



November

A MONTH TO REMEMBER OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

A resource for family prayer at home

NORTHERN PASTORAL NETWORK

This booklet contains a Family Prayer Service and a series of prayers that you may wish to use in your own home. We hope this resource will be a support to everyone as they remember and pray for their loved ones.



Pause, Reflect, Remember

Each November affords us a time to pause, reflect and remember all those who have died and gone before us into the loving arms of God. As we continue to move through a global pandemic, consider this time as an opportunity to slow down, face into our own losses and grief and to seek the consolation of God's love.

While much has changed since this time last year, and many people are now able to avail of the rituals that accompany death and burial, we are mindful that not all has changed; many people still face restrictions in visiting sick and dying loved ones; many people still have been unable to be reunited with family and friends living overseas, unable to grieve with them for a loved one lost.

Loss come in many forms; jobs or income; an inability to come together as families, as friends or Church communities; and the searing loss of loved ones through death. November affords us the time to slow down and to acknowledge these losses, for ourselves and for others. It also affords us the opportunity to acknowledge another, powerful fact - Jesus has been with us throughout all our suffering, and continues to journey with us.

Grief and loss deeply affect us all and they do so in different ways from person to person. For some of us, it leaves us in the grip of fear and hopelessness, like the apostles experienced in the days following the death of their beloved

teacher, friend and master. They locked themselves away in this fear and hopelessness. And it was into this turmoil that Jesus appeared, coming through the locked door and bringing with him his peace (John 20:19-20).

And so it is for us. Jesus understands our grief. He understands our fear. He understands our hopelessness. He understands each of us. Indeed, Fr Ron Rolheiser has been moved to write, Jesus assures us too that God's love can go through locked doors and into broken places and free up what's paralysed and help that which can no longer help itself. God is not blocked when we are. God can reach through. God's love, made visible in Jesus present in our lives, can reach through the locked doors of our hearts and our broken places, into our grief, into our losses.

Jesus, in breaking through the locked door to the upper room where the apostles were hiding, and in breaking through into our grief-torn hearts, brings us not only the promise of peace, but the promise that He has conquered death once and for all; death no longer has a hold on us.

Remembering our dearly departed

PRAYER FOR 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.**

DAILY PRAYER ONLINE EACH DAY OF 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.

**Follow Facebook & Instagram
@northernpastoralnetwork**



November is a time marked out by the Church for us to pray especially for our dead.

REMEMBER AT MASS 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 office. The names of all those included will be remembered as the Priests of your Parish offer daily Mass.



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.



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.

Mass of Remembrance for all who have died in the pandemic



Mass of Remembrance at Knock Shrine

14th November

Many thousands of families throughout Ireland have experienced the death of a loved one during the Covid-19 pandemic. All of us can acknowledge the additional distress caused by the restrictions which, over the past nineteen months, limited the number of people who could mourn together and offer the customary supports at this most sensitive time for families. It is of great importance for us to gather as a community of faith to pray for the repose of the souls of our deceased.

On **Sunday, 14 November at 3.00pm**, the Bishops of Ireland will undertake a pilgrimage to Knock Shrine to concelebrate Mass for all those who have died on the island, and for their families, during the pandemic. At the Mass bishops will offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who so selflessly sacrificed so much during the pandemic.

Light a candle at 3:00pm

You are encouraged to take time to light a candle in your home at 3:00pm and to view the Mass of Remembrance at Knock Shrine.

This Mass will be live-streamed on knockshrine.ie and broadcast on the RTÉ News Now digital television channel and online.

**FOLLOW THIS MASS FROM
KNOCK SHRINE AT 3:00PM ON:
KNOCKSHRINE.IE
RTÉ NEWS NOW**

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.



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!

READING

ADAPTATION OF AN OLD HEBREW PRAYER

For each of us life is like a journey.
Birth is the beginning of this journey
and death is not the end but the destination.
It is a journey which takes us from youth to age,
from innocence to awareness, from ignorance to knowledge,
from foolishness to wisdom, from weakness to strength,
from loneliness to friendship, from pain to compassion,
from defeat to victory,
until, looking backward or ahead,
we see that victory does not lie at some point along the way
but in having made the journey stage by stage.
Having met the people we did on their journey
and having loved those dearest to us, has made life most
worthwhile.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 25: 6-9 (BIBLEGATEWAY)

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich
food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine -
the best of meats and the finest of wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;

Family Prayer Service

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES



he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.
In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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.**

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 and for 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 before Bedtime

O my God,

As the evening falls I come to you in prayer.

I thank you for being with me in every moment of
this day, guiding me and protecting me, keeping
me from harm.

On this November night I bring before you in
prayer all those dear to me who have died.

(Name those for whom you wish to pray).

Remember them God in your loving kindness.

May they now rest in your eternal peace. May

all of us who still miss them and grieve for them
find comfort in our belief that we will one day see
them again in the kingdom of heaven.

I remember in my prayer this night all those who
have died and who have no one to pray for them.
For these and for our loved ones I pray: Eternal
rest grant unto them, O Lord, let perpetual light
shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

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 love and mercy may He give us a safe
lodging, a holy rest and peace at last. Amen.

(Blessed Henry Newman)

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Northern Pastoral Network

www.northernpastoral.network

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