



St Martin of Tours Chelsfield

*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,
reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Sunday 1 November 2020 ALL SAINTS' DAY

In the midst of yet more sombre news about the increase in virus cases it is good to be able to find something to celebrate. This festival to remember and celebrate 'all saints' provides just such an opportunity. For this is the time when we are not celebrating any famous saints, either as individuals or in groups, but rather the whole body of saints – past and present. Nobody is named in today's scriptures, no one is given more importance or greater glory. In fact the focus for 'All Saints' is on those saints who never made it to the calendar or lectionary; or who never caught the eye of the church hierarchy. Rather it is the unheralded baptised and redeemed ordinary people of God.

Here are a few I have known, who have been a 'blessing' to me:

St Rachel – a little old lady, crippled with arthritis, who served tea and biscuits with a beautiful smile at the church I grew up in.

St Reg – youth group leader in a tough part of town who devoted his life to keep teenagers out of trouble.

St Jim & St Ed – lifelong friends and companions, who encouraged me in times of uncertainty and doubt.

St Martin (another one) – who encouraged me to explore my vocation and calling, despite my protests.

St Christina – who persuaded me that I could become a useful priest in God's church.

Space, and declining memory, prevent me from naming a few hundred more of the saints I have known. Saints come in all shapes and sizes, genders, races, cultures; and from all sorts and conditions of society, noble and lowly, rich and poor, persecuted and free. Each one is unique and different, yet all are bound together by the service and love of God.

We too can join this 'great cloud of witnesses' when we allow God's grace to work in us, and learn to develop the upside-down values of today's gospel in our lives, so that we can be a 'blessing' to others.

Revd John



You are invited to spend a quiet time with these prayers, readings and reflection.

Prayers for the week

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.

[Collect for All Saints' Day]

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

[Post Communion for All Saints' Day]

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
ALL SOULS' DAY

2 November

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.

[Collect for All Souls' Day]

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of eternal peace, and in the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity; preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us to your kingdom and grant us your peace at all times.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

[*Times and Seasons*]

Today's psalm

Psalm 34:1-10

Praise for Deliverance from Trouble

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Today's readings

The Revelation of John 7:9-end

The Multitude from Every Nation

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ ¹⁴I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

The First Letter of John 3:1-3

Purification in Hope

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Prayers for Return

How generous is your goodness, O God,
how great is your salvation,
how faithful is your love;
help us to trust you in trial
and praise you in deliverance,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

King of the universe,
you show the bright glory of your reign
in acts of mercy and enduring love;
raise the spirits of the downcast
and restore those who have fallen away,
that we may sing forever of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve;
bless all who, following in his steps,
give themselves to the service of others;
that with wisdom, patience and courage,
they may minister in his name to the suffering and needy;
for the love of him who laid down his life for us,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Creator God,
may every breath we take be for your glory,
may every footstep show you as our way,
that, trusting in your presence in this world,
we may, beyond this life, still be with you
where you are alive and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Scriptural Comfort

'Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand'

(Isaiah 41:10)

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6,7)

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16)

As we do not know how long this situation will last it is important that we look out for one another.

Please let Revd John know of anyone who is ill or in distress.

***Or if you need prayer or spiritual support,
or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone***

St Martin's is open for public worship as follows:

Sundays 10.00am Family Worship
(a Communion service or Service of the Word)
Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

- Please follow the signed instructions on notices.
- Stewards will be there to offer direction.
- There will be a one-way entry and exit system.
- You will need to register your attendance and provide contact details for tracking* when you arrive — please bring your own pen to sign in with.
- Please use the hand sanitizer provided.
- Please wear a face covering if you are able.
- If you cannot wear a face covering or have another vulnerability please let a sidesman know, so that you can be directed to a more spacious area
- Please take all your belongings home with you.

* Your contact details are required in case anyone who attended the same service as you is subsequently diagnosed with Covid-19; if necessary they will then be passed to the track and trace service. Your details will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations and will be destroyed after 21 days. If you do not wish your details to be recorded please let us know.

Worship from St Martin's will continue to be available online:

- A Sunday service on the web site
- Daily prayer on Facebook at 8.15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays

In addition, there will continue to be a quiet meditation in the churchyard on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm and Revd John will continue to celebrate Holy Communion on your behalf in the churchyard on Friday mornings at 11.30am.

Please note that to accommodate pastoral offices or with any changes to Diocesan or Government guidelines these arrangements are subject to change at any time.

For more information on St Martin's please visit our web site and Facebook page:

www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk www.facebook.com/ChelsfieldStMartins

Other resources

Daily HOPE is a national, free phonenumber from the Church of England on **0800 804 8044**.

The line is available 24 hours a day and offers music, prayers and reflections, as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

For today's online Sunday service from the Church of England visit:
www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

For other Church of England resources please visit:
www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources

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