

## Living the Word

### 1 John 3:1-3

Right at the start of his letter St John says it is his right to speak, because he has both seen and heard Christ. Here he reminds us that we are privileged to be members of the family of God. God is our Father, because He seeks an intimate and loving relationship with us. It is tragic that so many don't want to know, but we should not be surprised that if the world rejected Christ that it rejects those who walk in His way. But whatever happens we have hope, since this life is only a beginning and the best is yet to come. No words describe the future glory, but we can be confident that we shall recover the image of God within us. We were all made in the image of God, which means that we share some of the qualities of God such as love and compassion. When our lives reflect the image of God then we shall be able to know the direct presence of God. This is why we are called to resist temptation as we look forward in hope.

## Saints and Heroes

### St Martin de Porres - 3rd November

Martin was born in the 16th century in Peru. His father was Spanish and his mother had been a slave. Throughout his life he was ridiculed and bullied for his mixed race. At a young age he started to work for a barber surgeon, cutting hair but also some simple medical procedures; but Martin wanted to serve God and joined the Dominican order, first as a volunteer servant where he did the most menial tasks. His mixed race meant that he was discriminated against, even in the monastery, and was prevented from fully joining the order. But after many years he was allowed to become a lay brother. Martin always cared for the poor and the sick, and as a lay brother he worked in the infirmary where he cared for sick people regardless of their wealth or race.

### From the Fathers

Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you all my being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love.

From, 'A Prayer', by Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop, 1033-1109

## Blessed are you



There is no actual portrait of Jesus, but in the Beatitudes the Evangelist does provide us with an Icon of Our Lord, because Jesus lived every one of the 'blesseds'. On All Saints' Day we remember the many people who, in every age, have lived their lives this way, because they were inspired by the Good News of the Kingdom which Jesus brought. This Kingdom turned everything upside down, because Jesus saw things so differently from the way the world saw them – and still sees them. The world does not value humility, mourning, gentleness, peace, but Jesus lived this way. So Jesus sets an example that the saints throughout the years have followed.

The term 'saints' in the early church was used for all Christians (eg. Acts 9:32) because all were sanctified by the Holy Spirit and participated in the holiness of God. This became a more formalised process called canonisation and the Church continues to declare saints this way. But all Christians are called to be saints and we only know a small number of the many who lived hidden lives in God, as they lived the Beatitudes