

## What works does the Guild do?

In addition to our prayers, we also build up and maintain the things needed for funerals and Requiem Masses, such as the funeral pall, catafalque, and candlesticks. We do this through our membership dues, stipends offered for enrolling souls to the Chantry List, and other donations. These bring greater dignity to funeral and Requiem liturgies, helping people to grow in faith and trust in the Lord, all for His greater glory.

## What is the Chantry List?

This is a list of departed baptised souls for whom Guild Chantry Masses are offered. It is the greatest gift that we can offer for the Holy Souls of our departed family members, friends, and benefactors.

Members of the Guild may enrol any number of souls onto the Chantry List at any time, provided that those souls were baptised in any of the many Christian denominations that use the Trinitarian formula and baptise with water, either by pouring, immersion, or sprinkling. A small stipend is offered for each of the souls enrolled.

Enrolments are forwarded to:

**Guild Secretary**

Mrs Valerie Lambert

E-mail: [GHSsecretary@protonmail.com](mailto:GHSsecretary@protonmail.com)

## Why should I, and how do I, join the Guild of the Holy Souls?

The Guild of the Holy Souls is easy to join and makes very little demand on your time.

You should join so that you can pray more effectively for your family, friends, and benefactors. As part of the Guild, you multiply your prayers through those of other Guild members, especially through attendance at the Chantry Masses and by enrolling souls on the Chantry List.

To join, or to find out more about the Guild, you can contact the Guild Secretary, speak to Fr Kenyon, or simply cut out the form below and return via the offering bag at the Sunday Solemn Mass.

See our web page at:

[victoriaordinariate.com/holysoulsguild](http://victoriaordinariate.com/holysoulsguild)

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in joining the Guild:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, VICTORIA



# THE GUILD OF THE HOLY SOULS

## Overview

## What is a Guild?

A Guild is an association of people who 'do the same job or have the same interests' (*Cambridge Dictionary*), such as stone masons (not Free Masons), carpenters, etc. Today we find guilds such as Writers' Guilds, the Screen Actors Guild, and many more.

The word 'guild' is an English rendering of a Middle German and Dutch word 'guld', which referred to a gold coin. This also came to mean 'to pay'. Guilds required dues from its members in order to ply their trade in the city, hence the extension to 'guilders' or gold coins for purchasing goods and services.

## What is the Guild of the Holy Souls?

The Guild of the Holy Souls is an association of Catholics with the intention of praying for the Faithful Departed, those souls who, in this life, were validly baptised in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of denomination, these souls are of the Church Universal and are in need of our prayers on their behalf.



## How do we pray for these souls?

At the very minimum, members of the Guild of the Holy Souls pray once per week for the Faithful Departed in Purgatory through their own prayers, the prayers of the Mass, or from a selection of prayers issued in the Guild Manual.

## Why pray for the Faithful Departed?

Many souls, after their life on Earth, are detained in Purgatory for a time of cleansing and refining before being welcomed into Heaven where all is perfectly good and perfectly united to God. Today's secular world denies Purgatory and proclaims that, either death is the end – that there is nothing afterwards;– or that when we die, we all go, or have a reasonable hope of going, to Heaven.

Neither of these views is backed up by Scripture or Tradition. Both of these views disregard Sacred Scripture, in part or totally, and do a grave disservice to us and the souls of the Faithful Departed.

Death occurs when the soul is separated from the body; the soul being our spiritual motivator, the part of us that thinks, laughs, and decides.

In Purgatory, these souls can no longer pray for themselves; only those souls still in the world can do that. However, they *can* beseech other souls to pray for them or to intercede for those who do pray for them. The Holy Souls make up the Suffering Church and are an integral part of the Communion of Saints, just as we, in the Church Militant, are.

One of the Spiritual Acts of Mercy is to pray for the dead. Our baptism enables us to offer sacrifices of prayer for ourselves and for others, including the Faithful Departed. Our prayers can help free the souls in Purgatory so they may enter Heaven. In addition, the souls in Purgatory can reciprocate and offer prayers or beg the intercession of the Saints on our behalf. Together, all members of the Communion of Saints help each other on their journey to the end God wills for us, which is Heaven.

The Guild prays for the souls that are in the Suffering Church, as well as the sick and bereaved, here, in this world. Unbaptised souls are not part of the Church, *per se*, though it does not necessarily mean that they are on their own. God will look after the unbaptised according to His will.

