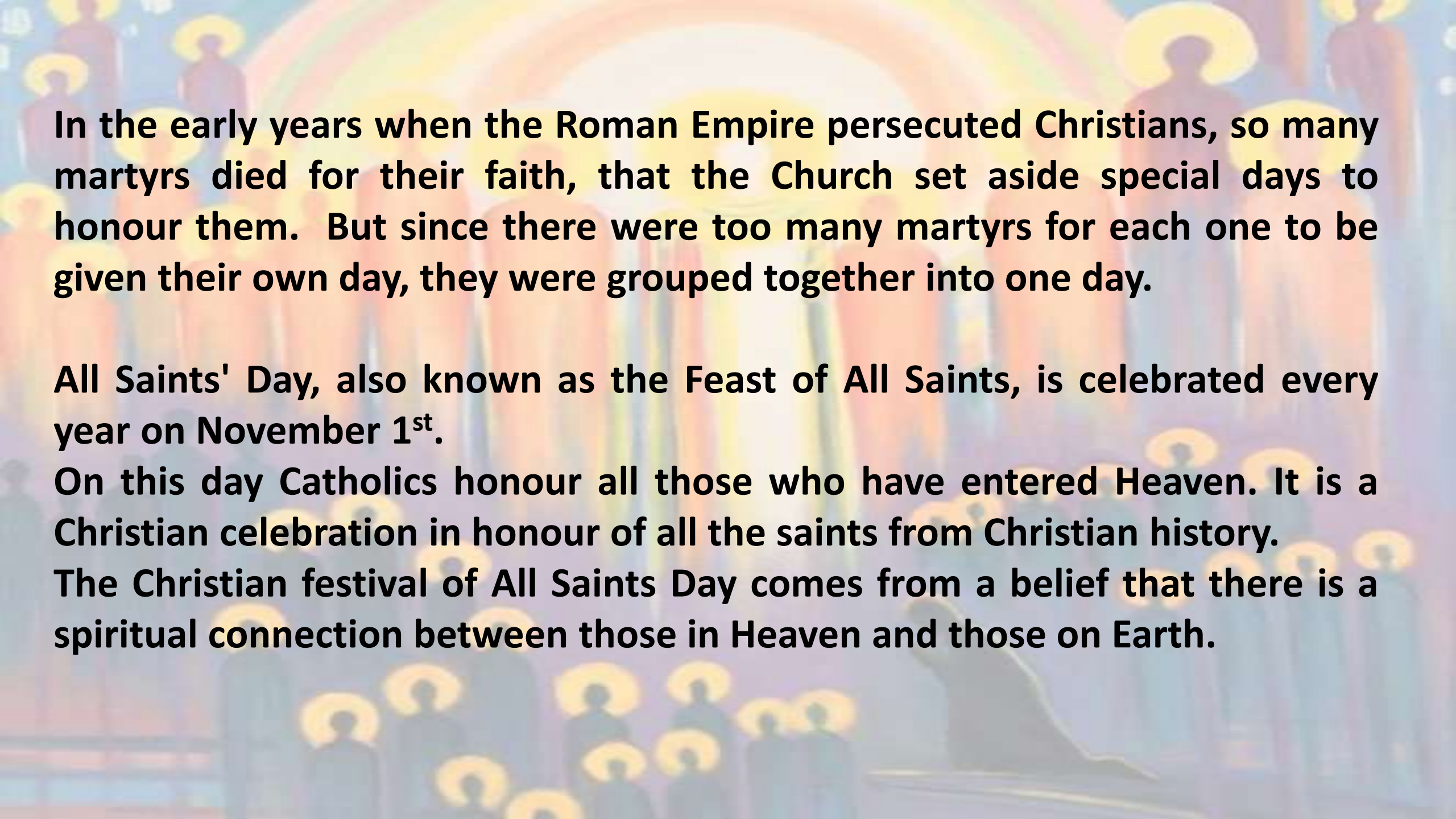


Week beginning 28th October (Monday)

All Saints and All Souls

“The Saints were not superhuman. They were people who loved God in their hearts, and who shared this joy with others”.

