

**Read Matthew 5.1-12 and Mark 12.28-34**

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

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. But what does it mean to be a saint? Saints are ordinary people who have been able to demonstrate their love of God in their lives. By their words and actions they have shown other people what loving and serving God means.

I have listed two gospel readings today because these two readings help us to understand what Jesus said about living the kind of life that God wants us to live. The reading from St Matthew's gospel is called The Beatitudes. It's a list of the way in which people could live. Jesus said that people who lived in this way were blessed by God; they would bring God's kingdom here on earth. If you look at the lives of the saints you will see that many of them followed these rules of life – even though it was difficult for them!

The second reading is from St Mark's gospel. In this reading Jesus sums up all the old Jewish laws into two important ones:

Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and  
Love your neighbour as yourself.

How would you finish the sentence "Love is .....?"

God uses us to show his love to those around us, and so love is active. But we can't love others without loving ourselves – and it's not always easy to love ourselves. How easy do you find it to love God, others and yourself? Are there some people that you find it hard to love? Can you think of any saints who help us to understand this?

We can't all be saints but we can learn from the stories of the saints. We can love and serve God in our own small way in our daily lives. Think of ways that you can show love for God and for other people this week.



**Activity**

- Look at the image of these 5 saints. Can you find out who they are and what was special about their lives? Look at the symbols that each one is holding or standing on to help you. Some jobs or trades have special saints linked with them e.g. St Clement is the patron saint of Blacksmiths. Can you find any other patron saints, and why they are linked to that group of workers?

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you teach us to love you always,  
and to love everyone just as we love ourselves.  
Sometimes that is difficult, please help us when we fail.  
Help us to do better. Amen.