

# SAINTS IN THE MAKING

Someone once said that you can tell the difference in a prison between a saint and a sinner. Lock up the sinner in solitary confinement and he or she will go mad because they are all by themselves. Lock up a saint and they will rejoice because at last they are alone with God.

Such an example is probably a little trite, but it points to an important lesson. Being a saint is not about what you do; it's about what you are. Saints are saints not because of great heroism but because of the spirit in which they live out whatever God puts their way.

A person can do great things, save many lives, invent a wonderful vaccine or negotiate the end of a war. But that's not sainthood. Sainthood can be achieved in the isolation of a monk's cell. It's about the quality of our relationship with God.

Sainthood, or sanctity, is the universal Christian vocation. To a degree we may claim, like St Paul's followers, to be saints already, saints in the making. A saint is one who recognises the holiness of God and wants that holiness to shine from every part of their being. So saints are sinners on their way to becoming better. They don't achieve sanctity after death, but before it. And, mercifully, being holy is not the same as being perfect. Lots of saints in heaven must have been hell to live with on earth.

G K Chesterton said that great painters boast about mixing all their colours with brains, but great saints mix all their thoughts with thanks. The first stage to becoming a saint is to recognise just how good God is to us. And the second stage, which lasts all our days, is to live a grateful life.

Today's feast celebrates all those whom God has now taken to himself to give them the fullness of life. Their longings are now fulfilled and now they can see how in the various events of their lives on earth God was there, loving them all the time and calling them to respond to that love. The countless host of holy men and women were, once like us, and even now on earth we enjoy with them a foretaste of what God has prepared for us. The ties of friendship and affection do not unravel with death and we share with them the communion of all the saints.

## SCRIPTURE

How happy are the poor in spirit,  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*(Matthew 5: 3)*

Around your throne the saints, our brothers  
and sisters, sing your praise for ever.  
Their glory fills us with joy,  
and their communion with us in your Church  
gives us inspiration and strength as we hasten  
on our pilgrimage of faith, eager to meet  
them.

*(Roman Preface)*



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All Saints' Sunday

10p

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ends this weekend. Clocks go **back** one hour.

TODAY - ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP Table Sale in the village hall between 10 am and 12 noon. At the last count there were 10 tables taken so it's going to be a good sale. Cake stall and refreshments will also be available. Please support the Group.

ALSO TODAY - SEDLESKOMBE SCOUTS Jumble Sale in the Scout Hut, 2-4 pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits available. Jumble can be left from 12 o'clock onwards.

SEDLSCOMBE PLAYERS meet on **Monday 1 November**, 7.30 pm in the village hall.

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH WALK. The next walk will leave the Village Green at 2.30 pm on **Sunday 7 November**. Anyone is welcome to join in. Dogs under control are welcome too. This will be a short walk to the Great Wood and back and maybe there will be some Autumn colour for us to see.

*Pauline Raymond (Clerk, SPC)*

FRIENDS OF SEDLESKOMBE CHURCH are holding a jumble sale on **6 November** in the village hall at 2 pm. Please start collecting your jumble together - for collection please ring Anthony on 870723. Helpers are wanted please.

NEWS FROM SEDLESKOMBE SCHOOL The wonderful playboat built for the children was officially "launched" on 13 October. This was a super occasion with everyone at school in fancy dress for the day. The boat is the result of a huge amount of work by several people, but especially Jack Howell, a parent. Our sincere thanks go to all concerned.

Please remember the school in your thoughts and prayers next week as we have Ofsted Inspectors in school for 3 days (1-3 November). We have 4 inspectors in each day, studying every aspect of our school, so we all feel a bit anxious. I am so very proud to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school and I hope the inspectors recognise all the good work going on and how well supported we are by our community.

*Marian C Ham*

