



RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults
The Saints



Opening Prayer



Saint

- *Sanctus* in Latin, meaning "holy"
- Saints are not part of an "exclusive club", but they are models of holiness, representing all saints in heaven.
- Saints provide examples for us to model our lives on.
- Saints are an example of God exercising the Incarnational Principle.
 - God conveying His Truth and Grace through our senses



Canonisation

- The process of declaring a person to be a Saint.
 - The Church does not "make" Saints. The Church *recognises* Saints.
 - Involves rigorous investigation of all aspects of the person's life.
 - God attests to the person's holiness through miracles and conversions.
 - And other indicators



Is Anyone In This Room A Saint?

- We all are !
- "For I am the Lord your God; sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy." – Leviticus 11:44
 - We are called to lead holy lives.
- St Paul refers to all his fellow believers as "saints". E.g.
 - Romans 12:13,16:15
 - 2 Corinthians 1:1
 - Ephesians 1:1
 - Philippians 1:1,4:21-22
 - Philemon 1:5



Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)



- Moses and Elijah appears before Jesus to strengthen him for his impending sufferings.
- There is interaction between us on earth and the souls in heaven!

Luke 9:28-36 (Transfiguration)

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; * listen to him!' 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.



Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-11)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
- Blessed are the gentle, they shall have the earth as inheritance.
- Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for uprightness, they shall have their fill.



Beatitudes

- Blessed are the merciful, they have mercy shown them.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be recognised as children of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness, the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.



The Communion of Saints

- The "Communion of Saints" refers to the family of believers; and the bond of unity among them.
- We call ourselves "saints" not because we are self-righteous, but because that is what we called to be.
- 3 groups of saints
 - The Church in pilgrimage
 - The Church in purgatory
 - The Church in perfection



The Communion of Saints

- In the fight against Satan, Christians are like a mighty army, spanning space and time, with Jesus as the commander-in-chief.



Intercession

- In times of needs, we often ask other Christians (saints) to prayer.
- We can also ask those who are already united with God to pray for us - i.e. canonised saints.
- How much more powerful would their prayers be!

Revelation 5:1,6-8

(Heavenly Saints And Their Intercessions)

1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; 6 Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. 8 When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the **twenty-four elders** fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the **prayers of the saints**.




Revelation 5:1,6-8

- Sealed scroll from God
 - Heavenly liturgy
- 24 elders
 - Saints in heaven
- Prayers of the saints
 - Prayers of the saints on earth



Intercession Examples

- Genesis 18:20-32
(Abraham's Intercession) 
- John 2:1-10
(Mary's Intercession)
- Exodus 32:7-14
(Moses' Intercession)

Genesis 18:20-32 (Abraham's Intercessions)


20 Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! 21 I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.' 22 So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23 Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' 26 And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.'

Genesis 18:20-32 (continued)

27 Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. 28 Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' 29 Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' 30 Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' 31 He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' 32 Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'



Saints Are Not To Be Worshipped

- We ask Saints to prayer for and with us, but we only worship God.
- The Saints themselves do not wish to be worshipped.
- Acts 14:8-15 

Acts 14:8-15 (Saints Do Not Wish To Be Worshipped)

8 In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said in a loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And the man sprang up and began to walk. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in human form!' 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. 14 When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, 15 'Friends, why are you doing this? **We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.**



Holy Objects

- Statues, Medals, Images, Relics, etc.
- Reminds us of the saints and of God, an example of the Incarnate Principle
- Similar to having images of loved ones, alive or dead

Mark 5:25-34 (Woman's touching of Jesus' cloak)

25 Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. 26 She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' 29 Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' 31 And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' 32 He looked all round to see who had done it. 33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

Acts 19:11-12 (God acts through the saints and associated objects)

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that when the handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.



Holy Objects

- Miracles from coming into contact with holy objects does not come from the saint or the objects, but from God
- Beware of lapsing into superstition: All power comes from the God. The object themselves are not special.

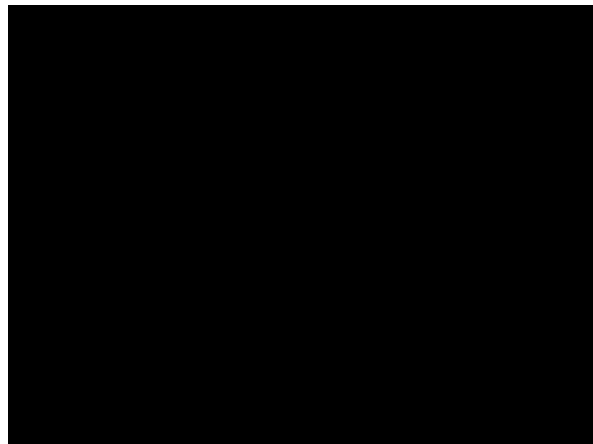


Patron Saints


- St. Peregrine – cancer suffers and those in need
- St. Cecilia – musicians
- St. Christopher – Travelers
- St. Anthony – Lost & Found
- St. Jude – Hopeless Cases



Special Presentation




Who Wants To Be The Kingdom's Heir?




