

# Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 27<sup>th</sup> October)

28<sup>th</sup> October

## Saints Simon & Jude - *Apostles, martyrs*



As with most of the Apostles, we know very little about Simon and Jude. **Simon** was a Galilean and is said by Saint Luke to have been a zealot (Luke 6: 15; Acts 1: 13). Zealots were a party within Judaism who tended towards violent means to achieve their political ends. The traditions about what he did and where he went after the Day of Pentecost are various. He became associated with Jude in the second century. **Jude** is mentioned in the New Testament more often than Simon; additionally, he may be the same person as Thaddeus. Later tradition describes Jude as a zealot, like Saint Simon. A short Epistle in the New Testament claims him as its author. Tradition suggests that he was martyred in Beirut; but his remains were taken to Rome and now rest in the Vatican.

1<sup>st</sup> November

## All Saints' Day

On this day, we celebrate all the saints, who have been part of Christian history. A saint is someone whose Christian discipleship was outstanding in one way or another. Some of those people are declared saints and they have a day in the calendar when we remember their lives. Others are unacknowledged and perhaps unremembered; but were just as virtuous none-the-less. Saintliness is understood by the Church as revealing the Will of God unfolding through the life of a particular person.



2<sup>nd</sup> November



## All Souls' Day

This is the day when we gather to pray for the souls of all who have died. It has been observed that there is something of a permeable boundary between All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. There was a time when people understood our prayers for the dead as snatching their souls from predatory Hell. Nowadays, we gather in peace, confident in God's love and the power of Christ's Sacrifice to save us.