

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! "Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them! "Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised! "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully! "Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!

"Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God! "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children! "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

"Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.



REFLECT

Those listening to Jesus would have been surprised as to hear which people Jesus says are 'blessed' or truly happy. Jesus seems to contradict everything we hear about having a successful and fulfilling life. What the world sees as tragic or empty, Jesus sees as blessed: humility, mourning, forgiveness, gentleness, and peacefulness. Even those who suffer because of their beliefs will be happy. Ultimately, anyone who really knows they need God will be truly happy and blessed. In being close to God, they find meaning - and so enjoy life today, as well as being able to look forward to heaven.

There are eight Beatitudes, each one beginning with the words, "Blessed are those..." Life with Jesus doesn't mean everything will run smoothly, but we have a deep inner joy knowing how much we are loved. This really is a reason to rejoice! We don't have to be perfect, with our lives all sorted, God loves us just as we are.

God's kingdom is not just something we will enjoy in heaven. We can rejoice in God's love here and now! And we are all called to make God's kingdom real on earth. How can we be sources of joy for the people around us? How will we bring justice to our world, putting right our relationships and showing that love is what matters?

LET US PRAY

God of life, we give thanks for all the holy men and women who have lived throughout the world. Help us to live as you would like us to by showing love to all, bringing peace and always trying to do what is right. Amen.

MISSION

On All Saints Day, we remember all those who have lived their lives really well and have died and gone to heaven. Some of these people have been given the title 'Saint' by the Church but anyone who has gone to heaven is a saint, and All Saints Day is their feast day. Today is also a day when we remember that we are all called to be saints. This week, your mission is to think about:

- What can we do to follow Jesus, live our lives well and be saints ourselves?
- Think of one quality of a Saint that you are going to adopt and show all week. Can anybody guess what it is based on your actions?