

Feast of All Saints – 1st November 2020

Read Matthew 5.1-12

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Do you have a favourite saint? My favourite is Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. One of the reasons why I like St David is because we often go on holiday to St David's in Pembrokeshire and so I think of holidays when I think of St David. St David's is a very small city with a beautiful cathedral built in a valley in the centre of the city. The cathedral is almost hidden from view until you get close to it. I find it a very peaceful and relaxing place. I think of all the thousands of people who have prayed there over the years.

There is a shrine to the Celtic saints in the cathedral - St David is in the centre and St Andrew and St Patrick are on each side. This is the picture of St David in that shrine. It shows David as a young man with his hand raised in blessing. The dove represents the Holy Spirit.

I often stand by this shrine to pray and I light a candle as a form of prayer.



The saints have a lot to teach us about prayer. How do you like to pray? Do you like to be quiet, or do you like to say prayers out loud? Some people like to use actions for prayers, other people sit still or kneel. There are many stories about saints and the way in which they prayed to God. Some of the stories are quite bizarre! There is a story about St Kevin. It says that he prayed with his cupped hands held out in front of him. He stayed like that for such a long time that a blackbird built its nest in his hands! St Dominic, on the other hand, liked to move around before he settled to quiet prayer. He used to kneel, then stand, then kneel, then stand etc. I think he must have been quite exhausted before long!

Just before St David died he said to his followers "Keep the faith and do the little things." I like this phrase because it reassures us that we can be good Christians by doing small acts of kindness or service. We don't have to try and change the world. The saints teach us how to draw closer to God through prayer and actions.

Activities

- Are there some "little things" you can do this week that would help you to draw closer to God – e.g. helping a neighbour, taking care of God's creation by clearing litter, donate some money to charity etc?
- Try a different way of praying. You could pray as you go for a walk, or look at a special picture of Jesus as you pray quietly, or use actions to go with one of your favourite prayers.

Prayer

Gracious Lord,
send us out into the world with open hands and hearts,
ready to receive whatever you may give
and ready to nurture whatever you entrust to us. Amen

Well-known Bible verses

How did you get on with the Bible quiz last week?

Here are the answers:

1	So God created humankind in his image	G	Genesis
2	For six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest	J	Exodus
3	“Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”	F	Ruth
4	“Speak for your servant is listening.”	A	1 Samuel
5	As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.	I	Psalms
6	A voice cries out “in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”	E	Isaiah
7	“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour....”	D	Luke
8	And the Word became flesh and lived among us....	B	John
9	And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.	H	1 Corinthians
10	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth ...	C	Revelation