Pope Francis

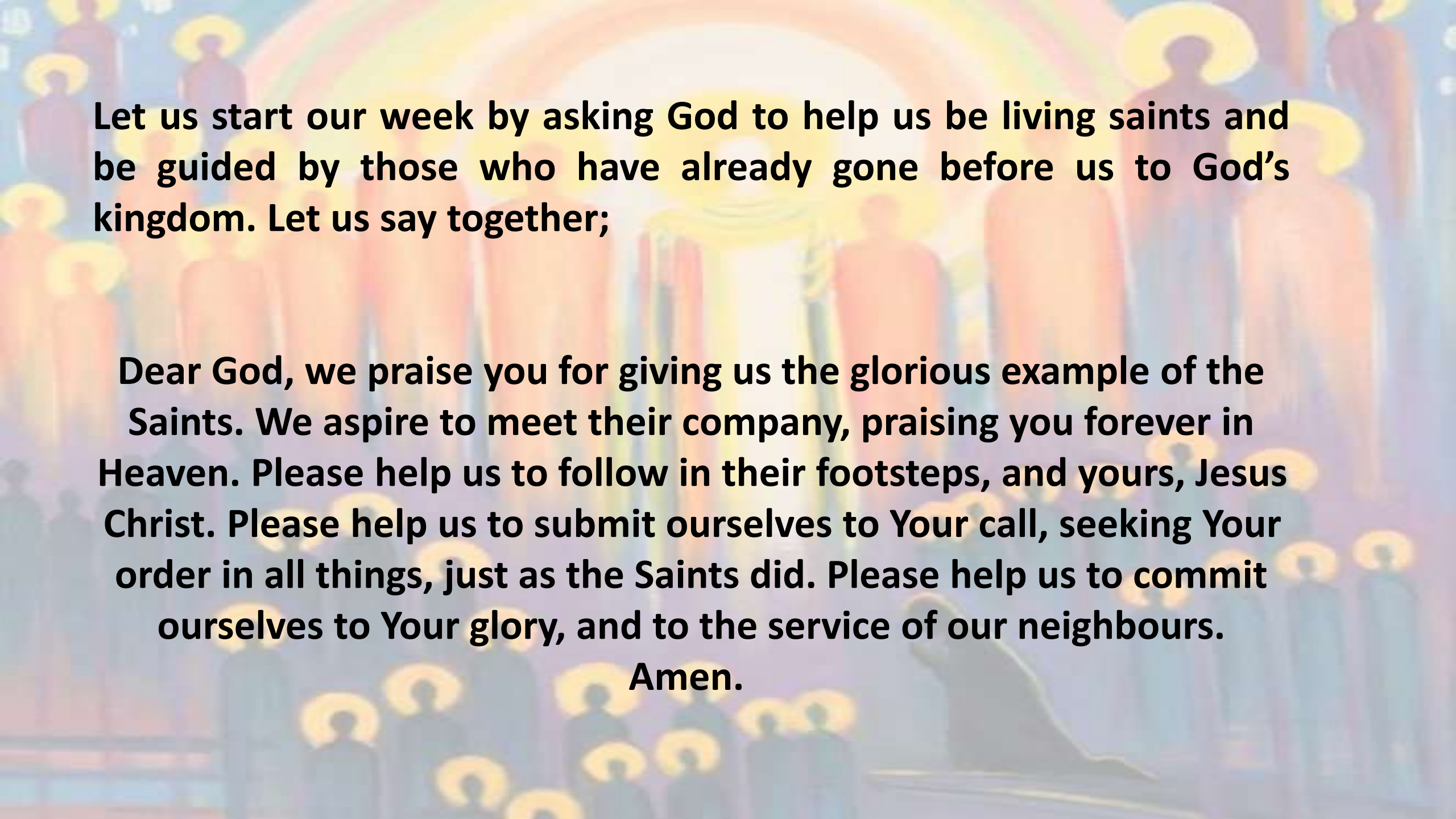
The background of the image features a soft, painterly illustration of numerous saints. Each saint is depicted as a silhouette with a glowing yellow halo, set against a background of warm, blended colors like orange, yellow, and light blue. The figures are arranged in a way that suggests a large, diverse group of holy people.

In the early years when the Roman Empire persecuted Christians, so many martyrs died for their faith, that the Church set aside special days to honour them. But since there were too many martyrs for each one to be given their own day, they were grouped together into one day.

