

The Lord said, 'I will go with YOU and give you PEACE' (Exodus 33:14)

Ideas for Celebrating November in your Parish

From the earliest days of the Christian religion the Church has honoured with great respect the memory of the dead. The whole month of November is an interesting time of prayer in the Church as it is filled with many important feast days and it includes the days on which we commemorate all the saints and all the faithful departed.

1 November – All Saints Day

All Saints' Day, also known as the Feast or Solemnity of All Saints, is celebrated every year on 1 November. On this day, which is a Holy Day of Obligation, we honour all of the Saints and ask them to pray for us.



2 November – All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day or more formally 'the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed' is a solemn celebration commemorating all of those who have died and is observed on 2 November.



Parishes and the Month of November

November is a time for remembering and praying for our loved ones who have gone before us and whose loss we feel. It is a time when we are particularly conscious of those in our parishes who are grieving and all those families who have lost loved ones in the past year.

We mark this time of year in our parishes with events like the celebration of remembrance as well as commemorating All Saints' and All Souls' Day.

Parishes can create a sacred space within the church. This is usually a suitable place in the sanctuary area which will be left in place for the whole month of November.

Some ideas for the sacred space might include:

- A Remembrance Tree
- A Book of Remembrance
- A Remembrance Candle



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

- The use of Autumn leaves in the sacred space can be effective as they reflect the sense of dying and letting go.
- A basket of leaves bearing the names of all your parishioners that have passed away in the past 12 months.
- A crucifix or cross which symbolises death and resurrection.
- Other winter plants and vegetation, a heather, a winter rose, a vase of branches from a beech tree bearing dead leaves.
- See more ideas on the family sacred space leaflet.

Other Ideas:

Leave some reflections & prayers at the back of the church which people can read in the church or take them home for their own use during the month of November.

Leave the 'November Remembrance Prayer Space Leaflet' at the back of your church and encourage households and especially families to make a prayer space in their home for November.

This resource been inspired by ideas from the Limerick Diocese November Resource 2020 and Derry Diocese Catechetical centre. Images are from Pixabay.



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

November Mass of Remembrance - Order of the Mass and Liturgy Plan

Mass prayers for 'The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, Roman Missal pages 897 to 900.



Opening Hymn: Ag Críost an Síol

The Introductory Rite

Entrance Antiphon

Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring him with him those who have fallen asleep; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be brought to life.

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And with your Spirit.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray,

Lord of all gentleness and consolation, 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, and was buried was raised from the dead. Grant, through this mystery, that all who have gone to their rest in Christ may share in the glory of his resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

Dear friends, one of the greatest signs of love is remembrance. We set this time aside to remember and pray for our brothers and sisters who have died in the past year. We pray that they have passed from death to life in the company of the Risen Christ, the firstborn from the dead, whose love has overcome all things. All over this island in our Churches, we are dedicating this month of November to their memory and we commend them to the love and mercy of God.



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

To begin we will light the Paschal Candle (or a candle) in thanksgiving for the light and love we received in and through our beloved parishioners who have passed away from us this past year. We light this candle and pray a prayer that our ancestors prayed each time they lit a candle:

‘A Shlánaitheoir, go dtuga tú soilse Flaithiúnais dár n-anamacha is na anamacha atá imithe romhainn faoi chomártha an chreideamh’

‘Lord, show the light of Heaven to our souls and the souls of those who are gone before us marked with the sign of faith’. *Light the candle as the prayer is being said.*

The Penitential Rite

The Confiteor

or

Penitential Act

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

The Gloria

Collect

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. One God for ever and ever, Amen.



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

25:6-9

On this mountain, the Lord will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death forever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take his peoples shame his peoples shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; The Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps: 26:1.4.7-9.13-14

℟. The Lord is my light and my help.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? ℟.
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. ℟.
3. O, Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. ℟.
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living. Hope in him,
hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! ℟.

Or Sing Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd' , 'My Shepherd is the Lord'



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

Hope is not deceptive, because the Love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. We were still helpless when at this appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Having died to make us righteous, it is likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark

15:33-39

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachtani?' which means, 'My God, my God why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said 'Listen he is calling Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God'.

When sabbath was over Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Salome, brought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when looked they could see that the stone – which was very big- had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John

14:1-6

Jesus exclaimed, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Living Homily

At this time, you may wish to do a Remembrance Ceremony. During this Ceremony you will call out the names of the dead, those who passed away in your parish, during each of the seasons last year. You can have 4 candles on your altar or sacred space. As each person completes list of the dead for that season - light the candle which represents this season. You will need a narrator and others to read the names and light the 4 candles.

