All Saints

Sunday 1 November 2026

Priest's Tidings

The Solemnity of All Saints can easily lead us to think of extraordinary, almost unattainable individuals whose lives seem very distant from our own. Yet, the Gospel offers us a very different perspective. Jesus does not present holiness as a privilege reserved for a select few, but rather as a universal call that unfolds within everyday life. The Beatitudes sketch the portrait of those who have discovered that true happiness does not spring from power, success, or recognition, but from love lived out with humility, mercy, and self-giving. In them, we find a path to holiness that is attainable, accessible, and profoundly human—an invitation to let ourselves be transformed by the Gospel, so that our way of living may make the face of God visible, here and now.

Fr Hugo

Entrance Hymn: 296 – For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Verses 1,2, 4, 6, 7 & 8

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,
God, for ever and ever. Amen

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14
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.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 23

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

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/**

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/**
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/**

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 Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Blessed God, we remember before you all who have witnessed to your love and mercy. We ask your blessing upon all who seek to bring reconciliation and forgiveness to peoples and communities. We pray for all who are involved in pastoral work and the ministry of healing.**R/**

Blessed God, we remember before you all who have witnessed to your peace. We ask your blessing upon the work of the United Nations and all peacekeeping forces. We pray for all who are not at peace with themselves or with the world around them and all who suffer through war. **R/**

Blessed God, we remember before you all who have set us an example by their grace and goodness. We ask your blessing upon our homes and familieso We pray for all who are suffering from broken relationships and all who feel lonely.**R/**

Blessed God, we remember before you all who have suffered persecution for their faith. We ask you to bless those who strive against injustice and evil. We pray for all who suffer from tyranny or oppression. We remember also all who are ill at home or in hospital, those injured in accidents and all victims of violence. **R/**

Heavenly Father, we lift St Matthew's Elephant and Castle to You. By Your Spirit, grow Your church in number, faith, and love. Draw those who are searching to Christ, equip us to share the Gospel with boldness, and make us a welcoming community where lives are transformed. May all who come encounter Your presence. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.**R/**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory For all thy saints, O Lord,

For All Thy Saints, O Lord,
Who Strove In Thee To Live,
Who Followed Thee, Obeyed, Adored,
Our Grateful Hymn Receive.

For All Thy Saints, O Lord,
Accept Our Thankful Cry;
Who Counted Thee Their Great Reward,
And Strove In Thee To Die.

They All, In Life And Death,
With Thee Their Lord In View,
Learned From Thy Holy Spirit's Breath
To Suffer And To Do.

For This Thy Name We Bless,
And Humbly Pray That We
May Follow Them In Holiness,
And Live And Die In Thee.

Communion Hymn: 297 - For all thy saints who showed your love

Post Communion Prayer:

O God,
the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
grant that we, who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth,
may with all thy saints
be welcomed to the heavenly feast
in the day of thy kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**Amen**

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Strengthen us by the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. **Amen**.

Recessional: When the saints go matching in

I'm Just a weary pilgrim
Plodding through this world of sin
Getting ready for that city
When the saints go matching in.

When The Saints Go Marching In
When The Saints Go Marching In
Lord I Want To Be In That Number
When The Saints Go Marching In

My Father love the Saviour
What a soldier he had been
But his steps will be more steady
When the saints go matching in.

When The Saints Go Marching In
When The Saints Go Marching In
Lord I Want To Be In That Number
When The Saints Go Marching In

Up there we'll see the Saviour
He'll redeemed my soul from sin
With extended hands he'll greet me
When the saints go matching in

When The Saints Go Marching In
When The Saints Go Marching In
Lord I Want To Be In That Number
When The Saints Go Marching In
(Repeat)

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) brings together Jesus' teachings, including the Beatitudes, into a guide for Christian life. It is considered the foundation or "Magna Carta" of the Christian community because it defines the values and attitudes that disciples should follow.Rather than being a simple collection of advice, the sermon calls Christians to adopt a new and radical attitude toward God, themselves, and others. Jesus sometimes uses exaggerated expressions, such as cutting off a hand or tearing out an eye, to emphasise the seriousness of avoiding sin and choosing what is right.

Personal Questions:

1. Am I able to accept my weaknesses, poverty, and fragility with humility, trusting in God's grace and mercy?
2. Do I practice gentleness, kindness, and peace by avoiding violence, vengeance, and responding to others' wrongdoings with evil?
3. Do I show patience, compassion, and care for the weak, the elderly, and those who are lonely or vulnerable?

Concluding Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, you show us the way of the beatitudes so that we may come to that happiness that is fullness of life and thus holiness. We are all called to holiness, but the only treasure of the saints is God. Your Word, Lord, calls saints all those who in baptism were chosen by your love of a Father, to be conformed to Christ. Grant, Lord, that by your grace we may achieve this conformity to Jesus Christ. We thank you, Lord, for the saints you have placed on our way and who manifest your love. We ask for your pardon if we have tarnished your face in us and denied our calling to be saints."

What's happening in our Parish!
Sunday

Mission WhatsApp Groups
We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist
Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

Regular Giving
Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's

Youth Club
Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

CONTACT US

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