

## Homily All Saints Year B 2021

This feast should have a subtitle; *“For all the unnamed saints”* who according to the book of Revelation are countless. These include those saints who were part of our lives – family members, friends, those who we admire for their goodness and generosity. Who are they? The Beatitudes tell us that they are the merciful, the poor in spirit who are often silent and unassuming but the solid base of any group or community; the meek and humble, the peacemakers, the persecuted. The great thing about these saints is we know they were not perfect; they had flaws and they knew it. It may even be that it was because of their flaws that their Christian virtue excelled and inspired others to want to be the same or they kept alive the belief that God was very much alive and working through them. They encouraged, inspired and often motivated us into action. Jesus called these saints Blessed. And being blessed meant that blessings flow out of them. This is why parents have a special blessing for their children - don't fail to use them. These blessings are experienced when we are in the presence of someone and that presence speaks of goodness and kindness, of warmth and an all-embracing welcome that creates a sense of peace within. Hitchin is full of these saints and many live in our parish community.

This is why Jesus calls us together to eat with him. In being together, the blessings we received in baptism flow out of us into those around us, as their blessings flow back into us. This is also why we are being called to be synodal in encountering each other and speaking of our hopes and fears, and the role the Church plays in our lives. Sharing our blessings in these encounters will allow the Holy Spirit to inspire, motivate and challenge us anew. These blessings are the life-blood of our families, of our parish, of the Church. The Eucharist reminds us that this life-blood is Jesus himself and where Jesus is so too is the Father and the Spirit. The Synod wants to help us not just to see but to experience the power and importance of this blessing and therefore how important each of us are, most especially when we are together in Christ.

**Father O'Malley** answers the phone.

- Hello, is this Father O'Malley?      -It is  
-This is the IRS. Can you help us?      -I can  
-Do you know a Ted Houlihan?      -I do  
-Is he a member of your congregation?      -He is  
-Did he donate £10,000 to the church?      -He will-