

November

A close-up photograph of a hand in a blue sleeve lighting a candle. The hand is holding a lit matchstick over a candle in a glass holder. In the background, many other similar candles in glass holders are lit, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere. The candles are arranged in rows, and the light from the flames is soft and golden.

A MONTH TO REMEMBER OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

In this booklet you will find a Family Prayer Service and a series of prayers that you may wish to use in your own home. It is our sincere hope that this resource will be a support to everyone as they remember and pray for their loved ones at this time.



Remembering

Each November we gather as a Christian Community to remember those who have gone before us and to offer our consolation and support to those among us who have been recently bereaved. In Ireland death is encased by prayer and rituals that for generations have become part of the rich heritage of our faith tradition.

In March 2020 the traditions upon which we drew solace were snatched from us as we sought to keep our communities safe in the midst of a pandemic. There are many families who by necessity had to relinquish the opportunity to be with their loved one in their final moments of this life, to hear the stories and words of sympathy at the wake house and to experience the gathering of the community at a Requiem Mass. Family life is challenged by the death of a loved one, the challenge can feel all the greater when we cannot access support in the usual way. At this time of challenge we offer the light of faith as a support to families in their time of loss.

The grieving process takes time. Each stage of grief has its own demands and the process is unique to each one of us. When we look to the Gospel we see how Jesus was deeply moved and began to weep at the death of a close friend. (Jn 11:33-35) Each of us can understand that there is great anguish felt by those

who have lost a much-loved person. With a sincere and patient process of prayer and interior freedom, peace returns.

“Love is as strong as death” (Song 8:6) We are invited to love those who have departed from us in a new way. Love involves an intuition that can enable us to hear without sounds and to see the unseen. This does not mean imagining our loved ones as they were, but being able to accept them changed as they now are. The risen Jesus, when his friend Mary tried to embrace him, told her not to hold on to him (cf. Jn 20:17), in order to lead her to a different kind of encounter. It consoles us to know that those who die do not completely pass away, and faith assures us that the risen Lord will never abandon us. Scripture tells us that God created us out of love and made us in such a way that our life does not end with death (cf. Wis 3:2-3). And that with Christ, after death, there awaits us “what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Cor 2:9).

*“Although the certainty of death saddens us,
we are consoled by the promise of future immortality.
For the life of those who believe in you, Lord, is not ended but changed”.
(Preface of the Liturgy of the Dead)*

This text is inspired by and adapted from the words of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation ‘Joy of Love’ (When death makes us feel its sting, 253 – 258, Amoris Laetitia, 2016)

Remembering our dearly departed



November is a time marked out by the Church for us to pray especially for our dead. Below, we outline the various ways that you can participate in this time of prayer.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: During November every parish remembers those who have died throughout the year. Take time to write down the names of your deceased relatives and friends and send the names to your parish. The names of all those included will be remembered as the Priests of your Parish offer daily Mass.

DAILY PRAYER THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER: Each day in November the Northern Pastoral Network will share a morning prayer on social media. We ask that you might share in that prayer and hold the intention throughout the day.

ALL SAINTS' DAY - 1ST NOVEMBER: Each diocese in Ireland is dedicating the month of November as a month of Prayer and Remembrance for the Dead and for the Comfort of the Bereaved.

A short Service will take place on Sunday, 1 November at 3:00pm in cathedrals and churches throughout the country. People are invited to participate via webcam and other online media from their homes.

ALL SOULS' DAY - 2ND NOVEMBER: We invite you to mark this day by a moment of silence at 12noon followed by the recitation of the Angelus (see prayers including the Angelus on page 8).

At 6:00pm as the day grows darker and draws to a close we invite you to place a lit candle in your window and recite the Angelus.

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FOLLOW DAILY PRAYER

Facebook & Instagram

@northernpastoralnetwork
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1ST NOVEMBER AT 3:00PM

ONLINE WEBCAM BROADCASTS
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ARCHDIOCESE OF ARMAGH:

armagharchdiocese.org

DIOCESE OF CLOGHER:

clogherdiocese.ie

DIOCESE OF DERRY:

derrydiocese.org

DIOCESE OF DOWN & CONNOR:

downandconnor.org

DIOCESE OF DROMORE:

dromorediocese.org

DIOCESE OF KILMORE:

kilmorediocese.ie

DIOCESE OF RAPHOE:

raphoediocese.ie
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Feast days during November

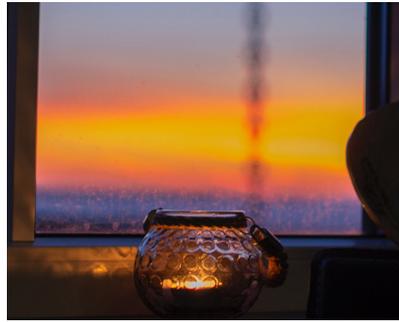


All Saints' Day

1st November

This day is a solemnity in the Catholic Church and we encourage you to participate with your parish in Mass in person or via the Parish Webcam and make a Spiritual Communion.

At 3:00pm join your diocese online for a service of Prayer and Remembrance for the Dead and for the Comfort of the Bereaved.

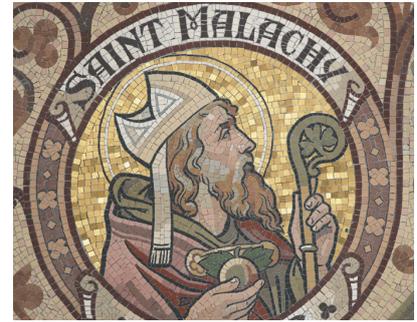


All Souls' Day

2nd November

We invite you to mark this day by a moment of silence at 12noon followed by the recitation of the Angelus.

