



**DURHAM
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 1 November
All Saints Day*

During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family.

If you'd like to come to the cathedral for worship and/or prayer, there are some important measures we'd like you to know about, to ensure the safety of members of the public and staff. You can find this information on our website: www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

We will continue to live stream services as well so that, if you can't re-join us yet, you will still be able to engage with us online.

Gospel

Matthew 5. 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people 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, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Thought for the Day

by the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I want to take you this morning to the southern Spanish city of Seville, where I arrived a few years ago towards the end of October. The city famed for its immense Cathedral, dedicated to Saint Mary of the Sea, which is the result of a building programme of epic scale, undertaken in the period following the Christian re-conquest of Andalusia in 1248. After its completion several hundred years later, it was the largest Cathedral in the Christian world, supplanting even the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, and contains the tomb of Christopher Columbus.

While our cousins from across the Pond will have spent much of this past week preparing for All Hallows' Eve as a time of ghouls and ghosts and carved pumpkins, in Seville on 31 October - or Hallowe'en - there was not a pumpkin, nor a blood-soaked mask in sight. Rather plastered around the city were posters advertising the All Saints' procession – Todos Los Santos – which began later that evening.

And what a procession it was! An enormous statue of the Blessed Virgin was carried aloft by teams of burly young men, who swapped positions as the procession made its way across parish boundaries. Out in front was a band which reminded me of something vaguely Sicilian from the film, *The Godfather*, and from houses neighbouring the path, hundreds of people poured out to get a glimpse of the spectacle. Once the baton had been passed on to the neighbouring parish, the only thing left to do was to slake their thirst in a local bar. It seems barely imaginable in this COVID-world. So, what were they celebrating?

Introducing the Season of All Saints to Advent, often now called The Kingdom Season, Common Worship – the Church of England's contemporary liturgy - describes the way that 'no Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death'.

As Charles Wesley put it:

One family, we dwell in him,
one Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.

In other words, through baptism we join a family which is not only global, as we've found to great our great delight with the on-line community, but also inter-generational across the years, centuries and millennia.

Not really a separate season liturgically, during this Kingdom Season we have a four-week window where we focus on the intimate connection of all believers, living and departed, running from the festivals of this week - All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' Day which has been pre-recorded and will be broadcast tomorrow – right the way through Remembrance and onto Christ the King. It is a season-ette, if such a word exists.

All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace, and for the wonderful ends to which it shapes a human life; it is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in the ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living.

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate key. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith. Remembrance Sunday goes on to explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and self-gift, memory and forgetting. With the requirements of social distancing, the annual Remembrance Day at the Cathedral will be live-streamed only.

And finally, at the end of the month, the annual cycle of the Church's year now ends with the Feast of Christ the King. The year that begins with the hope of the coming Messiah ends with the proclamation of his universal sovereignty. The Feast of Christ the King returns us to the Advent theme of judgement, with which the cycle once more begins.

So, what are we to make of this essentially 'sociable' season in a COVID age? Our celebration of All Saints and All Souls, of Remembrance and Christ the King all focus on our unity as the baptised, our common fellowship beyond the generations, of our shared pilgrimage to the heavenly city.

Without a doubt that is challenging when we are having to remember the rule of six, tier 1, 2 or 3, not to mention keeping two metres apart in the supermarket, all of which will now be subsumed into the new national lockdown.

Part of the answer may be that right here, right now, we are in fellowship with those who are not physically present. I'm not referring to the faithful departed, but to the virtually connected. A reminder that not all fellowship is physically bound.

From Thursday, while the Cathedral will remain open for private prayer, public services will cease and all our worship will move online. If you haven't already found your way to the live-streamed services, please follow the links on the Cathedral website (www.durhamcathedral.co.uk).

But, secondly, we also have the richness of music, art, creative imagination, architectural splendour to lift us out of the here and now, and to give us a glimpse of what that eternal company will be like when each one of us reaches the heavenly Jerusalem.

The 19th century writer and poet Christina Rossetti penned an evocative and beautiful piece for the season, entitled *All Saints*.

