

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3RD



READINGS

REVELATION 21 VERSES 1 - 6

JOHN 11 VERSES 32-44

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the saints who followed Jesus down through the ages. Help us to follow their good examples and to remember what a blessing it is to be in the same family of faith. We ask this in Jesus' name – Amen

John 11:32-44 from the New Revised Standard Version Bible

This is the Bible which is read from in church

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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Well today we are celebrating the feast of All Saints. What do you think the link is with this Gospel reading? It is people having faith. What is a Saint? A Saint is a person who has lived a life of outstanding goodness and is already with God in Heaven. Can you think of any Saint's names – George of England, Patrick of Ireland, Andrew of Scotland and David of Wales are some examples to get you started. Saints are people who allow God's spirit to work through them and to fill them with love so that they do ordinary things extraordinarily well. Saints do everything out of love for Jesus because they are filled with the joy and happiness through living a life close to Jesus. Their greatest happiness is sharing everlasting life with Jesus in His kingdom of Heaven. What ordinary thing can you do extraordinarily well that would please Jesus? Maybe it is helping someone with something they find difficult or even cleaning your bedroom, praying for someone who is ill or has problems or giving a smile to people.

What does God see?

When we look at people of the world, we see different colours, characteristics, customs and costumes. But what does God see? God looks at their hands, hearts, souls and lips. God cares about truth on our lips, love in our hearts, a right focus for our thinking and good work from our hands. This is what God sees. If you want to look like this, then God welcomes us into the good company of the saints. As Christians we know that God in Jesus makes this possible for all.

ACTIVITIES

On a piece of paper write downwards the letters of the alphabet and then see if you can think of a Saint's name for each letter.

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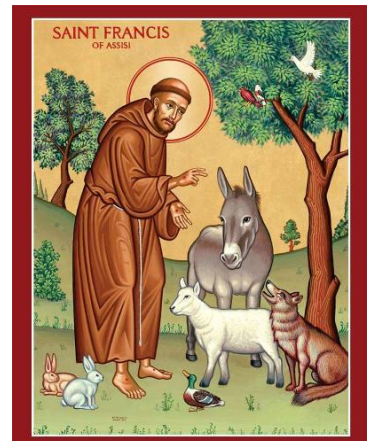
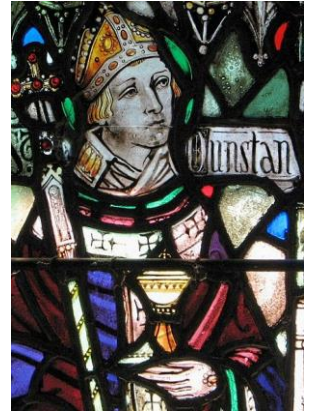
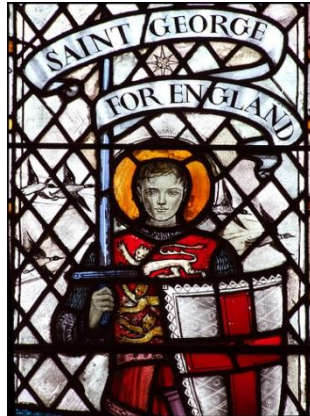
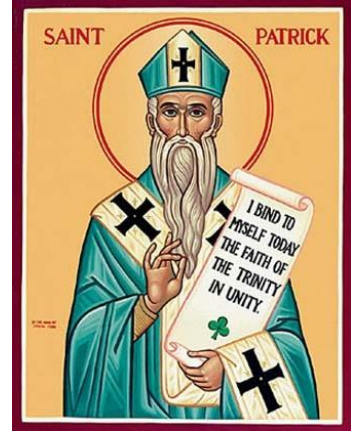
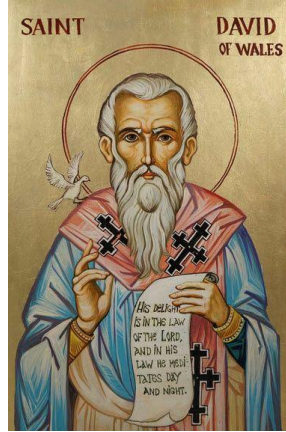
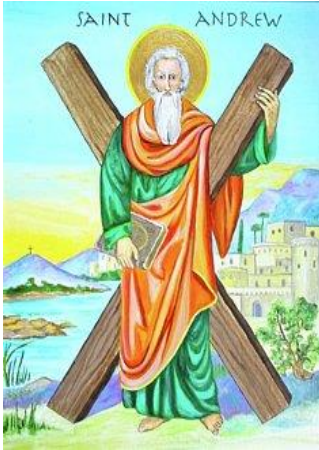
Colour this picture of St Francis who was known for the way he spoke to the birds and the animals.



