

The Feast of ALL SOULS, Sunday, November 2, 2025

Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 25: 6, 7b, 17-18, 20-21; Romans 8:5:5-11; Luke 7:11-17

Homily ~ Fr. Ed Hislop

We are surrounded by witnesses, all of whom in some fashion set their hearts on God, the many who have died in God's peace, *"from generation to generation, from the rising of sun to its setting,"* a people, living in eternity, relatives, friends, and strangers. Indeed, *"for the faithful life is changed not ended, and when the earthly dwelling turns to dust an eternal dwelling is made ready for them..."*

Gathered with us too, as always, are all who believed and hoped in the promise of eternity, the holy women and men of God, joined with those who surround us in the Communion of Saints, *with Mary, Mother of the Lord, with Joseph her spouse, with the blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs, with Saint Pope John XXIII,* to whom this house for the church is dedicated, *and all the saints on whose constant intercession we rely for help!*

We are surrounded by these witnesses, saints, family, friends, and strangers, reminding us, we hope, of their abiding presence, life, and love moving among us; always, embracing us in forgiving love, beckoning us to new sight and vision, inspiring us to believe and hope more strongly; and embracing us with a quiet gentleness in the lonely times and grieving days. They speak to us too of embracing our own life as a precious gift, appreciating even more those who share life with us now, treasuring those with whom we live, believe and love.

Our loved ones and those we know as saints and martyrs are among us, in our going and coming from place to place, reminding us to remember what is most important, and to set aside so many of our earthly worries. Their life among us, before and now, envelops us, "like sparks through stubble," with the memories and the promise of making all things new—all things: the strength,

weakness, regrets, guilt, happiness, and unspoken words; holding us in mercy, abiding presence, and the unrelenting love and spirit of God. The Wisdom of God flows through our loss and grief, loneliness and doubts: *"Those who trust in God, will understand truth, the faithful abide with God in love."*

Trust, truth, love, not mere words but ways to live and even grieve, ways to hear those wondrous words of Jesus, as now, today, he touches the painful loss of each one, as he speaks to the grieving heart, "I say to YOU, arise!" Sit up and tell of your sadness and let yourselves be given to others in their grief.

Be attentive, share loss, pain, joy, and hope; and in whatever way you can, be the good news of caring, even when afraid; "Rise," bearing the good memories, along with the pain and the loss.

Do not forget to remember that the love of God is in your heart even when you feel "helpless," walking through the dark valley of a broken world groaning in labor pains.

"In every time and place the blessed walk among us. There's a mighty throng that stands at our side the saints and beloved of God." They are here at this Holy Table, they are in our heart, here, for a moment, the broken heart becomes whole.

LIFE IS CHANGED, NOT ENDED!

