

Reflection Friday Week 26 – Guardian Angels 2020

The doctrine that everyone has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church and so is not an article of faith, but, in the “mind of the Church”, as expressed particularly by St Jerome and St Basil, it is present in both the Old and New Testaments. As Jesus says, “*See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always gaze on the face of my Father in heaven.*” Thus, even little children have guardian angels, and these angels remain in the presence of God even as they fulfil their mission on earth. The feast of the Guardian Angels began in Valencia in 1411 and was eventually added to the General Calendar in 1608. The feast reminds us that God cares for us individually and that each of us has an angel of God looking after us.

We can experience the presence of God in ourselves, in others and in creation but we cannot come face to face with God and live, which is why we need to pass through the doors of death to enter into God’s presence. In his wisdom, God gave us angels to remind us of his presence. Our Angel goes before us, as he did for Moses, and walks behind us guarding our backs. Our guardian angel is a clear reminder of how precious we are to God.

May the angels keep you till morning
May they guide you through the night
May they comfort all your sorrows
May they help you win the fight
May they keep watch on your soul
May they show you better ways
May they guard you while you're sleeping
May they see you through your days
May they show you new hope.
May they still your every doubt
May they calm your every fear
May they hear you when you shout
May the angels keep you 'til morning
More than this I cannot pray
And if the angels ever fail you
Then may God be there that day.

An Angel Joke . . .

Angel: Hey, Jesus! There are some atheists waiting for you at the gates of heaven!

Jesus: Tell them I'm not here!!