**All Saints’ Day**

The saints cried out with a loud voice:

Salvation to our God who sits on the

Throne, and to the Lamb.

The righteous will shine like the sun

in the highest heavens.

With one heart and voice, all the

Saints proclaim: We praise you,

blessed Trinity, one God.

Almighty God, you have knit together

your elect in one communion and fellowship

in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in

all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**All Saints’ Day**

From its earliest days, the Church has recognised as its foundation stones those heroes of the faith whose lives have excited others to holiness and has assumed a communion between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven.

Celebrating the feast of All Saints began in the fourth century. At first, it was observed on the Sunday after the feast of Pentecost; the foundation of the Church, with those who were martyrs, giving their lives as witnesses to the faith. In the eighth century, a pope dedicated a chapel to All Saints in St Peter’s at Rome on 1st November. Within a century, this day was observed in Britain and Ireland as All Saints’ Day.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. (All Souls’ Day)**

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall

they live.

All that the Father gives to me will come to me; and the one who comes to me, I will not cast out.

Eternal God our maker and redeemer, grant us, with all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son’s saving passion and glorious resurrection that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. (All Souls’ Day)**

‘The believer’s pilgrimage of faith is lived out in the mutual support of all the people of God. In Christ all the faithful, both living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayers’.

This simple agreed statement from the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission explains the purpose of the commemoration on this day. Since its foundation, Christians have recognised that the Church, the *ecclesia*, the assembled people of God, is at its most perfect when it recognises its unity in God’s redeeming love with all who have said, who say now, and who will say in the fullness of time, ‘Jesus is Lord’.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**3 November**

**Richard Hooker,**

**Priest, Anglican Apologist,**

**Teacher of the Faith 1600**

God of peace, the bond of all love, who

in your Son Jesus Christ have made the

human race your inseparable dwelling

place: after the example of your servant Richard Hooker, give grace to us your

servants ever to rejoice in the true

inheritance of your adopted children

and to show forth your praises now and

ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**3 November**

**Richard Hooker**

**Priest, Anglican Apologist,**

**Teacher of the Faith**

Born in Heavitree in Exeter in about 1554, Richard Hooker came under the influence of John Jewel, Bishop of Salisbury, in his formative years and through that influence went up to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he became a fellow. He was ordained and then married, becoming a parish priest and, in 1585, Master of the Temple in London. Richard became one of the strongest advocates of the position of the Church of England and defended its ‘middle way’ between puritanism and papalism. Perhaps his greatest work was *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* which he wrote as a result of engaging in controversial debates. He showed Anglicanism as rooted firmly in Scripture as well as tradition, affirming its continuity with the pre-Reformation *Ecclesia Anglicana*, but now both catholic and reformed.

Richard became a parish priest again near Canterbury and died there on this day in the year 1600.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**7 November**

**Willibrord of York**

**Bishop, Apostle of Frisia 739**

God, the Saviour of all, you sent your Bishop Willibrord from this land to proclaim the good news to many peoples and confirm them in their faith: help us also to witness to your steadfast love by word and deed so that your Church may increase and grow strong in holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Church of England

**7 November**

**Willibrord of York**

**Bishop, Apostle of Frisia**

Willibrord was born in Northumbria and educated at Ripon but the main part of his life was dedicated to his missionary work in Frisia and northern Germany. He built many churches, inaugurated bishoprics and consecrated cathedrals: the Cathedral of Utrecht, with a diocesan organisation based on that of Canterbury, is his most well-known foundation. Together with his younger contemporary, Boniface, he began a century of English Christian influence on continental Christianity. Alcuin described him as venerable, gracious and full of joy, and his ministry as based on energetic preaching informed by prayer and sacred reading.

He died on this day in 739 and was buried at Echternach monastery in Luxembourg, which he founded.

He is the Patron Saint of the Netherlands.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*