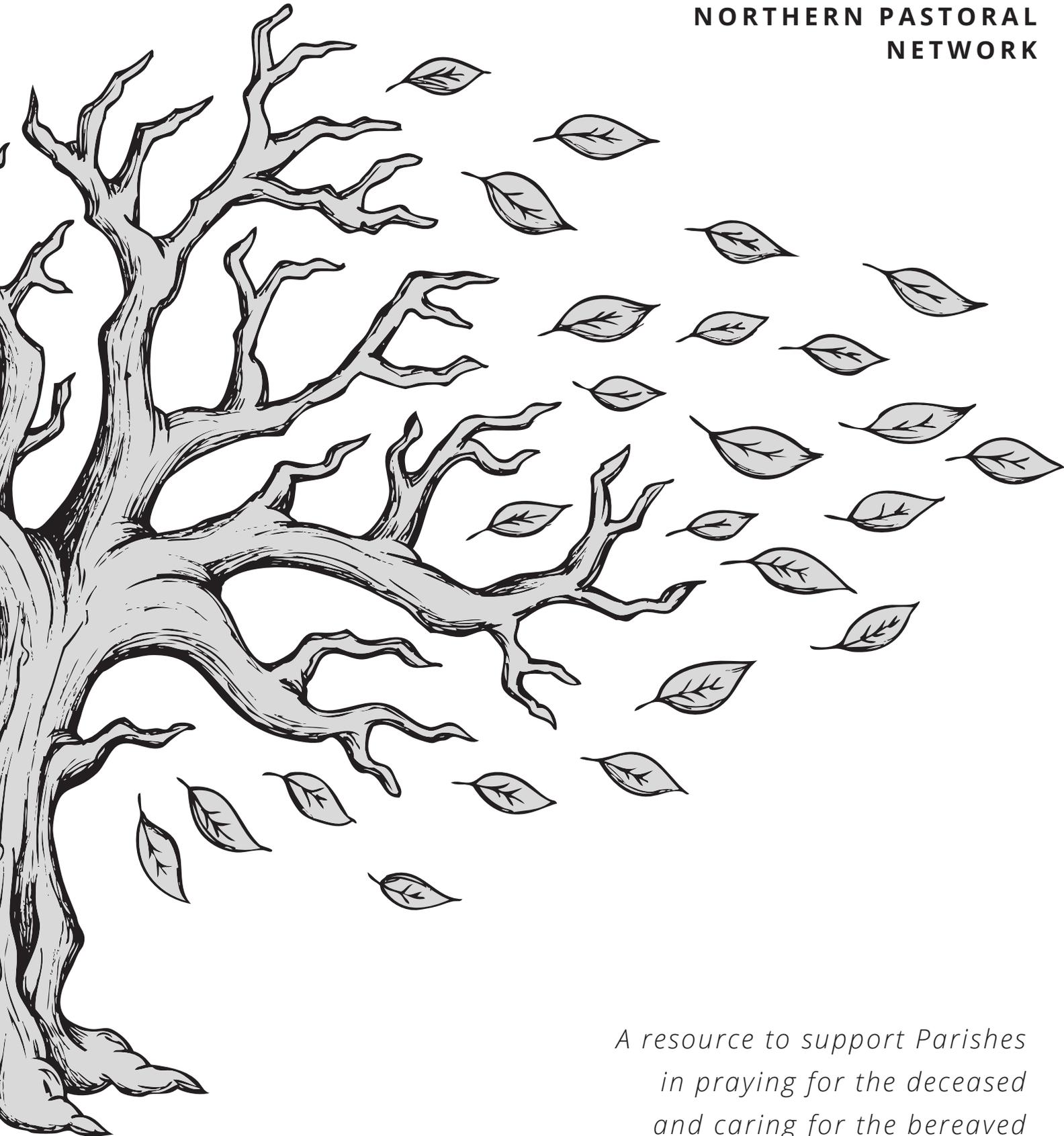


NORTHERN PASTORAL  
NETWORK



*A resource to support Parishes  
in praying for the deceased  
and caring for the bereaved*

# REMEMBERING OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

SCRIPTURE READINGS | LITURGIES | PRAYERS AT THE RESTING PLACE

# NÍ IMITHE UAINN ATÁ SIAD, ACH IMITHE ROMHAINN. THEY ARE NOT GONE FROM US, BUT GONE BEFORE US.

It is hoped that this document containing ideas for prayer services, scripture readings, and reflections will be a source of support to Clergy, Liturgy groups and Parishes as we remember and pray for our loved ones through the month of November.

