this time of pandemic. We pray to the Lord.
2. For those in government: that they may always seek to build a society founded on justice in order to respect the dignity of each person and help those who are poorest and on the fringe of society. We pray to the Lord.
3. For all students and especially those undertaking their final exams. That they may look to the future with confidence, and be a sign of hope. We pray to the Lord.

4. For those who care for the sick, all who work in our hospitals and health care agencies. That they may witness to the Beatitudes in their gentleness and compassion. We pray to the Lord.
5. For the elderly, and for those who are lonely and anxious because of Covid-19, that we may reach out to them in compassion and bring them the healing presence of Christ. We pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, especially Jack Moore, Joyce Ursula Broadbent... who died recently; those who have died with Covid-19; and those whose anniversaries occur; that they may rise in the glory of Christ and take their place with all the saints in heaven. We pray to the Lord.

**Leader:** Compassionate and loving Father,  
 as we rejoice at the great crowd of witnesses  
 who praise you in heaven,  
 help us to follow their example,  
 hear our prayers that one day we may be with them,  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**Leader:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:  
**All:** **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,  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
 Amen.**

### **The Concluding Rite**

#### *Blessing*

**Leader:** May the Lord be with us and protect us now and for ever.  
*All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.*  
**All:** **Amen.**

#### *Dismissal*

**Leader:** Let us go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**