



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

All Souls 2018

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-9, Psalm 26, Romans 5: 5-11, Mark 15: 33-39, 16: 1-6

November is the season of the dead. All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance etc.

As Catholics we regularly remember our dead in prayer. One of the greatest tragedies of the Reformation was to persuade people that they could no longer pray for those they loved who had gone before them in Christ. The lie was perpetuated that somehow, even though we were one in Christ, yet we were divided one from another and divorced in affection – as if death had defeated Christ, as if mere mortality could prevent love. All Souls and every Mass of remembrance for the departed proclaims the truth of our unity in Christ, our faith in His Resurrection and our unshakeable love and concern for one another, living and dead.

Catholics believe that we remain in communion – not through the deceitful and Biblically forbidden arts of necromancy or spiritualism – but through the living Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Presence in the sacrifice of the Mass. Here, in prayer and dedication, we offer our love to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all who have gone before. We do not think that our prayer changes God's mind about a soul but rather that the soul, having accepted Christ and going through the purification we call purgatory, is accompanied by the encouragement and balm of our love.

We are in this together. Christianity is a religion of relationship – one with another and each of us with God. Death is not the end and salvation is not magic. It is the work of the Cross, the result of the sacrificial love of God in Jesus Christ. That is what we invoke, proclaim and re-present on the altar at every Mass. For the souls for whom it is offered it is the greatest gift and we, in our turn, will hope those who come after will, of their love and mercy, pour this affectionate balm upon our souls as we make the great and final ascent to the Presence.