All Saints' Day, also known as the Feast of All Saints, is celebrated every year on November 1st.

On this day Catholics honour all those who have entered Heaven. It is a Christian celebration in honour of all the saints from Christian history.

The Christian festival of All Saints Day comes from a belief that there is a spiritual connection between those in Heaven and those on Earth.

The background features a soft, painterly illustration of a church interior. In the foreground, the silhouettes of people are visible, some with glowing halos, suggesting a congregation or a group of saints. The lighting is warm and ethereal, with a central light source creating a bright glow. The overall style is reminiscent of religious art or stained glass windows.

Let us start our week by asking God to help us be living saints and be guided by those who have already gone before us to God's kingdom. Let us say together;

Dear God, we praise you for giving us the glorious example of the Saints. We aspire to meet their company, praising you forever in Heaven. Please help us to follow in their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help us to submit ourselves to Your call, seeking Your order in all things, just as the Saints did. Please help us to commit ourselves to Your glory, and to the service of our neighbours.

Amen.

Week beginning 28th October (Tuesday)

All Saints and All Souls

“The Saints were not superhuman. They were people who loved God in their hearts, and who shared this joy with others”.

Pope Francis

I believe in the Communion of Saints.....

These words are said by us every Sunday as we recite the creed at Mass. But what is the Communion of Saints? We need to understand this before we can understand the need to pray both for and to the dead, asking for their intercessions.

The Communion of Saints is what makes up the Church; it is US - the living Pilgrims, The Souls in Purgatory - ALL the holy men and women who have died believing in Christ and the SAINTS in Heaven.

Take a minute in silence to reflect on what this means to you and to those you love.



**Let us offer up our reflections to our
Lord by praying:**

**Our Father,
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

Week beginning 28th October (Wednesday)

All Saints and All Souls

“The Saints were not superhuman. They were people who loved God in their hearts, and who shared this joy with others”.

Pope Francis

We learn so much about how to live our lives from the stories of Jesus and Mary, but there are so many other incredible people to learn from, especially saints.

What makes the saints special is that anyone can be one; saints were not just around in Jesus' time, but many are from the 21st century. We can relate them and their stories.

What is also great is that not all saints were perfect. Some of them made huge mistakes but turned their lives to God. We can use them as a guide for us and even ask them to intercede (help lift our prayer) in our prayers to God.

Let us take a moment to think:


How can I be inspired by the Saints today?

Do I have a Saint who I can relate to and could ask for their intercession?

The background features a vibrant rainbow arching across the top. Below it, a large group of stylized human figures, representing saints, are depicted. Each figure has a glowing yellow halo. The figures are rendered in various colors, including shades of purple, blue, and green, and are arranged in a dense, somewhat abstract pattern. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional religious art or stained glass.

Let us Pray;

**Father, All-Powerful and ever-
living God,
today we rejoice in the holy men
and women
of every time and place.
May their prayers bring us your
forgiveness and love
We ask this in the name of Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The background features a stylized illustration of a large group of figures. The upper half shows numerous figures in warm, reddish-orange robes, each with a glowing yellow halo, standing in a line. The lower half shows a similar group of figures in dark, blue-grey robes, also with glowing halos, appearing to be in a state of prayer or reflection. The overall color palette is soft and ethereal, with a light blue and white background.

Week beginning 28th October (Thursday)

