



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

ALL SAINTS 2018

Readings: Apocalypse 7: 2-4, 9-14, Psalm 23, 1 John 3: 1-3, Matthew 5: 1-12

On the ceiling of the great Jesuit Church in Rome, the Gesu, is a remarkable scene – best viewed through the huge mirror or by lying on your back in the nave.

At the peak of the ceiling is the Divine Name of Jesus. Towards it, led by the bambini, the children, the innocents of Christ, is a whole host of noble souls from all walks of life who have tried, in this life, to follow Him. It is a fabulous technicolour scene of transcendent glory and the promise to the faithful.

In stark contradistinction, faces writhing and twisted in horror and shock and terror, are the souls who have rejected the love of God and spurned the sacrifice of Christ. They are tumbling into space. They are lurching backwards in freefall descent towards the abyss – a portrait of abject terror and despair.

If you want a place to incentivise your pursuit of holiness, of sainthood, of companionship with Christ, the Gesu ceiling is a good place to start. Curious then that our society glorifies the tumblers, the disconnected, the descenders into darkness. Halloween invites the broken culture to vest as the demonic, the life destroyers, the creatures of the dark, the minions of Satan.

If you want a place to indulge your enthusiasm for wickedness, the costume department at ASDA is a good place to start. The perversion of the festival is complete.

As followers of Jesus we know that All Hallows Eve is the time when the forces of the Dark Lord are finally vanquished by the armies of Light as the Christ's Kingdom and His saints are ushered in. We return to the ceiling of the Gesu and see those who have bought into Satan's trick, cascading, terrified into the dark. Those who have treated Christ in the other, ascending, joyfully into light and glory.

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