

Call to Worship – Feast of the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
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Welcome to Sacred Heart Church and to our celebration of the Eucharist.

We are happy to have with us this weekend Fr. Mike Jones, from St. Patrick and St Anthony Parish in Hartford, who will speak with us about his parish experience of twinning with a parish in Haiti. We welcome Fr. Mike and look forward to hearing his reflections.

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, formerly known as All Souls Day. This feast invites us to remember with love and in prayer all those who have died in Christ. This feast also invites us to reflect on our belief in life after death.

Our readings today offer us a glimpse of this eternal life. The first reading from the Book of Wisdom speaks of the care and concern with which God treats those who have died. “The souls of the just are in the hand of God; they are at peace...the faithful abide with God in love.”

In the gospel reading from John, we hear that all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life and will be raised on the last day; Jesus will not reject anyone for that is the desire of the One who sent him. Our readings reflect a way of hope in the face of death and in the living of our lives right here, right now.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us hold in our hearts all who have died with the hope of rising again...May they rest in the peace of the Risen Christ...And may we live our lives today with hope renewed in the promise of God’s faithful embrace.