

Q&A: Does the Anglican Church believe that praying to Saints is OK?

Anonymous asks: *does the anglican church believe rhat praying to saints is okay, because i seem to get rather contradictory answers....*

No we don't. One of our defining formularies is the 39 Articles and Article 22 states:

The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping and Adoration, as well of Images as of Reliques, and also invocation of Saints, is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.

Which pretty much sums it up really. If God is not the object of our prayers, and the agent of our prayers, then we are asserting that we can reach out to God in our own strength, or through the strength of someone else. This undermines the work of Christ and suggests that we do not have absolute need of him – something that goes against the heart of the Christian faith. Christ alone is our mediator.

We do respect the “Saints” as particular exemplars of the faith and count them amongst the “church triumphant” – but we count them as forebears – brothers and sisters in service, not the captains that we follow.