

ALL SOULS' DAY
2 November

It is the day when Christians have traditionally prayed for the souls of all who have passed before us.



Reflection:

God loves us, created us to live with him forever and walk in his light. On what path are we currently walking in our own lives?

Dear God, we thank you for your promise of eternal life through the death and rising of Jesus your Son. We entrust to you on this special day ourselves, all our friends and loved ones who have died. Make our hearts restless until we find our rest in you. Draw us closer to you, give us your Grace to follow you and your strength to walk your path illumined by your light. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus the light of the world. Amen.

Reading: John 5.19-29

Let us
‘Shine the Christ- Light’
All Hallows’ Eve 31st
October 2024 6 pm.



ALL HALLOWS' EVE 31 October

This is the day that many celebrate Halloween. Halloween is short for “*All Hallows' Eve*” – the night before the Solemn Feast of All Saints. Christians traditionally prepared for this great feast with prayers and fasting the night before. In some countries, they would pray together at church and then light candles at the graves of loved ones who had died. The custom of ‘trick or treating’ comes from parts of Europe where groups of poor children would go begging from door to door. Families would give them a small loaf of bread

marked by a cross, called a ‘soul cake’, if the children promised to pray for the family and souls of its members who had died. Our Halloween customs come from different places and times – not all of them are Christian.



The one important thing we can remember about All Hallows Eve is that it is a night, not for the *dead*, but for remembering that *Christ is the light of the world* and that, through him, we can now enjoy *eternal life* in this world, and after our death, in Heaven.

Reflection: Who are the ones, now passed on, that helped us in our spiritual journeys? Let us

bring them to God with grateful thanks this All Hallows Eve ...

Dear God, you created us to know, love and serve you in this life, and to be with you forever in the life to come. We uphold to you all our deceased family members, friends and for all who have no one to pray for them. We thank you for all of these who you have caused to touch our lives, drew us closer to you and to walk your path illumined by your Grace. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus the light of the world. Amen

Reading: John 8:12; 12:35-+36; 44-46.

ALL SAINTS' DAY 1 November

Today is the Solemn Feast of All Saints. All who follow Jesus are members of the Communion of Saints. And today, we, the faithful Saints on earth - the Church militant - celebrate the Saints in heaven - the Church triumphant - who share in Christ's resurrection and triumph over death.

Not everyone in heaven has been given the special title of “Saint” by the church. There are many people in heaven who led ordinary lives of love for God and neighbour. They are our grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, neighbours, priests and religious. One day, God willing, we will meet them again. These are persons who often just did simple things, but with great love, looking after their families, caring for the sick and hungry, showing kindness to their neighbours, spreading the word of God in their own way and praying for the needs of others. These humble people who now sing God's praises in heaven are also saints. They lived their lives illumined by Jesus' light and seeking to reflect that light to others.

Reflection: Becoming a Saint starts with a “yes” to Jesus' invitations to serve him and minister to others. What small acts of kindness may Jesus be calling us to do so that his Christ - light can shine through us?

Dear God, we praise and thank you with the Saints in heaven for sharing with us the gift of Christ's holiness. Lead us to walk with faithfulness and joy in the power of your Holy Spirit, until we reach our heavenly homeland in the company of Jesus and all the Saints. We ask you this in the name of Jesus the light of the world. Amen.

Reading: Ephesians 1.11-23

