

Please note there are a range of Readings and Gospel passages that can be read on All Soul's Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be brought to life.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Or ... Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Or ... **Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.**

LECTOR: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

LECTOR: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

LECTOR: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

LECTOR: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that all who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.

TODAY'S READINGS Wisdom 4:7-15; Psalm 22; Romans 5:5-11; John 6: 37-40

NEXT WEEK (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Year C) Ezekiel 47:1-2. 8-9. 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11. 16-17; John 2:13-22

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Embracing eternal life through Christ

2 November 2025 All Soul's Day, Year C

On All Soul's Day the Church invites each of us to remember and pray for the souls of our dear ones who have gone before us and for those who have no one to remember them.

In the tradition of the Catholic Church, praying for the souls who have died is one way to ask for God's grace of forgiveness and mercy, so they may enter the Kingdom of God that He has promised. Our prayers to support the faithfully departed are important because "nothing unclean shall enter heaven" (Revelation 21:27). It is our fundamental belief that we are never truly separated when we are united in prayer.

This week's scripture readings invite us to discover God's mercy and His loving grace for the salvation of humanity. Salvation is the work of God and His graciousness. It is God's desire to save us all. With firm faith in Christ's resurrection, Christians believe that, in death, life is transformed, not destroyed.

The Book of Wisdom depicts that people who live righteously before God - even demonstrating their faithfulness when tested by various challenges - will be blessed. As human beings, we hope to enter God's Kingdom after we pass from this world. Thus, we ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of hope, because the state of the world and life's challenges and difficulties can cause us to despair and even lead us to believe there is nothing after death. But as Christians we believe that the undying hope for salvation will ultimately be rewarded

by God himself, because "hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5).

St Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, summarises the essence of today's celebration by saying, "in Christ all shall be brought to life." Jesus Christ's resurrection brings life. Through His resurrection, death is destroyed. As Paul explains, "the last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1Cor 15:26).

Christ is the New Adam who brought life through death. Only in and through Christ Jesus will we be saved. Salvation is the pure grace and gift of God, and it calls for our human response of faith. The gospel highlights the relationship between faith and eternal life, as Jesus teaches, "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life" (John 6:40).

To enter eternal life requires faith, faith in Jesus as the Son of the Father who comes to show us the way to life. Jesus assures those who have faith and believe in him that they will experience resurrection and enjoy eternal life. This belief is the core of All Soul's Day.

So, with this celebration we come to the Lord in faith, praying that the souls of the dead, through God's mercy, may rest in peace.

Amen.

Fr Bence Baoninang CSSr
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