



Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed Thursday 2nd November 2017

Keynote: God's power over death is our hope and living faith

Prophet Isaiah 25: 6-9

'On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all his peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples... he will destroy death forever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame.' All this, the prophet tells us will be, *'for the Lord has said so... the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.'*

Responsorial Psalm 26 (27) – A song of triumph in the Lord's goodness

Letter to the Romans 5: 5-11

The apostle reminds us not to despair, *'Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at the appointed moment Christ died for sinful mankind... what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger?'* These are encouraging words, almost urging us to seek reconciliation with God, for we have been created by a loving and merciful God, and God is without anger and always ready to forgive. So we need to remember, *'we have been reconciled... because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained reconciliation.'*

Gospel according to Matthew 11: 25-30

First, a moment of intimacy between Jesus and his Father in heaven, as Jesus says, *'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children... Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father... and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'* Secondly, to those who are fearful, burdened or labouring, Jesus says, *'Come to me all who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest... for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'* In the coming weeks we shall learn more about the characteristics of the Kingdom of God as Jesus reveals it to his disciples. As in the first reading we learned of the saviour warrior king who would come in majesty but in peace, so in this passage, we learn something about our Lord and Master and his relationships, and the nature of the reign of God among us at this time.

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Note: A number of alternative readings are available from the Roman Lectionary for the Masses celebrated on this day.