



# EVERYDAY SAINTS

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.””

(1 Peter 1:13-16)

## Everyday saints

The first Christians called each other saints. The greek word hagios (holy ones) is the word used of God's people in Rome, Ephesus, Corinth, and elsewhere. This wasn't because these people were morally perfect, in-fact they were very average believers, instead it was a way disciples of Jesus reminded one another that they had been set free and made holy by Jesus death and resurrection.

Over time the word saint became a title for exemplary Christians. Sadly this lead people to venerate and worship these people rather than follow their example. While people such as Augustine of Hippo, Francis of Assisi, and Julian of Norwich are all rightly called saints it's important that we remember they were all imperfect people who were made holy by the love of God.

*'Everyday saints'* is a teaching series designed to share the stories of those who often have 'St.' at the front of their name. This series will remind us that all saints are sinners saved by God's grace. My hope and prayer is that as we learn about the lives of other saints and the work God did in them we too might be inspired to take up Jesus call to us to 'be holy' and live as everyday saints.

# Sunday October 25

## 1 Peter 2:1-10

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,  
"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

8 and  
"A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

### Augustine of Hippo

Augustine was born in North Africa in 354. His career as an orator and rhetorician led him from Carthage to Rome, and from there to Milan where the Imperial court at that time resided. By temperament, he was passionate and sensual, and as a young man he rejected Christianity. Gradually, however, under the influence first of Monica, his mother, and then of Ambrose, bishop of Milan, Augustine began to look afresh at the Scriptures. He was baptised by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. Not long after returning to North Africa he was ordained priest, and then became Bishop of Hippo. It is difficult to overestimate the influence of Augustine on the subsequent development of European thought. A huge body of his sermons and writings has been preserved, through all of which runs the theme of the sovereignty of the grace of God. He died in the year 430.

### QUESTIONS

1. What is a Saint to you? and why?

2. The first Christians called each other “saints” or “holy ones”. How would you feel being called a saint or God’s holy ones?
  
3. Read verses 1-3. How strong is your desire for God’s word? Is it like “pure spiritual milk” to you? Why or why not?
  
4. What are the “spiritual sacrifices” we offer to God? v. 5
  
5. What is the stone that really counts in the building of the church? verses 6-8.
  
6. Augustine of Hippo said “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” What do you think he means by this
  
7. What can we learn from this passage about being “Everyday Saints”?

### **FAMILY TIME**

**Watch:** ‘*The Life of Augustine of Hippo explainED*’  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMaSjAlWZ00>

**Talk:** What do you think about Augustine’s life? Augustine like to party and didn’t like Jesus, what changed his mind? How did Augustine’s life point to Jesus? Why is Jesus important to our family?

### **Do: ‘Draw’**

Draw a picture of Jesus in the middle of a piece of paper. Write down everything you know about Jesus in a word cloud around him. Share why these things matter to you and what this means for how you live.

**Pray:** Loving Lord Jesus, our hearts are empty until you fill them up. Forgive us when we run away from you and help us to run towards you instead. Thank you so much for the example of faithful Christians who have taught the Bible carefully and lived for Jesus. **Amen.**

# Sunday November 1

## Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

<sup>11</sup>All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup>I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>‘Never again will they hunger never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd: ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

### All Saints

From its earliest days, the Church has recognised as its foundation stones those heroes of the faith whose lives have excited others to holiness. Celebrating the feast of All Saints' began in the fourth century. At first, it was observed on the Sunday after the feast of Pentecost; this was to link the disciples who received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the 'foundation of the Church, with those who were martyrs, giving their lives as witnesses for the faith. In the eighth century, a pope dedicated a chapel to All Saints in St Peter's at Rome on 1 November. Within a century, this day was observed in England and Ireland as All Saints' Day.

October 31 is Reformation Day, making November 1 Reformation Sunday. This is the day when protestants remember how Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the door of Wittenburg Cathedral in a call to reform the church at the time.

### QUESTIONS

1. It is common to think about “saints” as very holy people. By virtue of our baptism, we are all called to be saints. Do you think of yourself as called to be a saint? Why or why not?



