



St Marylebone
Parish Church

The Commemoration of All Souls, Friday 9.30am Low Mass

Love is stronger than death.

It was the love of God, the power of God that raised Christ Jesus from the dead. Thus breaking the power of death and hell. Love is His name and He has trampled down death.

It is because love is stronger than death that we pray for those who have died today. Just because they have died doesn't mean we stop loving them. We can't touch them, or talk with them in the same way anymore. And that is hard, sometimes very very hard. But our love is still love, so it expresses itself in the form of prayer (prayer is always an act of love, after all). In prayer our love for them unites with God's loving will for them as they journey into His nearer presence. Death is a journey just as life is a journey. But the destination of both journeys is the same: Him, our true home.

It is so appropriate that Christians have always prayed for our dead in the context of the Eucharist, because this sacrificial feast IS life triumphing over death. Here Jesus's life is broken and blood poured out from the Cross. The past death made present. Here, at the same time, is the foretaste of the Victory banquet - the bread of heaven, sweeter than honey, the Feast that is eternal life. The eternal life of the future made present. Jesus talks of this feast as a wedding banquet.

So, as at every Eucharist, we stand at the doorway of eternity, with defeated death and eternal life set before us. In that context, on this commemoration of All Souls we pray for those who death has taken but has not won. Because our love is stronger than death; and because His love is most powerful of all. 'See this is our God in whom we have hoped for salvation...we [are right] to exult and rejoice'. (Isaiah 25.9)

So with hope, faith and love we pray for: