



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

## **The Solemnity of All Saints**

### ***Victorious over the powers of darkness***

*Readings: Wisdom 11: 22-12:2*

Here we are again. The annual dilemma for Christian families as their children are invited to Hallowe'en parties and the stores are packed with wonderful dressing up opportunities to look as evil as you possibly can while, for the ladies, adding a touch of demonic allure. There is a fascination with the dark and the ramped up festival of Hallowe'en allows the ordinary person to indulge their wicked streak 'safely'. I sympathise. In my heady days of Am/Dram, I always, always got cast as the baddie – usually much the best part. The apogee was the pantomime where I got to be Captain Hook - so satisfying. A humourless Methodist lady from the neighbouring church asked me how I managed to be 'so evil' every night. I replied that that was not my problem. My problem was being good in the morning.

However there is still something perverse about the speed with which our society has adopted this glorification and glamourisation of the truly wicked. After all we don't really need to look that far to see its ramifications. Putin's War, the barbarities of Hamas, the atrocities of Planned Parenthood and its successive Presidential supporters.

Wickedness often starts with an attractive face but rapidly degenerates into the vile ugliness that is at its heart.

Today is, of course, the real celebration. It is the triumph of the Saints. Their glorious victory over the powers of the dark. The whole point of All Hallows Eve, as it is properly called, is that it is the last noisy shriek of the damned as they literally 'get the Hell out of here' before the Saints go marching in.

In the liturgy we recall our solidarity with that glorious band, our heavenly family, every time we cense the altar and acknowledge the smoke ascending as the symbol of the prayers of the saints. And in the immediate preface to the Sanctus when the priest calls on the people to join their voices to those of the angels and the saints in the hymn of Heaven.

Would it be too counter cultural to encourage our children to party with the Saints and dress up as one of their favourite heroes or heroines of the Faith?

Who wants to be a goody goody?

Well, I'd sure like to try.