



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

All Souls-November 2nd 2019

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-9, Psalm 26, Romans 5: 5-11,

Luke 7: 11-17

Recently an old Catholic friend of mine wrote asking for advice.

Someone very dear to them had started attending Spiritualist meetings.

What advice could they give?

The answer is both very simple and complex. ‘Simples’ first.

The Holy Scripture, and correspondingly the teaching of the Church, is that this practice is absolutely forbidden. Necromancy, the supposed communication with the dead, is dangerous and disobedient. The consequences are anything from imperilling the soul to mortal.

Spiritualism is a spiritual canker and, where spiritualists dare to call themselves things like ‘Church’ or ‘Christian’, it is a lie. You cannot be a Christian and a spiritualist.

At a more complex level the reasons for this become apparent. There are indeed spiritual entities that are contactable, but these are unlikely to be your benevolent old granny, or some wisdom filled guru or ancient ancestor. The spirits that mediums contact are primarily there to deceive – not least, at times, by providing plausible information.

The classic Biblical case of this was when King Saul visited the Witch of Endor to raise the dead prophet Samuel for his advice. His disobedience ended in defeat, disaster and death.

Of course, the temptation to ‘raise’ the dead for our comfort and consolation is not new. When a loved one dies, we long to hear their voice, be assured of their presence and their continued existence. But spiritualism is never the way.

Tragically this whole malevolent practice gained traction in Protestant circles because, post- Reformation, the natural Christian way of encounter was denied. In Catholicism, the original, foundational and universal Christian Church, the practice of praying for the dead has never ceased. We do not cease to love those who have gone before us but our love must not lead us to disobedience and the nefarious practices of the necromancers. We bring our love to the altar of God and offer that love in the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Calvary of His Sacrifice. Our love is offered in the Mass and mingled with the all-embracing love of God. For Catholics there is no division in Christ between those of us who remain currently in this mortal frame and those who have gone to glory and those, who, proceeding through the Purification, are on their way. One of the greatest tragedies of the Deformation was to break this sacred link and, to the joy of Satan, divide the Church on earth and claim to divide the Body of Christ in Earth, Purgatory and Heaven. Spiritualism is but one product of that heresy.

Praying for the souls of the departed is recorded in Scripture in books that the Protestant revolutionaries removed. Asking for the prayers of the dead is recorded on the graves around the tomb of St. Peter.

What we do in the Mass is utterly consistent with the Faith once delivered to the Saints. Death effects no barrier to love and prayer for those who are in Christ. Gibbering mediums, necromancers and table-tapping hucksters are inimical to the soul of Man, disobedient to God and in thrall to the works of the enemy.

Today, with love and joy and obedient hearts we celebrate the Feast of All Souls and continue to pour out our love for them in the source and summit of our Faith, the divine mystery of God’s love, The Mass.