2. What difference would it make if you thought of yourself as a saint?
  
3. How do v.9-11 tell us about God's people? What do v.14-17 tell us about God's future?
  
4. How would washing robes "in the blood of the Lamb" (v. 14) make their robes white?
  
5. What might it look like to live as those who "wear white robes" in our everyday lives today?
  
6. On All Saints Day, who do you remember who displayed the life of Christ?
  
7. How might you continue to live into your call to be a saint?

## **FAMILY TIME**

**Watch:** *'All Saints day for kids'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcPXns6gilk>

**Talk:** How is All Saints day different to Halloween? Why do people find Halloween exciting? Do you find All Saints day exciting?

### **Do: 'Light a candle'**

In a safe space, light a candle. Talk about a person who inspires you and helps you to follow and walk in the light of Jesus. Light another candle and talk about another saint who encourages you to follow Jesus.

**Pray:** Thank you God that you have made me a saint through Jesus' dying and rising for me. Help me to follow Jesus as so many wonderful Christians have before me. Thank you that you are the way, the truth, and the life. **Amen.**

## Sunday November 8

### Joshua 24:1-2a,14-25

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people,

<sup>14</sup> "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

<sup>19</sup> Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

<sup>21</sup> But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD."

<sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD."

"Yes, we are witnesses," they replied.

<sup>23</sup> "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

<sup>24</sup> And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him."

<sup>25</sup> On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

### Francis of Assisi

Francis was born in Assisi in central Italy either in 1181 or the following year. He was baptised Giovanni but given the name Francesco by his father, a cloth merchant who traded in France and had married a French wife. There was an expectation that he would eventually take over his father's business but Francis had a rebellious youth and a difficult relationship with his father. After suffering the ignominy of imprisonment following capture whilst at war with the local city of Perugia, he returned a changed man. He took to caring for disused churches and for the poor, particularly those suffering from leprosy. Whilst praying in the semi-derelict church of St Damian, he distinctly heard the words: "Go and repair my church, which you see is falling down." Others joined him and he prepared a simple, gospel-based Rule for them all to live by. As the Order grew, it witnessed to Christ through preaching the gospel of repentance, emphasising the poverty of Christ as an example for his followers. Two years before his death, his life being so closely linked with



that of his crucified Saviour, he received the Stigmata, the marks of the wounds of Christ, on his body. At his death, on the evening of 3 October 1226, his Order had spread throughout western Christendom.

## QUESTIONS

1. Did you grow up in a Christian household? How did this shape you as a person?
2. What is Joshua doing for the people in Joshua 24? Is this wise? Why?
3. Why does Joshua remind their journey in v.16-20?
4. Francis of Assisi, like Joshua, made it his mission to rebuild communities around faithfulness to God. How did they do this?
5. Francis had a rule for life, spend a minute by yourself writing a rule of life for you/your family. Share your thoughts about this exercise.
6. How can we play a role in rebuilding God's church this week?
7. What could you say to someone who says that: *"Being a Christian is all take and no give. I can't obey a God who offers me nothing."*

## FAMILY TIME

**Watch:** 'The Little St Francis' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKoF4Xxi6vk&t=5s>

**Talk:** What inspires you about Francis? What bad examples did Francis follow? What good choices did Francis make? How did Francis point to God in his life?

### **Do: Putting Others First**

Francis experienced God through the world around him. Find a place outside (if it's not too dark or cold). Draw a picture of your favourite animal or plant. Around it write a prayer of thanks to God.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, make me a person who shares your peace. Where there is pain and suffering help me to share your love. Help me to rebuild your church day by day. **Amen.**

## Sunday November 15

### Judges 4:1-10

“Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, now that Ehud was dead. So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’ ”

Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.” “Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.”

### Julian of Norwich

When Julian of Norwich was thirty years old and suffering from what was considered to be a terminal illness, she experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God. Following her recovery, she spent the next twenty years of her life pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, *The Revelations of Divine Love*. At an unknown point in her life, she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich. She died around the year 1417.

### QUESTIONS

1. Where has God used unlikely people to teach you about himself?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why was Deborah an unlikely person to lead the people of Israel?

