

**Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield**

**1<sup>st</sup> November**

**ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY**

**WELCOME.**

**Let us join in worship  
with Saints in heaven  
and on Earth.**

**Thought for the day**

Saints are not a special  
breed or cast. They do

not possess a certain blend of skills.

There is really only one thing that marks  
out a saint from the rest. They are the  
ones who know their need of God and do  
something about it. *Susan Sayer*

**COLLECT**

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

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION. ch7.9-17**

*In these verses from his prophetic vision St  
John sees a staggering number of people,  
from every race, ethnicity and language,  
praising God. A reminder to us of God's love  
for all people, and the essential unity of  
humankind.*



*Despite all our efforts to divide people based  
on appearance or heritage, Scripture is clear  
that all people, of all tribes and languages, will  
be represented in God's eternal plan of  
salvation.*

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. They cried out in a loud  
voice, saying 'Salvation belongs to our God  
who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'  
And 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, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and  
glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might be to our God for ever and  
ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed  
me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and  
where have they come from?' I 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.  
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. They will hunger no more,  
and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat; 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.'

**PSALM 34.1-10**

**R Those who trust in him will understand truth**

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 I will glory in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;  
let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord and he answered me  
and delivered me out of all my terror.

5 Look upon him and be radiant,  
And let not your faces be ashamed.

6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard  
me and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who  
fear him, and he will deliver them.

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are they who trust in him!

9 Fear the Lord, you that are his saints,  
For those who fear him lack nothing.

10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger,  
But those who seek the Lord lack nothing that  
is good.

**THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN. ch 3.1-3**

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.

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

**THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**ACCORDING TO 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.’ This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ

**Prayers in memory of ordinary saints**

**We give you thanks, Lord God,** for all the saints whoever worshiped you; In homes and gardens; cathedrals, churches or meeting houses; Schools and all places of learning, Prisons or open country.

Wherever your name was worshipped and adored, there we can find your saints.

**We give you thanks, Lord God,** for hands lifted in praise: Hands of today’s Saints. Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, strong hands and those gnarled with age. Children’s small hands so soft and trusting. Gentle hands tending the needs of others ; caring and healing hands. Lord you have no hands but ours let us use them in your service.

**We thank you Lord God,** for hardworking saints; hard-hatted or steel-booted, uniformed or aproned, blue-collared or suited; who tend the land, produce food, safe water and the goods we rely on. Carers, medics, lawyers, workers in finance and security, parents and teachers; any who find the time in their busy lives to reach out in your name. These saints leave their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children.

**Thank you, Lord God,** for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. For those who faced and those who still face persecution and death with fortitude, faith and sacrifice. Bless the memories of your saints, in every age. From their examples of faith, love, dedication and worship, may we learn to walk wisely in your ways carrying your Gospel out into our largely uninterested world.

**Gracious God,** you take us as we are and transform us by your life in us, clear our lives of all that is not of you.  
Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

**Let us say the Lord’s prayer together**  
**OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN...**

“All of the places of our lives are sanctuaries; some of them just happen to have steeples. And all of the people in our lives are saints; it is just that some of them have day jobs and most will never have feast days named for them.”—  
*writer and speaker Robert Benson*“

I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying.”—  
*Nelson Mandela*“

All the hungers we have for love, for union, for happiness are given by God to lead us to him. The difference between a saint and the greatest sinner is where they go to satisfy that hunger.”—  
*author and speaker Christopher West*“

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