

All Saints

All Saints is part of a 3 day celebration starting with All Hallows Eve, followed by All Saints and All Souls. All Saints' Day is the day when the Christian Church remembers all the forgotten, unknown or unrecognised saints who have not been allocated a special feast-day.

The feast really starts the previous evening, the Eve of All Hallows or Hallowe'en (the origins of which can be traced back to the Celtic feast of Samhain, the beginning of winter), when people carried out various activities to frighten away the evil spirits which were thought to be around during the long hours of winter darkness. The Christian belief that good always conquers evil allowed for easy adoption of the ancient feast with the knowledge that Jesus, the Light of the World, defeats all the fears of darkness.

This is followed by All Souls' Day which is when the Church remembers all those who have died. However, it has never been an unhappy occasion, for the main idea has been to celebrate the lives of those who have departed from this world in remembering happy times had with them. Like Halloween, this feast-day has its origins in Celtic beliefs when people lit bonfires and candles to light the souls' way to the afterlife. During the Middle Ages and even later, it became customary for people to offer prayers for the dead in exchange for money or food ('soul cakes'). People often went 'souling', like modern day carol-singing, asking for money or soul cakes as an option.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
*What part of the story did you like and why?
Which pictures did you like or didn't you like and why?
Who helps you and what do they do?*
- 3 Try making Soul cakes with the children. You will find a recipe sheet on iChild.



**All Saints' day reminds
us of all the good
things people have
done to help us.**



These are not special saints that we have learnt about, but ordinary people who have done some special things to help us. Just like Jesus Christ did when he was on earth.



There are many customs celebrated around the world where there are Christian communities.



In Spain and Portugal children go door to door and receive cakes, nuts and pomegranates.



Some children dress up, and many people go to Church.