

### Reflection Wednesday Week 30 All Saints 2023

The feasts of All Saints and All Souls remind us that we belong to a very, very, very great family. When we were baptised, we became saints being filled with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. It could be argued that we spend the rest of our lives trying to prove it.

Reflecting on the Beatitudes one commentator believes that the word *Blessed* should be understood as meaning *honourable are you who*. They describe the saint or the holy person as the one who strives to live like, emulate Jesus. This kind of saint is recognised by the kind of person they are e.g. gentle, caring, kind, considerate etc. but also a person of action who is prepared to accept suffering, hardship even rejection in helping others and in the pursuit of justice and peace.

In reality, some people are better saints than others but it is not a competition. Today, however, reminds us of the those who have gone before us who promote a desire within us to emulate and realise the legacy of goodness and love they taught us and to do so in recognition of their goodness, love, sanctity and selflessness.

According to Pope Francis, *All Saints' Day is the feast of all of us, a holy occasion on which we can increase our faith and hope. Moreover, this is the day when we celebrate humility as the main virtue of all the saints. The Solemnity of All Saints is 'our' feast not because we are good, but because the holiness of God touches our lives.*

*Saints are not perfect models; they are people whose lives God has crossed. Saints have fought to take away the stains and darkness of sin, so as to let the gentle light of God pass through them; this is the purpose of life for all of us.*

*Saints are the simple, the humble who make room for God, who know how to weep for others and for their own errors, those who stay meek, who fight for justice, who are merciful toward all, who guard purity of heart, who always work for peace and remain in joy, not in hate, and, even when suffering, respond to evil with good.*

*The feast of All Saints, then, is not celebrated only in honour of those who have reached the goal and attained heaven. It is also for the many simple and hidden people whom we may know, and who, through everyday holiness, help God to carry the world forward.*

*Pope Francis means you and me!!*

#### **John dies and he meets Saint Peter.**

Saint Peter: *"You were indeed a good man. Come, I will walk you to Heaven."*

They started walking through a long hall. On the walls, there were lots and lots of watches.

Curious, John asks: *"What's the deal with all these watches?"*

Saint Peter: *"You see, these are called lying watches. Every time someone tells a lie, the arms move. Look at this one for example. It belonged to Mother Teresa. Its arms never moved, not even once. We also have lying watches for every profession of humankind. Here are the lawyers', engineers', farmers'..."*

John: *"What about this empty spot?"*

Saint Peter: *"Oh, here used to be the politicians' watch."*

John: *"What happened to it?"*

Saint Peter: *"Jesus uses it as a fan in his office."*