

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

November Remembrance Liturgy 2024

Opening Hymn: Ag Críost an Síol

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 all. And with your Spirit.



Words of Welcome

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.

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 in 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’ *The candle is lit.*

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.



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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 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 hoed 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

Psalm

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

Gospel Reading

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 is 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.

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.



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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.

Remembrance Ceremony

During this Ceremony you may 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.

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*



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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."

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 unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they Rest In Peace, AMEN

Moment of Reflection; Music instrumental or 'The Clouds Veil'



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Intercessions

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.

Our true home is in the Father's house, let us pray to the Father as Jesus taught us..

Our Father...



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Final 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.

Final Prayer & Blessing

May the LORD bless you and protect you, Amen
May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you, Amen
May the LORD show you his favour and give you his Peace, Amen
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Final Hymn 'Amazing Grace'

