



REMEMBERING OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NÍ IMITHE UAINN ATÁ SIAD, ACH IMITHE ROMHAINN.

THEY ARE NOT GONE FROM US, BUT GONE BEFORE US.



This booklet of prayers has been adapted for our Parish for the Month of November based on the work of the Northern Pastoral Network. We encourage you to use the booklet as part of your daily prayer during the Month of November.

You can use the booklet at home or indeed if you wish to bring the booklet with you as you visit any of the Parish Churches or Graveyards. A Plenary Indulgence can be gained for the Holy Souls by:

- Visiting the Cemetery and praying for the dead any or all days between 1st and 8th November.
- Visiting a Church or Oratory on 2nd November and reciting the Our Father and the Creed.

In all cases, one Our Father and one Hail Mary is to be said for the Pope's intentions. The usual conditions of Confessions and Holy Communion within the octave apply.



"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."

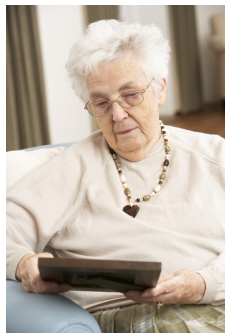
St. Bernard of Clairvaux

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES

Plan a time to gather in your home to pray for your deceased relatives and friends. Creating a prayer space for the Month of November can support you in your prayer.

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 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.



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

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.





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;

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. **Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ**

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.

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 Columba
 Saint Therese of Lisieux
 All holy men and women

Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them
 Pray for them



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

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

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





SCRIPTURE READINGS

Taking time to pray with the living Word of God can provide great comfort as we remember all those who have gone before us. We suggest the following scriptures for you to read during the Month of November.

OLD TESTAMENT

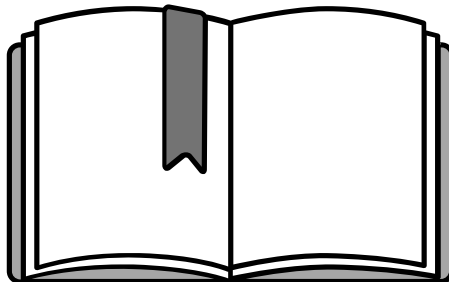
Wisdom 3:1- 9 The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God
Isaiah 25:6-9 On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare a banquet
Lamentations 3:17-26 My portion is the Lord and so I will hope in him
Maccabees 12:43-45 The thought was holy and devout

PSALM

Psalms 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 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)



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.

God's Consoling Word After each bible verse pause to let God's word speak to you
*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 a 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.

On Passing a Cemetery

I bless you, Christ's beloved
waiting here for glory
for you he toiled and suffered
may he give you eternal rest

Ag Dul thar Reilig

Beannaím doibh, a fhíréana Chríost
atá anseo ag feitheamh le haiséirí glórmhar
An Té a d'fhulaing Páis ar bhur son
go dtuga sé suaimhneas síoraí daoibh



Northern Pastoral Network

www.northernpastoral.network

Produced by The Northern Pastoral Network: a group of laity, clergy and religious.

"Centred in Christ, we the Northern Pastoral Network, gather to nurture, support and inspire each other in our ministries. This enables us to share ideas, initiatives and resources to build and enrich our faith communities."

Northern Pastoral Network which is comprised of:

ARCHDIOCESE OF ARMAGH
DIOCESE OF DERRY
DIOCESE OF DROMORE
DIOCESE OF RAPHOE

DIOCESE OF CLOGHER
DIOCESE OF DOWN & CONNOR
DIOCESE OF KILMORE