1. What does the word "saint" mean?

- a. Holy
- b. Generous
- c. Perfected
- d. Extraordinary



2. What is a canonised saint?

- a. One of God's specially chosen people who was holier than we could ever be
- b. Someone the Church has officially declared to be in Heaven
- c. A sombre and austere person who gave up the joys and life to pray and do good works



3. Who are or what is the "Devil's Advocate"?

- a. A person who affirms the fact that Satan does exist
- b. Someone who says sin is not at all bad, so go on ahead and do what you feel like doing
- c. The exact opposite of a Saint
- d. The person assigned by the Church to look into every detail of a person's life as part of the canonisation process



4. Why do Catholics pray to Saints when God is actually the one who answers our prayer?

- a. Catholics ask Saints to intercede for them
- b. They were always good to other people before they die, why not now?
- c. Saints are good at performing miracles
- d. Just to add a little variety to our prayer



5. Who is a Patron Saint?

- a. A Saint who intercedes for a specific group, country, professional or activity.
- b. A Saint who during his or her life donated heavily to a specific cause
- c. Someone who is designated by the Church as "the best" in some fields or other
- d. A Saint who sought political favours




6. What Saint is the Patron Saint of the Universal Church?

- a. St Patrick
- b. St Joseph
- c. St Peter
- d. Mary, Mother of God



7. What do we learn by studying the lives of the Saints?

- a. How to live heroic lives
- b. How to get canonised
- c. How to make the best of whatever life brings in terms of our relationship with ourselves, others and God
- d. Where the religious got their unusual names



Tea Break




Discussion

- Do you find crucifixes, statues, holy pictures, medals, etc. useful in bringing you closer to God?
- If so, how?





Recap

- Models to our lives
- The Communion of Saints
- Intercessory Role
- Holy Objects




Q&A





Further Readings

- *At Home With God's People*
(ISBN 0-947282-13-0)
Chapter 9
- *Path Through Catholicism*
(ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)
Chapter 22
- *Catholic and Christian*
(ISBN 0-89283-181-2)
Chapter 8



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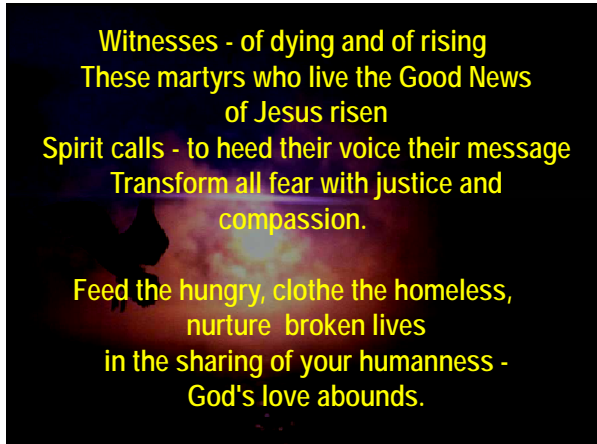
WITNESSES.
(G. Norbet)

Witnesses - of dying and of rising
These martyrs who live the Good News
of Jesus risen
Spirit calls - to heed their voice their message
Transform all fear with justice and compassion.

As you lead your people to the land
which is their home
My presence shall within around you be,
sustaining all

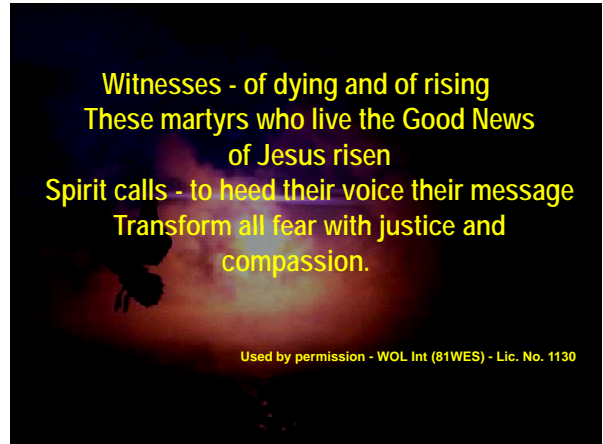
Witnesses - of dying and of rising
These martyrs who live the Good News
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Spirit calls - to heed their voice their message
Transform all fear with justice and compassion.

I shall be your strength your song
your courage as you free
all those held captive by injustice -
and others' greed



Witnesses - of dying and of rising
These martyrs who live the Good News
of Jesus risen
Spirit calls - to heed their voice their message
Transform all fear with justice and
compassion.

Feed the hungry, clothe the homeless,
nurture broken lives
in the sharing of your humanness -
God's love abounds.



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