

29. 10. 70

1. 11. 71

1. 11. 73

31. 10. 74

Happy 66th (Temple)

Day by Day (Ruth)

Tape (Devis)

(Story due to the fr. - to the Sun - to the H. Sp. : as it was in the beginning so be it now - forever. Amen.)
 From time to time in these Monday Prayer programmes, I talk for one reason or another about saints.
 I notice I've been talking about saints, for one reason or another, quite often in these M.P.
 over the past month or so). I know, too, that saints these days have lost very much of their
 former appeal, despite the vast improvement (as regards distinguishing fact from fancy & legend)
 in the writing of their biographies, during the past 30 yrs or so. It wd. be unwise, though,
 to dismiss them altogether as having no relevance for modern times, because they are in many
 different ways examples of outstanding human witness to the power & love of God, of how a
 Christian life can be lived - even if the saints' lives are inimitable and not something we shd.
 ever try to imitate. We each have our own lives to live, each as individual & different as
 the proverbial sands by the sea-shore: the circumstances of no two lives are ever exactly the
 same, so there's no point in mere imitation of some else's way of living. But we can learn, for
 ourselves, from others. Not all of the canonised saints by any means appeal to everyone, as
 characters, heroes, what have you: those who are put before us officially, so to speak, as
 examples of Christian living, may not in fact be much of an encouragement at all for one reason
 or another. No matter: there are many others, including perhaps some people you may know
 personally, from whom we can learn how to live as becomes followers of Christ, anxious to
 discover and do what is God's will for us in His love, in the concrete situation in which we live.
 For, in God's family and promise, everyone is a saint, holy: all of us who believe in Him are
 called to the same holiness: we've all got to become saints, not in the restricted sense in
 which the word has been used for so long now in Christian language, but as you'll find it
 used in the N.T. Or as Ronald Knox used it in the urgent plea of the final chapter in a
 book he wrote in the immediate aftermath of the dropping of the 2 atomic bombs on Japan at

the end of the Pacific War - what the world desperately needs in the atomic age is saints,
 real, live ones. We are members of a Pilgrim Church, a community of both saints & sinners,
 always liable to lose our way & fall by the wayside, striking out on our own on what we
 think is a short-cut or a better way than the path by which God leads His people thro'
 His Son who is the Way. That ~~some~~ ^{part of} our community have already reached their journey's
 end in the vision of God in the glory of Christ, doesn't make them any the less united
 with us in the Body of Christ - they are our brothers in the People of God, and anxious to
 have us join them in due time. This aspect of the Communion of Saints has received most
 attention and prominence: if, in recent years, there's been a new emphasis on the community
 of the Pilgrim Church on earth, this shd. be seen in the fuller context of the whole
 communion of saints, in whose company we live. Death is not a final separation; and
 the saints who have passed that landmark number, surely, millions of ordinary people
 who've lived here in love with Christ our Lord in unspectacular ways - these we don't
 often ^{know about} think about, or ask their help on our pilgrimage. [In a few days] ^{Today} 1st November, [a
 Sunday this year] they shd. receive our recognition (as we celebrate for them and visit
 them the Feast of All Saints. It's a reminder of the unity together of the whole of God's
 people, a unity which as far as this world is concerned is only too clearly not fully
 realised, made present or expressed even though many other churches will keep, with us,
 this festival in ~~honour~~ ^{celebration} of all God's friends. So, one of the thoughts, at least, in our
 prayer these few days shd. be for the closer expression in community together, of the
 bonds that link all of us who follow Christ here, and for the intercession of all of our
 brother & sisters, canonised or not, who now share the glory of God's family life and

Sing a Song to the Lord
(Ninian Combs)

want to see His will done in us as we grow (we hope & pray) in the likeness of Christ.

For some reason today, [a modern song "In God's Family"] MUSIC-PRAYERS

(C.H.K. RCA 474)
(R.H.K. DEC. 8. 1957)

the hymn "For All the Saints" (sung by the Robert Shaw chorale)
set to by Virginia Williams

A feast of

all the martyrs, and then of all saints, has been observed in the western church from very early on — the 13th May was once a common date for it. How exactly, or when, the 1st Nov. came to be the universal date is not known, tho' it's certainly more than a 1000 yrs. old, & may have originated in England, Ireland or France. Quite possibly the date had still to do with Christianity a previously-existing festival of nature or some other religious cult — and this may also be an indication of a stress we cd. easily put on the celebration of all Saints, especially as it is already a commonly-known & observed occasion among Christians generally. It cd. serve to give the Christian explanation to a thing like United Nations Day (wh. is not particularly marked in H.K., or in many other places), or any of the other "Days" which celebrate the brotherhood of men, however partially. For we cannot forget, and must keep reminding the world we live in, that the brotherhood of men cannot be restricted by race, nationality, or political viewpoint — because of Christ, the only true & full brotherhood is to be found in Him, and that must include also those who have gone before us united with & in Him. So, to complete the picture, the day following All Saints, a development from it really, is kept for the Commemoration of all the departed faithful, explaining that other section of the Church on its way, thro' purification, to heaven. As we pray for the dead, especially in the month of November, let's pay attention too to All Saints & the real bond uniting us all in the Communion of Saints.

2.11.70 = 11P 137