

We honor, today, our glorious Guardian Angels! They are treasures and helpers beyond what we could imagine.

It's fair to say that our Guardian Angels love us with a perfect love. They know us, care for us and desire deeply that we become holy. Their primary purpose is to get us to Heaven and to draw us into the heights of sanctity.

Devotion to the guardian angels has been part of popular piety within the church from earliest times. Such devotion already had a place in Judaism before the time of Jesus. Saint Basil the Great, one of the great theologians of the fourth century, taught that each and every member of the faithful has a guardian angel to protect, guide and guard them through life. There has been a great interest in angels in recent times. The danger is that the angels can come to be seen in isolation, rather than in terms of their relationship to God and to his Son Jesus and to God's people, the church.

In today's first reading, God sends an angel to guide his people and bring them to their destination. The angel is one of the ways that God is present to his people, both in the past and here and now. In the gospel reading, Jesus speaks about the angels of children who stand before the presence of God in heaven, pleading their cause before God. Angels are both close to God's people, as suggested by the first reading, and close to God, as suggested by Jesus in the gospel reading. They relate to God's people as a whole, as suggested by the first reading, but also to each of us individually, as is clear from the gospel reading.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, 'the whole life of the church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels'. It continues, 'from infancy to death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession... Already here on earth the Christian shares by faith in the company of angels and people united in God'. Today's memorial is an opportunity to remind ourselves of these spiritual friends that God has given to us to support us on our shared journey of faith in this life.

Reflect today upon ‘How is my relationship with my guardian angel? Do I listen to him? Do I bid him good day in the morning? Do I tell him: “guard me while I sleep?” Do I speak with him? Do I ask his advice? Is he beside me?’

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.

Amen. Angels of God, pray for me. "Lord Jesus, you are our refuge and strength. May I always know your guiding hand and the help of your angels in protecting me from all that is evil. Give me strength of will and courage to refuse what is evil and to choose what is good." Jesus, I trust in You.