All Saints and All Souls

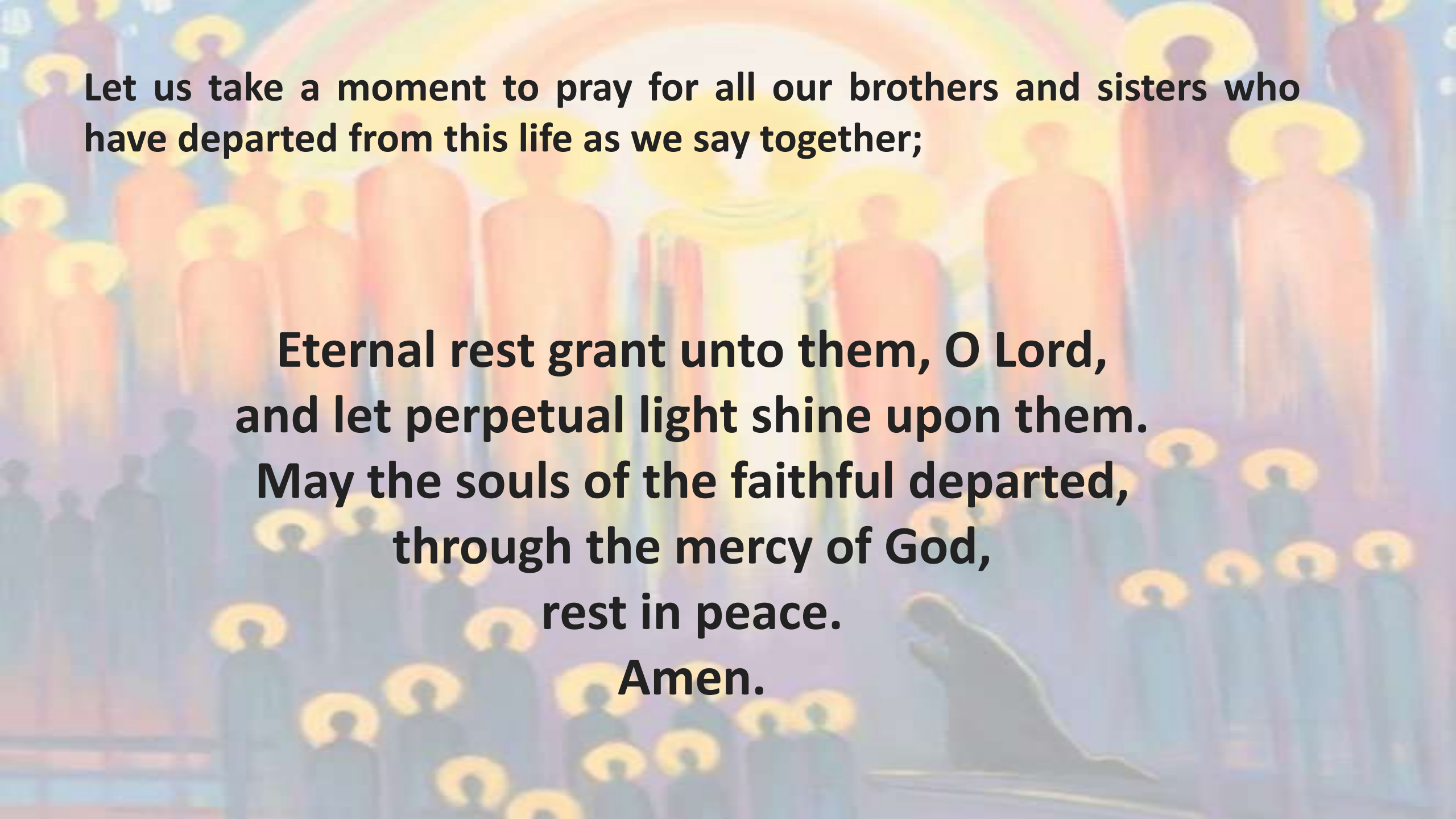
“The Saints were not superhuman. They were people who loved God in their hearts, and who shared this joy with others”.

Pope Francis



In the 10th century, Abbot Odela of the Cluny monastery added the November 2nd as All Souls Day to the Christian calendar to honour not just the martyrs, but all Christians who had died.

The picture you see is by Elizabeth Wang. It is her portrayal of Souls in Purgatory rising to heaven as they are purified.

The background is a soft-focus illustration of a church interior. In the foreground, a group of people is shown in silhouette, kneeling in prayer with their hands raised. Behind them, a large group of people stands in rows, some wearing red robes and others in blue. Many of the figures have a glowing yellow halo around their heads. The scene is lit with a warm, golden light, suggesting a bright window or a large chandelier. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and reverent.

Let us take a moment to pray for all our brothers and sisters who have departed from this life as we say together;

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.**

Amen.

