

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

SIGNPOSTS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

The beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-12)

Matthew's Gospel presents five blocks of Jesus' teaching. The first block that occupies chapters 5, 6, and 7 we know as the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount begins with the beatitudes. In the Old Testament the book of Exodus tells how Moses went up the mountain to receive the old law. Here Matthew portrays Jesus going up the mountain to proclaim the new law. The old law was a list of commandments, things to avoid doing. The new law is a list of beatitudes, blessings based on the new way of life. The beatitudes are signposts in God's Kingdom.

Our image to reflect on the beatitudes is *signposts*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 5: 3-6)

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you show your people
the way of true happiness.
Inspire us by your teaching,
that we may rejoice
with all your saints
through time and through eternity;
for you are our God.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on the opening section of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5: 1-12:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you interpret the significance of Jesus going up the mountain and then sitting down to teach?
- how do you feel about the power of the word 'blessed' and the idea of blessing?
- what are the key personal qualities prized in the beatitudes?
- how does the idea of persecution fit into the beatitudes?
- how should we interpret the beatitudes for today?

Using your Bible

While Mark's Gospel, Matthew's main source, describes Jesus as going up the mountain, Mark does not suggest the Sermon on the Mount. Some of Matthew's material, however, has parallels in Luke's Sermon on the Plain:

- Mark 3: 13
- Luke 6: 20-23

Explore passages in the Old Testament that resonate with the beatitudes:

- Psalm 25: 1-5
- Psalm 37: 11
- Isaiah 55: 1-3
- Isaiah 61: 1-5

Exploring online

- explore the beatitudes
- explore All Saints' Day
- explore saints in stained glass windows

Drawing on experience

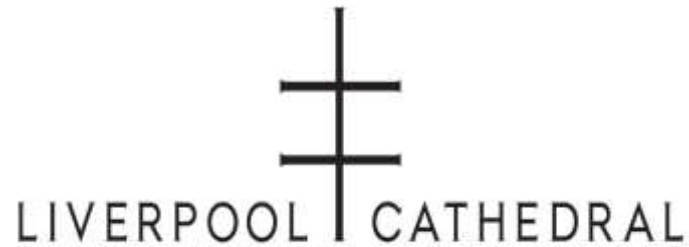
- reflect on your experience of celebrating saints in the Church
- reflect on your experience of people who serve as saints in today's world
- reflect on your call into the community of saints

ALL SAINTS' DAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020

Creating and making

- make a poster displaying and illustrating the eight beatitudes
- create a collage showing the saints of the Church in stained glass
- create a display of people who serve as saints in today's world
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of All Saints' Day

ALL SAINTS' DAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2020
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Christopher's College Trust
St Mary's Centre, Wales