

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

**Sunday 2 November 2025
All Saints**

Welcome to this week's prayers and reflections. Today, we are celebrating the unsung heroes of the Christian faith. Over the centuries, there have been countless men, women and children who have lived by faith and by God's love powerfully at work in them. Saints inspire others in their journey of life and faith, and are passionate about making a difference. You and I are called to be saints!

Enjoy reflecting on your saints and saintly qualities.

Every blessing,

Revd Katrina

Vicar

Phone No. 01604 812907

Mobile No. 07710 464675

E-mail: katrinahutchins94@yahoo.co.uk

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As you prepare to celebrate All Saints, open your heart to God and renew your devotion to him.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

*Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)*

Prayers and Reflections
for use at home for All Saints
Dedicated saints!

PREPARING OURSELVES

Take a moment to be still in God's presence and feel his love. If you are indoors, you may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in your room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.

Lord, as I sit and wait in silence,
I place my hopes and dreams,
my fears and concerns,
into your safe and loving hands.
Enfold me with your love,
make my heart beat in time with yours;
in Jesus' name,
I pray. **Amen.**

LETTING GO

If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And then, when you are ready, reflect on your life with this verse from this week's hymn.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

*Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)*



If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.

Our verse is a prayer designed to draw us into deep fellowship with God, who is Father – Son – Spirit to us. It invites us to dedicate our whole selves to living as God would love us to do. Praying this verse is to ask God to weave himself into every aspect of our daily life. Take a moment to think about when you feel at one with God and feel guided by him. Give thanks for this.

Ponder when it is that you feel adrift from God or from our Lord's teaching of love and joy, peace and hope. Open yourself to God's Spirit, seek his guidance. What is it that you would like to change? Wait on him, listen and receive of his loving wisdom.

Lord, you are in me and I am in you.

Turn your face to my face.

Look at me.

Let me look at you.

May I take you in,
as you give of your love.

For you are in me
and I am in you.

cf. John Francis Davies (2025)

Feel strengthened by looking at God face to face. May he be the one who is your source of strength in the coming week.



Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour,
be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter,
be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward,
great Power of my power.

*Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)*

PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER

(The Collect)

Today, this prayer is being said across our villages and the worldwide Church. Add your voice to the earthly circle of prayer to our Faithful One.

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our prayer for All Saints invites us to think about the everyday saints, God's ordinary heroes, who have inspired us on our journey of life and faith. A saint is someone who brings God's kingdom and his values to life by making a difference to the lives of those who are struggling or by seeking to change unjust rules and regulations. Often, a saint is someone who gives generously of their time or risks their own life to save others. A few nights ago, I caught the end of a TV programme celebrating the 2025 Pride of Britain awards. One of the winners was a medic who had devoted herself to saving lives in war zones. Time and again, she drove her ambulance into danger zones, risking her own life to find and rescue injured children and civilians trapped in the crossfire. It is lives like this which inspire us to do our little bits of good in our daily lives.

Who inspires you? Pause to give thanks to God for their brave example.

A saint is also someone who reveals the glory of God's creative nature, his generous love and his gracious forgiveness. She or he makes Christ known by their gentle words of wisdom at tough times, by their ability to listen with a Christ-like compassion or by the quality of their prayer life and their openness in praying for others.

Who have been your role models in Christian living? Pause to give thanks for their deep and true faith.

And then, ponder how you are being a source of inspiration to others. How are you following the example of your everyday saints? Who is learning from your example? Pray for them as you pray for yourself.



Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)

versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Beatitudes

Looking at his disciples, Jesus said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

'Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,

for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

‘But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.’

Luke 6:20-31

Staying true to our calling...

Staying true to our calling and to our Lord's teaching is not always easy, is it? Real life gets in the way. Difficulties can cause us to forget to love others as we love ourselves. In the heat of the moment, the fruits of the Spirit can be forgotten. Also, we are living in a society where trusting in an immortal and invisible God is seen to be strange or naïve. Whilst these challenges may be small in comparison to those of our Lord's apostles, none the less, our Lord's Beatitudes can really speak to us.

If we can accept that there will be difficult times in this life and believe God is with us in this, we can look forward to the joys of heaven.

If we hunger for an end to suffering and injustice and do what we can to champion change, we will look forward to our Lord's return.

If we are in tears now, we can look forward in hope to heaven where we will laugh with our loved ones.

If we face opposition because of our Christian views or our church going, it is worth it! God has such amazing things in store for us.



High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,

O grant me its joys after victory is won;

great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all. *tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)*

versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

OUR PRAYERS

Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.

Lord Jesus, it is so wonderful to think that you love me.

You call me to be a saint within your church and in my daily life,
by being the best version of me. Help me to be the saint you see in me.

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you call your church to care for those who are struggling,
to speak up when we see injustice, and to care for your creation.

You invite us to make a difference in your name. In faith, I pray for...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you call those with a gift for caring to be doctors and nurses,
carers and counsellors. Strengthen all who care for the sick and dying.

Bless, Lord, those in their care. In love, I lift up to you...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

O God, you search me and you know me,

all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,

you see the paths I will take before I take them. Guide my daily living.

Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**