Narrator: Lord God, in this month of November, as the leaves fall and the evenings become longer and nature rests, we take time to remember all our loved ones who have died. This evening (today), we will remember each of our parishioners by name who passed away in the last year in each of the seasons in which they passed. We embrace our seasons as part of the wonder of creation, to remind us of the passing of time, and how we are all moving towards life eternal.



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

At the rising of the sun and at its going down – we remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of Winter – we remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of Spring – we remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of the Summer – we remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of Autumn – we remember them.

As we call out the names of our Loved Ones, we will light a candle for each season to remember the light of each person who passed away.

We now remember the names of those who passed away in Winter. *Read the list of names. Now light the candle from the paschal flame. You may wish to have background music. Say the following:* As we light this candle, which represents the life of Christ in our lives and the passing of the seasons, we ask you to bless our memories of our loved ones and comfort us in our sadness. *Repeat x 4 for spring, summer and autumn.*

Finally, we reflect...

'The Leaves' by Felix Saltern

The leaves were falling from the trees. Two leaves clung on. "It isn't the way it used to be," said one leaf to the other. "No, so many of us have fallen off tonight, we're almost the only two on this branch," answered the other.

"Even when it is warm and the sun shines, a storm or a cloud burst would come sometimes, and many leaves would be torn off, though they were still young. You never know who is going to go next." "The sun seldom shines now," sighed the second leaf. "Soon we will go. Can it be true that we are replaced by others, and then when they have gone by others, more and more?" It is really true," whispered the other leaf. "It makes me feel very sad. Why must we all fall? What happens to us once we have fallen?" "We sink down...what do you think is under us?" "I don't know, some say one thing, and some another, but nobody knows. No one has ever come back to tell us about it." "Which of us will go first?"



"Let's not worry about that now, let's remember how beautiful it was, how wonderful when the sun came out and shone so warmly that we thought we'd burst with life.

Do you remember? "Yes, I remember, but look at me now, I am so yellow and ugly." "No, you are as lovely as the day that you were born."



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

Hours passed, a moist wind blew cold and hostile through the branches. The leaves were torn from their places and spun downwards... winter had come.

Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they Rest In Peace, AMEN

Prayers of the Faithful

Our God is Lord of the living and of the dead. We are all in God's hands. With the trusting of faith then, we present our intentions:

1. Let us pray for our parishioners and all who have died this past year, especially those whom we remember before the Lord. May the tender mercy of our God grant them unending light and peace. Lord hear us.
2. We pray for all who mourn and grieve and live with the pain and ache of separation. May faces of compassion and listening ears transfigure their burden. May the Holy Spirit be their strength and consolation. Lord hear us.
3. We pray for those who have no one to remember them. May the Lord, who never forgets us, gather them to Himself. Lord hear us.
4. We pray for the many who die before their time because of violence, war, hunger and diseases, every day. May the Lord show profound mercy to those who suffer unjustly, and grant us a hunger for to work for a better future. Lord hear us.
5. We pray for the whole Church. May all the baptised know their value in our faith community and know the light of Christ in their lives. Lord hear us.
6. We pray for the gift of creation, the passing of the seasons, and daily encounters we have, which remind us of how we fit into the passing of time and Gods plan for us. We pray that with this knowledge that we may care for the earth in all we do. Lord hear us.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Procession: Suggested Hymn, 'I watch the sunrise'

Preface: Preface for the Dead pp 490-499



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

The Communion Rite

Communion Antiphon

I am the Resurrection, and the Life says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die forever.

Communion Hymns: 'The Clouds Veil' and 'There is a place' Liam Lawton

Communion Reflection - They're in the Sun

They're in the sun, the wind, the rain,
They're in the joy and they're in the pain.
They're in the air you breathe each day,
They're love is near, it's here to stay.
They sing their songs of hope and cheer,
they're free from pain, and free from fear.
You'll see them in the clouds above,
you'll hear them whisper words of love.
You'll be together, when your time is done,
Until then, may you hear their song. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Grant we pray, O Lord, that your departed servants,
For whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament,
May pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Concluding Rites

Final Blessing Solemn Blessing formula pp 560

Final Hymn 'Amazing Grace'



The Lord said. I will go with YOU and give you PEACE (Exodus 33:14)

Alternative Remembrance Hymns and Reflective Music

Reflective Music: Christie Hennessy; Remember me.
 Liam Lawton; There is a place.
 The Furey's and Davey Arthur; Lament

Music: Carey Landry; O Healing Light of Christ
 Jerusalem
 Abide with me
 Be still my Soul
 Jesus Remember me
 Nearer, My God to Thee
 Shalom my Friends

Litany of Remembrance - Alternative Prayer During the Mass

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them. Amen.

