

**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**

Apoc 7:2-4.9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

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 it 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 around 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 23

Response:

**Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.**

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.

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 does not 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

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

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**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 many pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

I complained about my eyesight, my parents would say, "You're lucky you're not blind." My upbringing gave me a sense of confidence even if we didn't have much.

*Roger McGough*

## ME – A SAINT??

(MT 5:1-12)



Jesus goes up the mountain (which our text, unfortunately, translates as “the hill”): he sits down, which is the position of a rabbi when teaching; it is Jesus who gives the teaching, which is the basic meaning of *Torah*, he does not receive it from elsewhere.

Jesus, then, is interpreting the Law as it could be applied by his disciples in their own time and situation: this was the purpose of the Pharisees, and later the rabbis, to adapt the *Torah* in such a way that its values could be lived out by those who followed their teaching. When Jesus declares that “my yoke is easy and my burden light”, he is saying that his interpretation of the Law is less strict than that of other teachers. Matthew is thus presenting Jesus’ teaching as the authoritative understanding of what the Law of God implies. ■

### REFLECT

**T**oday we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. We are not thinking primarily of those Christians who have been canonised, that is, officially recognised by the Church as having lived a holy life and who are held up as examples to inspire us to try our best to live out our baptismal commitment. We are celebrating all those ordinary folk, members of our own families and others who lived out their faith quietly in the rough and tumble of everyday life. Very few of the canonised saints were married people with families.

There used to be a feeling that a holy life was one which could be lived only by people who consecrated their lives to God as priests, nuns, monks or other religious persons. However, the Second Vatican Council did away with this manner of thinking when it taught that everyone is called to holiness. The notion that lay people had to settle for a second-class way of life in the Church was seen to be false. No way of life is higher, better or holier than any other. The manner in which the individual person lives out their Christian commitment is the way in which they find holiness, which is essentially being close to God and practising the values of the gospel in the situation in which they find themselves: for many people, this is marriage and family life; other states, such as the single life, are as valid in this regard. No one is excluded from being holy, and that includes you. In the Beatitudes, which form our gospel reading today, the reward of the Kingdom is not promised to those who work miracles, but to the kind of person who is described there. Jesus gives Eight Beatitudes rather than Ten Commandments: but in a real sense, they are more demanding. ■

### SAY

**Blessed are those who  
know their need of God:  
theirs is the Kingdom of  
Heaven.**

(Mt 5:3)

### LEARN

In Matthew’s version of the Gospel, mountains are places of revelation.

The Sermon on the Mount presents Jesus in the same light as Moses, who received the *Torah* on Mount Sinai.

No state of life is better or holier than any other: everyone is called to holiness.

### DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Think of your baptismal promises: they are your way to being holy.

