

November 2nd: All Souls

Gospel text (Lk 23,33.39-43): There at the place called The Skull he was crucified together with the criminals —one on his right and another on his left. One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him, «So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well!». But the other rebuked him, saying, «Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? (...)». And he said, «Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom». Jesus replied, «Truly, you will be with me today in paradise».

Commemoration of All Souls

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, in order that the white garment received in Baptism may be purified of every speck and every stain, the community of believers offers the Eucharistic Sacrifice and other prayers of suffrage for those whose death has called to pass from time to eternity. Praying for the dead is a noble practice that implies belief in the resurrection of the dead in accordance with what has been revealed to us by Sacred Scripture.

The month of November draws its special spiritual tone from the two days with which it opens: yesterday, the Solemnity of All Saints, and today, the Commemoration of all the faithful departed. The mystery of the Communion of Saints illumines this month and the whole of the last part of the liturgical year in particular directing our meditation to the earthly destiny of man in the light of Christ's Pasch.

—The great family of the Church finds in these days a time of grace, which we live by gathering closely around the Lord and offering His redeeming Sacrifice for the repose of the deceased faithful.