

## **BIBLE SUNDAY**

We thank you, Lord, for the collected works  
of your word. Grant us patience to read,  
time to digest and wisdom to understand.

Amen.

**1 November**

## **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.

**1 November**

## **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  
1<sup>st</sup> November. Within a century, this day was  
observed in Britain and Ireland as All Saints'  
Day.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**2 November**

**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.

**2 November**

**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)**

'The believer's pilgrimage of faith is lived out with 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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**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'*

**8 November**

## **The Saints and Martyrs of England**

God, who the glorious company of the redeemed adore, assembled from all times and places of your dominion: we praise you for the saints of our own land and for the many lamps their holiness has lit; and we pray that we also may be numbered at last with those who have done your will and declared your righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**8 November**

## **The Saints and Martyrs of England**

The date when Christianity first came to the British Isles is not known, but there were British Bishops at the Council of Arles in the year 314, indicating a Church with order and worship. Since those days, Christians from these lands have shared the message of the good news at home and around the world. As the world-wide fellowship of the Anglican Communion has developed, incorporating peoples of many nations and cultures, individual Christian men and women have shone as beacons, heroically bearing witness to their Lord, some through a simple life of holiness, others by giving their lives for the sake of Christ.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**10 November**

**Leo the Great,  
Bishop of Rome,  
Teacher of the Faith 461**

God our Father, who made your servant,  
Leo strong in the defence of the faith:  
fill your Church with the spirit of truth  
that, guided by humility and governed  
by love, she may prevail against the  
powers of evil; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

Amen.

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**10 November**

**Leo the Great,  
Bishop of Rome,  
Teacher of the Faith**

Leo the Great became Pope in the year 440 and twice proved his bravery in saving the citizens of Rome from the invading barbarians. He was an eloquent and wise preacher, using simple gospel texts to proclaim the Christian faith. His administrative skills were unrivalled and he used the resources of the Church for the good of the people. Rather than further confuse Christians by entering into the controversy over the person of Christ, Leo spoke simply of the humility of Christ who was divine and human in his compassion, uniting biblical images in prayer rather than dividing in debate. Leo died on this day in the year 461.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**11 November**

**Martin of Tours  
Bishop c.397**

God all powerful, who called Martin from the armies of this world to be a faithful soldier of Christ: give us grace to follow him in his love and compassion for the needy, and enable your Church to claim for all people their inheritance as children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**11 November**

**Martin, Bishop of Tours**

Born in about the year 316 in Pannonia (in modern-day Hungary), Martin was a soldier in the Roman army and a Christian. He found the two rôles conflicted and, under the influence of Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers he founded a monastery in Hilary's diocese in the year 360, the first such foundation in Gaul. The religious house was a centre for missionary work in the local countryside, setting a new example where, previously, all Christian activity had been centred in cities and undertaken from the cathedral there. In 372, Martin was elected Bishop of Tours by popular acclaim and he continued his monastic lifestyle as a Bishop, remaining in that ministry until his death on this day in the year 397.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*