

**1 NOVEMBER 2020**  
**ALL SAINTS - SOLEMNITY**

**OPENING HYMN**

For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light, Alleluia!

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with You, for which we earnestly long. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. .Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Rev 7:2-4,9-14

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 23:1-6

**Our Response is:** Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **R/**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **R/**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R/**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Jn 3:1-3

**GOSPEL:** Mt 5:1-12

## **REFLECTION:**

Every year, on November 1, the Church honours the holy men and women, martyrs, confessors etc, known and unknown, who offered their lives in quiet service to God. They were ordinary people with an extraordinary love for God, who lived Christ's teachings in an exemplary manner and remained faithful servants of God even in the most difficult circumstances. Pope Francis in his message said it is good for Catholics to let themselves be encouraged by the saints who did not live their lives by "half measures." Today's feast is an encouragement for all of us; we are all called to be saints and this feast gives us hope that one day, we too might join the saints in heaven if we persevere in the virtues of faith, hope and charity here on earth. Am I able to emulate these saints in my daily life by living the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived? **Pause**

The readings of today give us a symbolic glimpse of heaven, the angels and the saints. God provides his authority and protection to those who are marked by the seal. Anyone who desires the seal of God can receive it; but it requires a willingness to remain faithful to God and to undergo trials and persecution. Becoming a saint is not an easy road, it involves hardship and sacrifice. What is my response to God? **Pause**

The Psalm emphasizes God's glory and sovereignty over all the earth and man's need for righteousness and worthiness before God. The man who comes before God with a true and contrite heart, he will be given additional blessings and graces by God. How will I live out my desire to see the face of God? **Pause**

The Gospel of today lists out the Beatitudes which is Jesus' "blueprint" of the Church and gives us the framework for God's kingdom. The Beatitudes not only guide us towards the eternal glory of God's kingdom but also teach us how to live happy and contented lives here on earth. What do the Beatitudes mean to me? What Gospel values do they call me to follow? **Pause**

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Leader:** God invites us to live out the Beatitudes in our daily living. With hope and trust, let us confidently bring our prayers before Him.

**Our response is: Gracious Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may remain faithful servants of the Lord in the midst of our trials and tribulations; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may use their power and resources for the benefit of the people under their care; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for the sick, the suffering and the needy, that they may find joy, strength and comfort in God's presence; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that we may be receptive to the blessings and graces God has bestowed upon us; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

**Leader:** Almighty and every-living God, hear our prayers and strengthen our faith so that we may follow your ways with loving hearts and come to share the life you promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:  
*(All say the Lord's Prayer together)* Our Father...

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

O God, as we adore You, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore Your grace, so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of Your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit,  
Theirs is the Kingdom of God.  
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit;  
Bless us, O Lord, our God.

**We are the light of the world.  
May our light shine before all,  
That they may see the good that we do,  
And give glory to God.**

Blessed are they who are meek and humble,  
They will inherit the earth.  
Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble;  
Bless us, O Lord, our God.

*Commission For Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay*