

**Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton  
and Hollybush**



**All Saints Sunday**

**Welcome-do have a candle, glass of juice/wine  
and cracker/piece of bread ready**

**The Lord be with you  
and also with you**

**HYMN**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND ABSOLUTION**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our  
advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our  
neighbour, in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died  
for us, forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of  
life to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
 who in Jesus Christ has given us  
 a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
 forgive you your sins,  
 open your eyes to God's truth,  
 strengthen you to do God's will  
 and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### THE COLLECT

God of holiness,  
 your glory is proclaimed in every age:  
 as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,  
 inspire us to follow their example  
 with boldness and joy;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Eternal God,  
 you crown the year with your goodness  
 and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
 grant that we may use them to your glory,  
 for the relief of those in need and for our own well-  
 being;  
 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.**

### READINGS : 1 John 3.1-3, Matthew 5. 1-12

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*(At home, please read Revelation 7. 9 to end at home)*

### REFLECTION:

In Revelation, John has a vision of heaven, and in it he sees a great multitude from every nation standing before the throne and before the Lamb of God, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cry out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (7:9-10).

These saints are standing in the presence of God, with the realization that God loves us, delights in us, and desires a close, personal relationship with us.

"Out of every nation;" they are "of all tribes and peoples and tongues." There the barriers caused by diversity will cease, there is unity of the human race. This is done by the work of Christ already given to us on the cross.

The lesson for those who are Saints past, present and future is the death of Christ has a world-wide meaning. We fulfill this meaning when we reach out to God and we humble ourselves to confess our sins and ask for God's gracious mercy.

We think of ordinary people--past, present and future. Pushed and pulled by what life throws at them, not being perfectly sinless people, or especially powerful people, but they are profoundly connected to God. They--like you--are the saints of God. On All Souls day, we can set aside a time to remember those who have died, light a candle perhaps, reflect on them and give thanks that we knew them.

What is it to be a child?

All of us have been children. Remember the fun, play, amusing yourself, that wonder about and exploring the world around us. Every child is

basically helpless and needs to be taken care of, is vulnerable and dependent.

The Apostle John called the followers of Christ "little children" or "my little loved ones." He was the disciple whom Jesus had entrusted with his mother Mary. John, the leader of the Christian congregation in the city of Ephesus.

Jesus also said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not. For of such is the kingdom of heaven."

God loves us immensely and knows our vulnerability, our helplessness, our childishness, our foolishness, and is patient with us because we are his little children, even when we are older, mature, grown-up. And by calling us his little children, this reveals the patient and intense love that God has for us.

So who are God's children? Those who do what is right, and those who love their brothers and sisters of the world. This theme which is repeated again and again and again in John. The brothers and sisters are those who demonstrate they are children of God.

Then we come to the Gospel of Matthew. A large crowd has gathered down by Lake Galilee. Jesus takes twelve disciples up onto the mountainside above the lake. He was going to teach them some fundamentals about life with God. Jesus began by teaching his new disciples about happiness, the simplicities of happiness. In the Bible, the concept of joy comes from the Greek *makarios*. You can be happy and unhappy at the same time. Joy is the assurance that God is with you and in all circumstances. It is knowing that God has a plan, a purpose and a prayer for you, even when circumstances are unhappy. I will focus on three beatitudes.

Jesus said, “Joyful are the peace makers. Joyful are those people who work for peace.”

Conflicts are all around us and people are unhappy when involved. It takes great courage, raw guts, to be a peacemaker, to live in such situations. Jesus sent his disciples into the middle of conflict with new energy, new courage and a clear goal to work for reconciliation.

In the second beatitude, Jesus said, ‘Joyful are those who mourn.’ A strange thing to say. For me, it points

to where sympathy, a gift from God, is the ability to feel another person’s pain; it is called empathy, that is the capacity of knowing another person’s pain. Even in unhappy situations, it is a gift to have the capacity of sharing, grieving and feeling the sorrow. If you have been wounded in life you can become the wounded healer.

St Francis prayed, “O Master, grant that I would not seek so much as to be consoled as to console....for it is giving that we receive.” It is in giving love that we give and receive the gift of consolation.

Jesus also taught the third beatitude. “Joyful are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness.” The Greek word is *diokosynos*, that is translated as righteousness or justice. A joyful person is a person who craves for justice for all those downtrodden in life, for those who seem to have no voice. Christians crave for a good, healthy, wholesome society where all our basic human need are met.

Jesus began by teaching them about joy, walking with God, that inner quality of knowing God as his children.

Jesus said, "Joyful are those who work for peace. Joyful are those who mourn. Joyful are those who hunger for justice and righteousness." These words have travelled a long way to greet us today, in our world, at this time, full of injustice, unhappiness and uncertainty. And yet these words can bring comfort and joy to you today and tomorrow. They can bring comfort and joy when we reflect on our loved ones who have died and we remember on this All Souls day. And know that we are blessed.

**Amen**

## **HYMN**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Please ask for any additional prayers*

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done ;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil;  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you,  
With saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
And as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit

That broken bread and wine outpoured  
May be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**Here is the table set for a special meal.**

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
And taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took a cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this all of you;  
This is my blood of the new covenant,  
Which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him  
we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection  
Until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us work together for that day  
When your kingdom comes  
And justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
Gather into your loving arms with St Faith, St John the Baptist, St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul and all the Saints to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
All honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
For ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins,**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world,**  
**grant us peace.**



Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast**

**(consume)**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

## **THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and**

**Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
 receive our prayer.  
 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
 Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

May God give to you and to all those whom you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next;  
 and the blessing of God almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be among you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
 In the name of Christ. Amen**