3. Why do you think Barak is unwilling to go to war without Debra? Was this a wise move? Why?
4. How were the lives of Julian and Debra similar? How were they different?
5. What do the example of Debra and Julian show us about leadership in the church?
6. What do the stories of these women show us about hearing God's voice?
7. What do we need to be wary of when we meet people who claim that God has spoken to them? How can we embrace them?

### **FAMILY TIME**

**Listen and dance:** *'What we can learn from Julian of Norwich'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvNee-ZghAA>

**Talk:** Why was life hard for Julian? Why did she decide to spend her life alone with God? What can Julian show us about spending time alone with God?

#### **Do: 'Time alone with God'**

Put a calming song to listen to and spend some time alone with God. This may be tricky with little kids but try to spend about 5 minutes by yourself. Talk to God and also listen to God. At the end of this time share your feelings and experience.

**Pray:** Lord God, there's a lot to be worried about in our world. There is violence, hunger, and sickness in our world. Help us to trust you for all things and know that all will be well when we live our lives with you. **Amen.**

## Sunday November 22

### Ephesians 1:15–23

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

### Christ the King

The feast of Christ the King, is a festival celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church in honour of Jesus Christ as lord over all creation. Essentially a magnification of the Feast of the Ascension, it was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. Originally, it was celebrated on the last Sunday in October, but in the revised church calendar promoted by Pope Paul VI in 1969 it was moved to the last Sunday of Ordinary Time (immediately preceding Advent), where its theme of Christ's rule over all made it a fitting end to the church year. The festival is also celebrated in Lutheran, Anglican, and other Protestant churches. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

### QUESTIONS

1. What does the phrase 'Jesus is King' mean to you?
2. Ephesians 1:15 begins with praise for the Ephesians. Why is being praise by v.23?
3. What is Paul praying for in v.18? Why?

4. What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What happens in our lives when we do not acknowledge Jesus as king?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is helpful/unhelpful about celebrating the feast of Christ the King?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How can we remind one another that Jesus is the King of our lives?

#### **FAMILY TIME**

**Listen:** 'Jesus is the mighty mighty King' (Colin Buchanan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC8CcTUC5OM>

**Talk:** Is Jesus the King of England? Is Jesus the King of Australia? Is Jesus the King of the world?

**Crowns:** Find some yellow card or paper. Cut out long strips and write 'Jesus is King' on it. Then decorate the crowns. You can fasten the headband together with a stapler or glue. Wear your crown and sing 'Jesus is the mighty mighty King' together.

**Pray:** Gracious King Jesus. We thank and praise you that you are all powerful, loving, and forgiving. Help us to serve you with all we are and all we have. **Amen**

# Daily Prayer

*Just as we eat, sleep and work every day,  
prayer has a place in our daily routine.  
Find a place in your home – inside or outside –  
that you can make your 'prayer space'.*

*Include all the members of your family – partners, children, animals – in this space. Feel free  
to also include music in this time.*

## **PRAISE**

God is love. Since God loves us, we should love one another.

## **SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE**

Turn for help to the Lord your strength:  
and constantly seek God's presence.

Remember the marvellous things the Most High has done:  
the wonders, and the judgments God has given.

*Psalm 105:4-5*

## **BIBLE READING**

*At the end of the reading:*

Hear the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

## **PRAYERS**

Loving God, thank you for this day.  
Thank you for your love and care for us.  
Thank you for making each of us special.  
Help us today to be kind to each other. **Amen.**

God of mercy, we are sorry that we have not always done what you wanted us to do. We have not loved you with all our heart, and we have not cared enough for other people. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, at Nazareth you shared in the life of your family. Help us to live together in our family with love and respect for each other. Make our home a place of blessing, peace and joy for everyone, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### **A COLLECT**

In darkness and in light,  
in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father,  
to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose,  
and to praise your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIGHT**

Eternal God, shed your light on us who watch for you,  
that our lips may praise you,  
our hearts bless you,  
and our lives glorify you,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*Include your own personal prayers.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE GRACE**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all. **Amen.**



The logo features the word "Anglican" in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a magenta cross shape integrated into its left side. Below the "A" is the word "Church" in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font. To the right of "Anglican" is the text "All Saints' Booval" in a dark blue sans-serif font, positioned below the main title.

**Anglican**  
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