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A series of prayers and quotes that you may wish to include in Parish Bulletins during the month of November to support your parishioners in their prayer.

*\*Thank you to the Kildare & Leighlin commission for liturgical formation.*

**Service to dedicate  
November as a month of Prayer and Remembrance  
for our dearly departed and bereaved.**

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

**Amen.**

The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

My dear friends, we gather today to pray for our brothers and sisters who have died. We pray that they have passed from death to life in the company of the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life.

We also pray for those who mourn the death of a loved one and whose grieving has been more difficult on account of restrictions. We pray for our healthcare workers and all those who work in essential services especially those who have died as a result of their selfless service during the pandemic.

To begin we will light the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the risen Christ.

The lighted candle reminds us that in our grief,  
and in our darkest moments,  
the risen Christ is among us to bring us light and hope.

*The Paschal Candle is lit.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord of all gentleness, surround us with your care,

And comfort us in our sorrow.

It is our certain faith that your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead.

Grant, through this mystery, that all who have gone to their rest in Christ may share in the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST READING

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8:35,37-39)

Brothers and sisters:

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalm 22

R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me

To revive my drooping spirit. R.

He guides me along the right path, he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff

With these you give me comfort. R.

You have prepared a banquet for me

In the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil.

My cup is overflowing. R.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

All the days of my life.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are those who mourn,

They shall be comforted.

Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should 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 with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place I am going." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **Remembering our Loved Ones by Name.**

"I have called you by your name and you are mine"

Our name is the first gift we are given.

Our name was given to us at our Baptism, our welcome into the family of God.

Today we recall the names of all those who have died and gone before us.

Let us listen to the names and give thanks for their life with us and let us entrust them into the loving care of God who knows each one of us by name.

*The names are slowly read aloud.*

*If COVID restrictions permit it could be fitting to light a memorial candle with a taper from the Paschal Candle and this could be handed to a family member.*

## The first glorious mystery of the Rosary - The Resurrection

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Our Lady, Star of the Sea  
Saint Joseph  
Saint Michael  
Saint John the Baptist  
Saint Peter  
Saint Paul  
Saint Andrew  
Saint Stephen  
Saint Anne  
Saint Teresa  
Saint Catherine  
Saint Patrick  
Saint Brigid  
Saint Columcille  
All holy men and women

Pray for them  
Pray for them

Christ, pardon all their faults  
Christ, remember the good they have done  
Christ, receive them into eternal life  
Christ, comfort all those who mourn

Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Dear friends, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for all God's people. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his.

In baptism, our loved ones received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead them into eternal light. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Our brothers and sisters shared with us in the celebration of the Eucharist and were nourished with the Body of Christ. May they be welcomed with joy to the eternal feast in the heavenly kingdom. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for consolation for all who are grieving. Heal their pain, strengthen their hope and comfort their hearts. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who are anxious, afraid or isolated. May we be attentive to their needs, and may all find courage and hope through the care and support of others. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all those who are impacted by the ongoing pandemic and for the cooperation of all in fighting its transmission. We pray for patience and an end of fear for all of us. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray in gratitude for those who cared for our deceased loved ones and especially for those who accompanied them in their last hours when family members could not be present. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us: Our Father...

## CONCLUDING RITE

Let us pray.

O Lord, we thank you for the gift of our loved ones who have died and whom we are remembering during this month of November. We remember especially all those who have died since we gathered as a Parish Community last November.

We thank you, compassionate God, for walking with us in all the dark moments of our grief and loneliness. Even when we find it hard to see you, we know and trust that you are beside us, and in the resurrection of Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, you give us a reason for living; a reason for hope.

Lord, continue to be a light for us, giving us direction and courage in this difficult time.

May we live our lives treasuring the memories of those special people we have known and loved and may you help us, Lord, to bring light and hope to others. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.

**Amen**

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Amen**

May the peace of God,  
which is beyond all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God  
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Taking time to select readings for use in Prayer Services can be a meaningful way to gain the contribution of families. Allowing Ministers of the Word to read allows families to have the opportunity to hear the Word of God free from any pressure that reading could place upon them. The Gospel passage is best chosen by the Priest or Deacon who will provide the homily.

