



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

All Saints November 1st 2019

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

Matthew 5: 1-12

Saints come in all shapes and sizes. From the little girl who never left the convent, whose 'way' continues to guide the faithful, to the daring missionaries to the wildest and most dangerous realms, leaving their martyred bones upon an alien shore. We should be grateful because we come in all shapes and sizes too and our vocation, like theirs, is holiness. We are to become like God, and this is a tall order – indeed impossible without His Grace and, for most of us, a work that will continue beyond this mortal life in the divine fire of His love in the Purgatory. Jesus tells us to 'be holy as your Heavenly Father is holy'. Impossible for us but not for Him – and, following in His Way and becoming more like Him, by the mercy of His Amazing Grace, in the end not impossible for us after all. Indeed, it is the sacred destiny of all followers of Jesus to become Saints. If we do not how could we hope to dwell forever in the Presence of the All Holy?

The Saints that adorn our Calendar and, raised to the dignity of the altars, in whose prayers we rejoice, are but the tip of the glorious mountain of ascent peopled by myriad unknown faithful down the ages. This land of Cornwall is peopled by such a host and peppered with the names of the

Holy Saints whose recognition long preceded any formal recognition by Head Office.

We are, Hebrews tells us, surrounded by a great a cloud of witnesses, the saints.

The Canon of the Mass reminds us, that it is on the constant intercession of the saints in God's Presence that we rely for unfailing help. The Saints are not just a bunch of dead heroes, they are living and active and powerful companions and exemplars and encouragers on the pilgrim way.

We each have our patrons and our favourites, but we are all part of the one Communion in Heaven and Earth. Whenever we forget this mighty army of the redeemed, we are weaker, more afraid, spiritually impotent. We panic at the prospect of what we are called to do – to witness to Jesus, to build His Church. But when we recall the lives of the Holy Ones, we are inspired. When we remember this great army of the victorious in Christ and that it is with us and behind us and before us, then there is nothing that we cannot achieve in His Name. They walk beside us. Ask them to pray that we may have that gift of courage to play our part in our time and in the place where Jesus, Our Lord and Master, has called us to serve.