At 6:00pm as the day grows darker and draws to a close we invite you to place a lit candle in your window and recite the Angelus.



Feast of St Malachy

3rd November

St. Malachy was Archbishop of Armagh and was the first Irish saint canonised by a Pope.

Let us ask for the intercession of St Malachy, that we may grow in the grace of God as our parish grows in the family of God.



All Saints of Ireland

6th November

We invite you to ask for the Intercession of all the Saints of Ireland to protect all of us during this time of pandemic.



Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

21st November

The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the presentation of the Blessed Virgin as a child by her parents in the Temple in Jerusalem.



Feast of Christ the King

22nd November

This final Sunday of the Church Year, the Feast of Christ the King, is the day when we are invited to commemorate His sovereignty over all men, women, children, and indeed the whole Universe.

Family Prayer Service

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES

PREPARATION

Plan a time to gather in your home to pray for your deceased relatives and friends.

CREATE A PRAYER SPACE



A prayer space may include;

- A copy of your November list of the deceased, naming the people you want to pray for or names of the people you wish to pray for written on autumn leaf shapes.
- Photographs or memorial cards.
- A candle and something to light it with.
- A religious symbol such as a cross, an open Bible, a sacred picture or icon, a statue or a rosary beads.
- Dim the lights of the room and quieten distractions to create a prayerful atmosphere.
- If you are gathering as a group you might choose someone to lead the different prayers or to proclaim the readings.
- You might use your phone or tablet and connect with others.
- This is your prayer time, be creative and include additional elements that will bring you and your family solace.

PRAY TOGETHER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the Light of the World'.

As we light this candle,

we ask that your light will shine on all those who have died.

May they be bathed always in the light of your love and grace,

and come to eternal life with you. **Amen**

LIGHT A CANDLE

The candle is now lit.

We call to mind all those who have gone before us.

As we read aloud each of the names of our deceased relatives and friends let us give thanks for their lives in the stillness and quiet of our own hearts.

Family Prayer Service

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES

MUSIC AVAILABLE ONLINE.
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE.



SCAN ME

The names are read aloud and followed by a time of silence or reflection using the suggested music.

The Silence and the Sorrow - Liam Lawton

Christ be beside me - James Kilbane adapted from St. Patrick's Breastplate

The time of silence and reflection is closed by everyone reading together the Alleluia. Then all gathered will be attentive to God present in his Word as a Gospel passage from St John is read;

Alleluia, Alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,
that whoever believes in the Son shall have eternal life,
and that I shall raise him up on the last day.
Alleluia!



THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (14:1-3)

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You trust in God, trust also in me.
In my Father's house there are many places to live in;
otherwise I would have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you to myself,
so that you may be with me where I am.

REFLECTION

You can shed tears that they have gone,
or you can smile because they have lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all they have left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember only that they have gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back.
Or you can do what they would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Family Prayer Service

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES



Conscious that we are all sisters and brothers of one another and of Jesus, together we say:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

May we always recognise the power of love in our lives. May we always remember that we are never alone that we are always connected to others past and present with the eternal rhythm of the God of the universe. **Amen**

May we realise that each of our lives are unique and although we have lost some of our loved ones we still have our own role to play in life today and into the future. **Amen**

May we learn to see ourselves with the same delight, pride and expectations, with which God looks at us at every moment. **Amen**

God, we believe in your tender love for us. Give comfort and strength to those who mourn. Keep us all in your care and renew our lives in a spirit of trust. We ask this in faith, through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen**

Take time to close your prayer by listening to one of the following hymns;

The Cloud's Veil – Liam Lawton

Be not Afraid – John Michael Talbot

Eagle's Wings – John Michael Talbot

MUSIC AVAILABLE ONLINE.
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE.



Prayers

The Angelus

*On the feast of All Souls, Monday, 2nd November
let us pray together at 12noon and 6:00pm*

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women and blessed is
the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. **Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

**that we may be made worthy of the promises
of Christ.**

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace
into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation
of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the
message of an angel, may by His Passion and
Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection,
through the same Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, support us all the day long

O Lord, support us all the day long of this
troubled life, until the shades lengthen and the
evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the
fever of life is over and our work is done; then
Lord, in thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy
rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Children who have lost a loved one

Jesus had a very special love for children. He said,
*"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in
my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me
does not welcome me but the one who sent me."*

Take time to pray for children. Remember in a
special way children who are in any kind of need
at this time and for young children who have lost
a parent, grandparent or friend. Through our
kindness and care may they experience the love
and care of Jesus, their friend. May they always
be aware that He holds each one of them close,
in His loving embrace. **Amen.**

A Prayer for deceased members of the Clergy

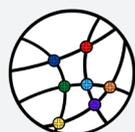
We remember all deceased members of the
clergy. We thank God for their generosity in
responding to His call and for their faithful
witness and service to God's people. In Baptism
they received the light of Christ. We pray they
are now sharing in the fullness of Christ's
resurrection. **Amen.**

Prayer for The Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**



**MORE PRAYERS AVAILABLE ONLINE.
TO VIEW, SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE PHONE.**



Northern Pastoral Network

www.northernpastoral.network

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