



DARE TO DREAM

Autumn Series

Week Beginning October 31st

Feast of All Saints

Before you begin, read this extract from the teachings of Pope Francis

Saints are not perfect models but are people whose lives God has crossed. Saints have fought to take away the stains and darkness of sin, to let the gentle light of God pass through. This is the purpose of life, even for us.

Saints are the simple, the humble who make room for God, who know how to weep for others and for their own errors, those who stay meek, who fight for justice, who are merciful toward all, who guard purity of heart, who always work for peace and remain in joy, not in hate, and, even when suffering, respond to evil with good.

The feast of All Saints, then, is not celebrated only in honour of those who have reached the goal and attained to heaven. It is also for the many simple and hidden people whom we may know, and who, through everyday holiness, help God to carry the world forward.

Video - Watch and listen to Canon Richard Dwyer

Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of 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.

- Take some time to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.

- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

Personal Reflections

- What strikes you about this passage?
- What challenges you about this passage and why?
- What is God saying to you as you reflect on these words?

Now thinking about your parish and local community

- Who are the 'hidden' saints in your own community?
- Who are the peacemakers, those who seek to be kind and accepting of others? What can we learn from them?
- In what ways in our parish do we hunger and thirst for justice? Can we do more?

Action

- Go back through all the reflections for the past nine weeks and consider what if anything you would like to be developing for the future.
- Review any actions you have taken to see what progress has been made?
- Pray that as a community you can grow in holiness by the way you reach out to the wider, needy world.

Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to respond.

