

About 10,000 saints are recognised in the Roman Calendar but to these we can add on the millions of martyrs unnamed and unknown who died for Christ down through the ages. Then there are those acclaimed saints by local people, clergy, or bishops e.g Ireland has about 300 acclaimed saints but only a very low number who have been canonised by Rome. When an Irishman was asked why Ireland had so very few canonised saints, he answered "I really do not know". Then after a pause he added "my mother was a saint". I can echo that myself because "my mum too was a saint".

-Kevin Hanrahan

Entrance antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading: Exodus 22 20-26

Responsorial Psalm: 17: I love you, Lord, my strength /R

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew: 22: 34-40

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.



"You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all." – St. Therese of Lisieux



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A, 2023 Weekly

Reflection: ALL SAINTS: Through All Saints Day we are invited to remember the famous saints in the Calendar and more importantly the vast number of saints who are

nameless. The most famous saints of the Catholic Church are the twelve apostles, Peter, James the Great, Andrew, Jude, Simon, John, Bartholomew, Matthew, Matthias, Philip, Thomas, James bar Alpheus, and then of course Paul, after Our Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps the greatest and most amazing preacher and teacher the world has ever known, and through his writings we know the large number of other saints who worked along side him, Barnabus, Mark, Timothy, Titus and Luke just to mention a few. Whilst we remember them as Christian saints, we must also remember that the majority of them were devout Jews. From an ethnic point of view, the story of the Gospels and much of the New Testament is a Jewish story. It was through the Jewish people and that most wonderful Jew Jesus Christ, that God's plan for us was made possible.

All of the above named saints were male. Of the female saints the most outstanding is Our Blessed Lady Mary, mother of God. Her assent to the plan of God "Be it done unto me" led to the conception of Jesus and His birth introduced God to the world and to us individually and personally. Next in the Gospels must be placed Mary of Magdala she followed Jesus from place to place rendering great assistance. When the apostles and disciples with the exception of John ran away and went into hiding, fearful for their lives, Mary stayed by the cross as Jesus gave up His life and as the body of Jesus was carried away, she was watching and saw it placed in the tomb and again it was Mary of Magdala that brought spices to anoint Jesus' body and it was she who found the tomb empty and to her that Jesus appeared and told her to tell the apostles of His resurrection. It is no wonder that Cardinal Sarah recently referred to her as "the apostle to the apostles".