Which Saint?

Cut out and stick the picture of the Saint that matches the clue below

<p>I am the patron saint of England and killed a dragon My day is April 23rd</p>	<p>I was caring and gave presents. My day is December 6th</p>	<p>We celebrate our special day on June 29th</p>
<p>I went to Ireland to tell the people about the Holy Trinity using shamrock My day is March 17th</p>	<p>I used to visit people in the Chichester Diocese on foot and I have a special prayer. My day is April 3rd</p>	<p>I founded our church in Mayfield and I pinched the devil's nose with hot tongs. My day is May 19th</p>
<p>I taught people in Wales about God and my feast day is on March 1st</p>	<p>I was the first one to follow Jesus I am the patron saint of Scotland My day is November 30th</p>	<p>I loved animals, created the first Nativity scene and lived in Assisi. My day is October 4th</p>



March 1st St David

David loved music and enjoyed singing in the church. Even when he was a small boy people knew that he wanted to serve God in a special way. One of his teachers – Paulinus – taught David to read the Bible. When David was older he travelled to Wales teaching the people about God and building monasteries. A cathedral is named after him – St David's. The leek probably grew in the vegetable gardens.

March 17th St Patrick

Patrick was 16 when he was carried off to Ireland and sold as a slave. After 7 years he managed to escape from Ireland. Then he began to think how he could best return. It was in a dream that he heard a voice telling him to go to Ireland and tell the people about God. First he had to train as a priest in France and Italy. The people of Ireland enjoyed listening to Patrick telling them about God so they became Christians. He used the shamrock leaf to explain the Trinity of God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

April 3rd St Richard

Richard was a farmers' son. When he decided to become a priest he had to study for 2 years. When Richard returned to Chichester he lived at Tarring in the parish priest's house visiting the people of his diocese on foot. He grew figs in his spare time. Richard was a very good Bishop, kind but strict, helping all sorts of people. He has a special prayer; Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits thou hast given me; for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly. Amen

April 23rd St George

George is the patron saint of England. The story goes that each evening the dragon came for its supper of 2 sheep. When the sheep ran out the King's daughter was chosen to be given to the dragon but George got there in time to kill the dragon. The King was so grateful he built a big church and he and his people became Christians. It was because of George's faith in God that he was able to kill the dragon and he had shown that faith to the king and his people.

May 19th St Dunstan

Dunstan founded our church in Mayfield. He built a wooden church in 960. Dunstan had a forge. The story goes that Dunstan pinched the devil's nose with red hot tongs for sometime. In escaping the devil leapt from Mayfield putting his foot down in Mark Cross where you can see the name De'il's foot cottages and landed in Tunbridge Wells where he dipped his burning nose in the spring at the Pantiles. The tongs are kept at the Convent – St Leonards Mayfield School.

June 29th St Peter and St Paul

Paul was first known as Saul. He hated Jesus but then he had a vision – a light struck him from his horse and the voice of Jesus called him. Saul was very sorry, he believed in Jesus and became one of the Apostles. He went on journeys to tell people about Jesus. God changed his name to Paul. He wrote lots of letters to people. These letters are called Epistles. St Peter shares the same day as St Paul. He is said to hold the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

October 4th St Francis of Assisi

Francis cared for people in poverty as Jesus had done. He enjoyed being on his own and he became well known for the way he spoke to the animals about God. Just before he died in 1223 he made the first Christmas nativity scene from wooden figures to help people learn about the Christmas story. He lived in Assisi in Italy. Make Me a Channel of Your Peace is a hymn from the prayer of St Francis.

November 30th St Andrew

Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee. When John the Baptist was preaching Andrew followed him and then when Jesus came Andrew followed Him and along with others he became one of Jesus' closest friends and was one of the twelve disciples.

December 6th St Nicholas

Nicholas had a reputation for caring for children and giving them presents. He is better known as Santa Claus. He was also Bishop of Myra in turkey.