Week beginning 28th October (Friday)

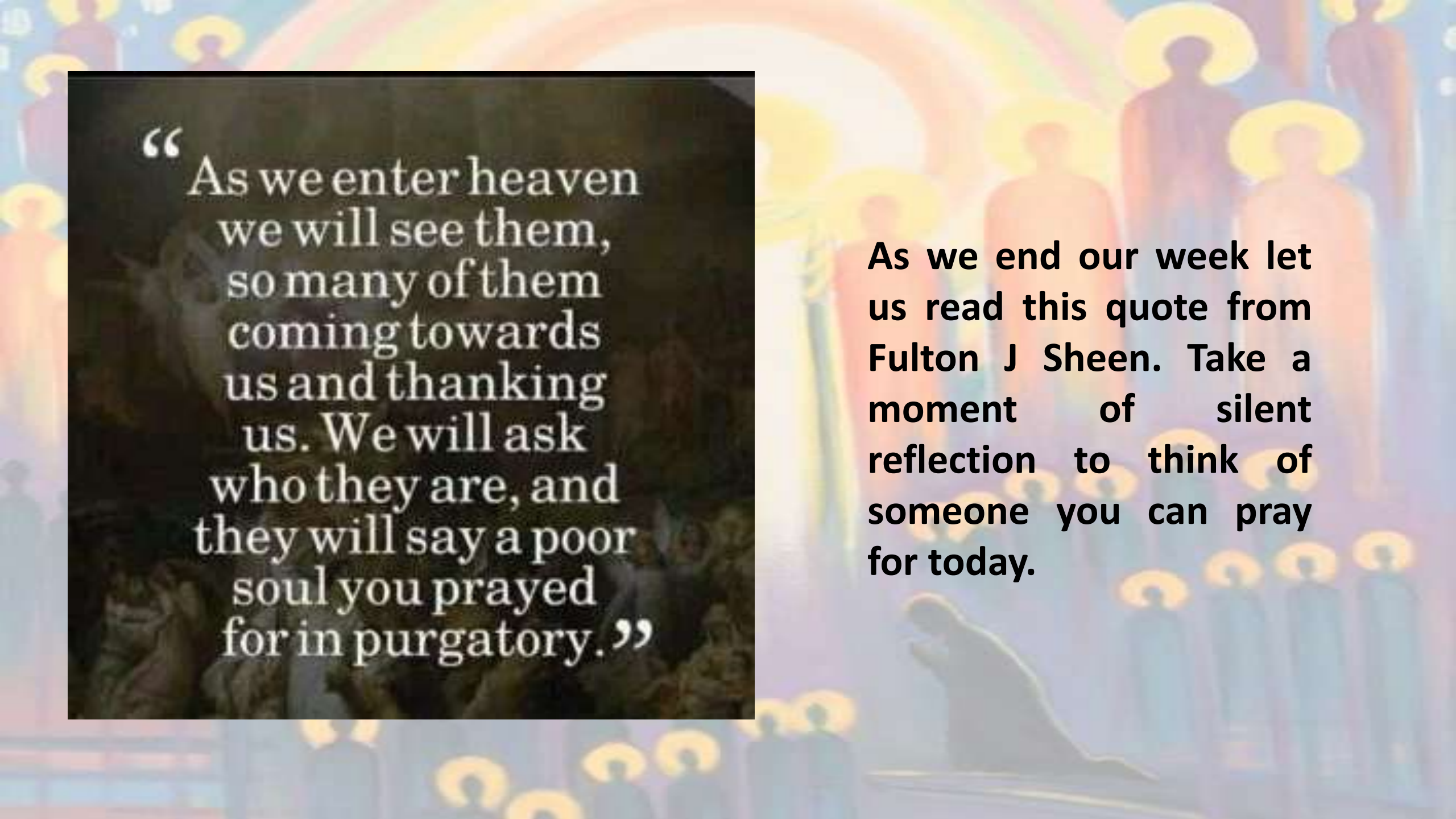
All Saints and All Souls

“The Saints were not superhuman. They were people who loved God in their hearts, and who shared this joy with others”.


Pope Francis



“As we enter heaven we will see them, so many of them coming towards us and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.”



As we end our week let us read this quote from Fulton J Sheen. Take a moment of silent reflection to think of someone you can pray for today.



**Merciful Father,
On this day, we are
called to remember
those who have died,
particularly those who
have died in the past
year, and pray for their
joyful reunion with you,
their loving creator.**

Amen

