

St. Ida's Blessing

St. Ida, as she became known locally was one of the true saints of Openshaw. It never failed to amaze me, the number of people who turned up at church coffee morning who asked to see Ida, most of whom had been one of the children in the Sunday School, Boys Brigade or Motorcycle Club several decades before. What they found was someone willing to listen to them and give a very practical, down to earth response. Ida was a fiery advocate for justice – you didn't cross Ida. But if you ever needed help, Ida would be there. She showed her love through the giving of chocolates and so when it came to writing her funeral service it seemed natural to hand out chocolate (fair trade of course). And it felt right and proper that St. Ida should have her own blessing. I am sure you have your own local "saints" and could adapt this blessing for your own community.

May the God who created chocolate and laughter,
shared stories and friendships
go with us
May the God who embraced the vulnerable
and healed the broken hearted
go with us
May the God who challenges injustice
and encourages us to live in peace
go with us
And may we live our lives as Ida lived,
celebrating life in all its fullness.

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