### OLD TESTAMENT

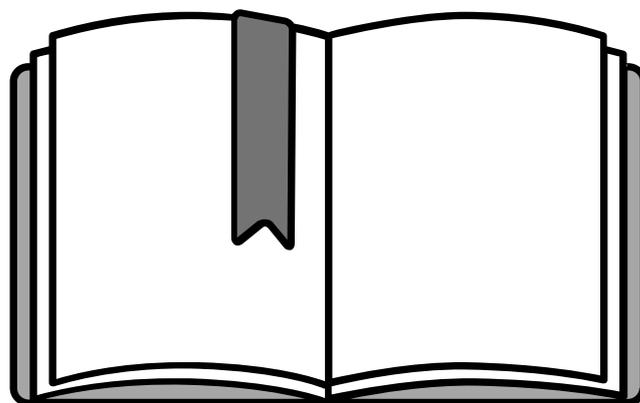
Wisdom 3:1- 9 The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God  
Isaiah 25:6-9 On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare a banquet  
Lamentations 3:17-26 My portion is the Lord and so I will hope in him  
Maccabees 12:43-45 The thought was holy and devout

### PSALM

Psalm 22 The Lord is my Shepherd there is nothing I shall want  
Psalm 26 The Lord is my light and my help  
Psalm 41 My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life  
Psalm 102 The Lord is compassion and love

### NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 5:5-11 Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts  
Romans 6:3-9 We believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him  
1 Corinthians 15:20 - 28 Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep  
Phillipians 3:20-21 Our homeland is in heaven  
1 John 3:1-2 Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children



## ***A Prayer in the Church***

*Whether alone or with family, you may like to pray the following as you visit a church in the month of November to pray for a departed loved one.*

### **The Sign of the Cross**

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

### **Lighting a candle**

As I light this candle I remember those whom I have loved and who have died. I remember especially (Name...).

*Light a candle and then pause to pray for  
and remember your deceased loved ones.*

Jesus you said, I am the light of the world. May your light shine on N. ... and 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.

**God's Consoling Word** After each bible verse pause to let God's word speak to you  
Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."  
Response: ***Your words, O Lord, are my hope and my peace.***

I Corinthians 5:1 "We know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens."

R. ***Your words, O Lord, are my hope and my peace.***

John 11 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

R. ***Your words, O Lord, are my hope and my peace.***

**Decade of the Rosary** THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY, THE RESURRECTION

**Concluding Prayer** Loving God, you are close to those who call on you. Be with me and with all who remember and mourn departed family and friends. Comfort us with your promise of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Blessing**

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

May the love of God and the peace of Christ, bless and console all who mourn and gently wipe away every tear from their eyes. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **A Prayer by the place of rest**

*You may wish to bring flowers and/or holy water for the grave or columbarium you are visiting in keeping with the customs of the resting place.*

### **The Sign of the Cross**

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

### **Prayer**

O Lord of life and hope,

as I stand at this grave I remember with love (Name...). (pause)

Thank You for the gift of them in my life.

I have been truly blessed by their presence,  
their words and actions, and their love.

The pain of their loss is a reminder of the depth of the bond we shared.

Give me the strength and courage to leave them in your care.

Help me, O God, to realize that the distance between us now  
is not so great and that one day, I will be reunited with them in heaven,  
sharing in Your promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Scripture tells us** *God's word of consolation to us today*

*Romans 8:38-39 "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God."*

*Response: **Your words, O Lord, are my hope and my peace.***

*Psalms 116:7-8 "Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you. For you, Lord, have delivered me from death."*

*Response: **Your words, O Lord, are my hope and my peace.***

*Philippians 3:20 "Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come from heaven to save us."*

*Response: **Your words, O Lord, are my hope and my peace.***

### **Decade of the Rosary THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY, THE RESURRECTION**

*Concluding Prayer Lord, with reverence, I leave my prayers and love at this grave and I remember, in faith and hope, the promise of the day of resurrection. Until that day, eternal rest be to (Name) and to all the holy dead. I place this prayer before you through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The Sign of the Cross In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **Prayers for the month of November**

God our Father,  
Your power brings us to birth,  
Your providence guides our lives,  
and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,  
their lives change but do not end.  
I pray in hope for my family,  
relatives and friends,  
and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ,  
Who died and now lives,  
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,  
where all our tears are wiped away.  
Unite us together again in one family,  
to sing Your praise forever and ever.  
Amen.