All Saints, by Christina Rossetti

They are flocking from the East
And the West,
They are flocking from the North
And the South,
Every moment setting forth
From realm of snake or lion,
Swamp or sand,
Ice or burning;
Greatest and least,
Palm in hand
And praise in mouth,
They are flocking up the path
To their rest,
Up the path that hath
No returning.
Up the steeps of Zion
They are mounting,
Coming, coming,
Throngs beyond man's counting;
With a sound
Like innumerable bees
Swarming, humming
Where flowering trees
Many-tinted,

Many-scented,
All alike about
With honey,--
With a swell
Like a blast upswaying unrestrainable
From a shadowed dell
To the hill-tops sunny,--
With a thunder
Like the ocean when in strength
Breadth and length
It sets to shore;
More and more
Waves on waves redoubled pour
Leaping flashing to the shore
(Unlike the under
Drain of ebb that loseth ground
For all its roar.)
They are thronging
From the East and West,
From the North and South,
Saints are thronging, loving, longing,
To their land
Of rest,
Palm in hand
And praise in mouth.

A Form of Intercession

United in the company of all the faithful
and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

May your Church, built on the foundation of the saints,
be faithful to the teaching of Jesus
so that in all her life she may reveal his likeness.
May we turn the other cheek and pray
for those whom we have wronged and who have wronged us,
so that we may be united by your covenant
of peace and justice on earth,
and with the praise of the blessed in heaven.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for a world often ignorant or unresponsive
to the teaching that can bring true joy.
May you grant to us, in this generation,
your Holy Spirit who inspired the Saints,
that we all may walk in the ways of righteousness.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Teach us to recognise the holiness of other people;
as we continue to pray for our nation in this time of anxiety,
guide with your holy wisdom all whose decisions
affect the lives of others.
In our own lives, give to us, our families and friends,
understanding to appreciate diverse viewpoints
with integrity and grace,
and to live our lives as Jesus taught his disciples.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Deal mercifully with those who suffer;
we remember those who are sick, hungry,
persecuted and oppressed.
We pray for all those who are persecuted
for the sake of the Gospel;
may they all be relieved and protected,
and delivered out of their misery.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Remember in your kingdom, Lord,
all who have gone before us,
who now share in the inheritance
you promise to your people.
May they rest in that place
where sorrow and pain are no more,
but lie eternal, in the company of your Saints and Holy Ones.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Rejoicing in the communion of Blessed Mary the Virgin
and of all the saints,
may we always be supported by their fellowship,
and strengthened by their witness
to your power and mercy.
Father, hear our prayers which we make through him
who is their King and ours, even Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Calendar of Holy Days

Monday 2 November The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
All Souls Day
Cedd, abbot, bishop, 664

Everlasting God,
our maker and redeemer,
grant us, with all the faithful departed,
the sure benefits of your Son's
saving passion and glorious resurrection
that, in the last day,
when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
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 for ever.
Amen.

Tuesday 3 November Richard Hooker, priest, teacher of the faith, 1600
Martin of Porres, friar, 1639

Friday 6 November *Leonard, hermit, 6th century*
William Temple, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1944

Saturday 7 November Willibrord, bishop, 739

All Souls Day

'The believer's pilgrimage of faith is lived out with the mutual support of all the people of God. In Christ all the faithful, both living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayer.' This simple, agreed statement from the Anglican--Roman Catholic International Commission explains the purpose of the celebration on this day. Since its foundation, Christians have recognised that the Church, the ecclesia, the assembled people of God, is at its most perfect when it recognises its unity in God's redeeming love with all who have said, who say now, and who will say in the fullness of time, 'Jesus is Lord'.

Bible Reading

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people: and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21. 1 - 4

A Requiem Eucharist for All Souls Day is broadcast on the Cathedral's Facebook page on Monday 2 November at 7.30 p.m. The Requiem is a setting by Tomas Luiz da Victoria. There is no service in church at that time.

On Sunday 8 November at 10.30 a.m., the Remembrance Sunday service is live-streamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page. There is no public access in person to the service.

A Prayer for use during the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

The Phos Hilaron from the Eastern Orthodox tradition

Hail, gladdening Light,
of his pure glory poured
who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of Holies, Jesus Christ our Lord!
Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
the lights of evening round us shine,
we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.
Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, we own.
Amen.

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The next issue of *Praying Together*
will be published on Monday 9 November