

Homily All Saints 1st November 2020

This Sunday is 1st November and is the Solemnity of All Saints.

Some saints are well known names to us, like St Francis of Assisi and St Mary Magdalene, and have their feast day when they are celebrated individually. But there are countless thousands of saints not known to us. We celebrate them all today.

It's really important that we understand this celebration as something that is close to us. The Saints are not distant remote figures. They are close to us. They help us with their powerful prayers, made in God's presence.

And they lived real lives. And those lives are there to inspire us in our own lives.

Some Saints were not holy for all of their lives. Some, like St Paul had a massive moment of conversion. And when Jesus was on trial, St Peter denied three times that he knew Him.

So we see that Sinners can become Saints. That is as true for us as it was for them. So today we also celebrate our destiny: to stand with the Saints in the presence of God.

St John writes in the second reading: "Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ."