

Sermon Summary

All Saints' Day

6th November 2011

- My father always told me that he did not want a eulogy at his funeral, but rather that the Resurrection be preached. He often did not recognise the person “mentioned in dispatches”.
- At All Saints, we look at the variety of the saints and see what a mixed bag they were. Many of them are like a bag of lollies: they have bits in them that we do not like, and that they did not like.
- But the saints were all aware of one thing: that it was not their perfection, or their right thinking, or their immaculate behaviour which made them to be saints.
- They were made saints by God's love.
- We do well to remember this.
- When we think on this we might also do well to think that this is a reality which we enjoy now. Paul never called those complicated congregations at Corinth or Galatia “soon to be saints” or “going to be saints”. He called them saints, those already made holy, already saved.
- We are also saints to the extent that we respond positively to God's offer of himself, confident in this, not because of our own goodness, but because Jesus has made it so by how he lived, died and loved.
- One of the great biblical images of heaven, and “where/ how the saints live” is the Messianic banquet: their sharing at table with God.
- So, we also do well to remember that the Eucharist which we celebrate very week is a vivid sign that we also share in such a meal.
- When we break the bread and drink the wine, here in this seemingly insignificant corner, we join with all the saints, all who have responded positively to God's offer of himself, and are at one with them again at table, whether they still live somewhere on this world, or have already died.
- We are always close and one in spirit with God, and his faithful ones who mean so much to us.

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