In your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;  
deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them eternal rest.  
The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,  
but the fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

## **A prayer for those who mourn**

Lord God,  
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.  
Let us find in your Son  
comfort in our sadness,  
certainty in our doubt,  
and courage to live through this hour.  
Make our faith strong  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **A prayer for those who mourn the death of a child**

O Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding,  
listen to the prayers of your faithful people:  
that those weighed down by grief  
at the loss of this little child  
may find reassurance in your infinite goodness.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Healing prayer for those in grief**

God, do not let my feelings overwhelm me.  
During moments of anguish, touch my heart with courage,  
my soul with your compassion, and with your love to comfort me.  
Despite my pain, let me know healing is occurring.  
Let me hear often that you are always with me.  
God, today is different; I am faced with many challenges.  
Help me know I am not powerless and that I am surviving.  
Give me hope for tomorrow.  
Let me believe in myself and allow others to comfort me.

### **Carmelite prayer**

Death is nothing at all... I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.  
Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used.  
Laugh as we always laughed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without effort. Life means all that is ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was, there is absolutely unbroken continuity.  
Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight?  
I am but waiting for you. For an interval, somewhere very near just around the corner.  
All is well. Nothing is past; nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before...only better.  
Infinitely happier and forever...we will all be one together with Christ.

### **Cardinal Newman's prayer**

May the Lord support us all the day long,  
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.  
Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,  
and holy rest, and peace at the last.  
Amen.

## **Speaking to Mary Embracing our Loss**

Mary, you have been there before me.  
You opened your arms, your lap,  
to receive the body of your son.  
His scourged and crucified flesh told you  
of the sufferings he had endured.  
You held him as beloved, wounded child,  
with all the pain a mother's heart could have.

I, too, have known loss in my life.  
Teach me how to embrace this suffering.  
Remind me of your generous lap  
and the broad strength of your shoulders.  
As I receive what is wounded  
may I hold it as lovingly  
as you held your child, Jesus.

Woman of Compassion, Mother of Sorrows,  
I draw inspiration from your journey.  
I, too, can move through the pain of my present situation.  
Your faith and courage lead me to my own.

Joyce Rupp. pg. 149 *Your sorrow is my sorrow. Hope and Strength in Times of Suffering*

## **Embracing Hope**

Loving Gardener of Life,  
turn my time of sorrow  
toward a season of hope.  
I long to return to joy.  
I yearn to be free from sadness.  
May the eyes of my faith  
look beyond my loss  
and see the promise of spring  
that follows every winter.

Never-Ending Source of Hope,  
may the power of the Resurrection  
assure me of future happiness.  
I hold out my downcast spirit to you  
and offer my trusting heart.  
I await the healing I need,  
confident that your grace  
will restore my inner peace.

Joyce Rupp. pg. 174 *Your sorrow is my sorrow. Hope and Strength in Times of Suffering*

## Quotes for Parish Bulletins during the Month of November

### ***Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego***

"Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that frightens you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing: do not let it disturb you. Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more? Let nothing worry you or disturb you."

### ***Blessed Columba Marmion, OSB***

"Abandon yourself blindly into the hands of this Heavenly Father who loves you better and more than you love yourself.

Sufferings are the price and the sign of true divine favours. ...Works and foundations built upon the Cross and upon sufferings are alone lasting.

The sufferings you have endured are for me a sign of the special benediction of the One Who, in His wisdom, chose to found all upon the Cross."

### ***Saint Therese of Lisieux***

"Lord, in your eyes time is as nothing, a day as a thousand years. Thus You can prepare me in a single moment to appear before You."

"It is not Death that will come to fetch me, it is the good God. Death is no phantom, no horrible specter, as presented in pictures. In the catechism it is stated that death is the separation of soul and body, that is all! Well, I am not afraid of a separation which will unite me to the good God forever."

### ***Saint John Chrysostom***

"Let no one fear death: The Saviour's death has set us free. When it held Him chained, He struck it down. When He descended to Hell, He plundered it."

### ***St. Basil the Great***

"As the Lord thought good so it came to pass. Let us adopt those marvelous words. At the hands of the righteous Judge, they who show like good deeds shall receive a like reward....He whom we love is not hidden in the ground; he is received into heaven. Let us wait a little while, and we shall be once more with him. The time of our separation is not long, for in this life we are all like travelers on a journey, hastening on to the same shelter. While one has reached his rest another arrives, another hurries on but one and the same end awaits them all."

### ***St. Bernard of Clairvaux***

"How consoling it is to see a just man die! His death is good, because it ends his miseries; it is better still, because he begins a new life; it is excellent, because it places him in sweet security. From this bed of mourning, whereon he leaves a precious load of virtues, he goes to take possession of the true land of the living, Jesus acknowledges him as His brother and as His friend, for he has died to the world before closing his eyes from its dazzling light. Such is the death of the saints, a death very precious in the sight of God."



**Northern Pastoral Network**

[www.northernpastoral.network](http://www.northernpastoral.network)

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