

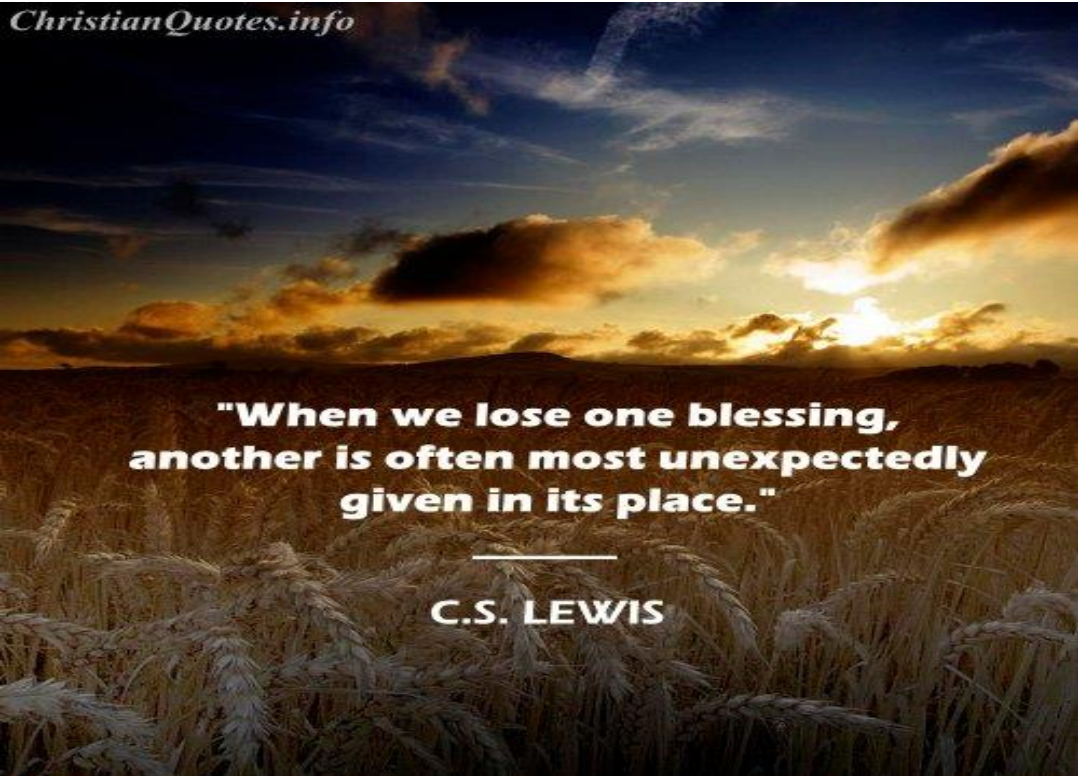


NOVEMBER 2021 BLOG

Taking a tour through the liturgical events of November one cannot but be struck by the emotional affect this month has on so many people in our schools and parishes.

November 1st All Saints Day, also called All Hallows, this day is celebrated in honour of God and all his Saints, known and unknown. It became established as a Church feast in the 7th century when the Pantheon in Rome was consecrated as the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Martyrs. November 1st may have been chosen because it was the day of one of the four great festivals of the pagan nations of the north and it was Church policy to supplant pagan with Christian observances. Today we begin a month of remembrance for all who have died.

November 2nd All Souls' Day. Today we commemorate all those we have known and loved who have died and especially those who have no one to pray for them. Priests since 998 were allowed to say three Masses for the dead on this day and some parishes still do so. All are invited to visit their local cemetery during the first week of November to pray for the Holy Souls.



**"When we lose one blessing,
another is often most unexpectedly
given in its place."**

C.S. LEWIS

November 6th All the Saints of Ireland. In Ireland we have a great devotion to the saints of Ireland. Did you know that only four saints, St Malachy (1094 – 1148), St Laurence O'Toole (1128 – 1180), St Oliver Plunkett (1625 – 1681), and St Charles of Mount Argus (1829 – 1893), have been canonised. All the other Irish Saints were revered before the official papal canonisation process was established.

November 14th St Laurence O'Toole, Abbot of Glendalough and Archbishop of Dublin

Born in 1128 in Castledermot, Co. Kildare his parents had him fostered, according to Irish customs of the time to Donogh O'Connor, King of Offaly. In 1138 he was taken as hostage by Dermot McMorrough, king of Leinster Laurence was sent to be educated in the Abbey of Glendalough and later became a member of the community there. In 1153 he was elected Abbot of Glendalough. The story is told that the day after he was made Abbot he saw a crowd of thin and emaciated people outside the gate of the monastery. It was a time of famine and they were begging for some food stop Laurence used whatever money was in the monastery to buy food to feed the crowd.

Laurence wanted the Irish Church to strengthen its bonds with Rome. He invited the Augustinian Order to help with this and became a member of the Order himself.

He was appointed Archbishop of Dublin in 1162. He was the first native Irishman to become Archbishop of Dublin. As Archbishop, he began a policy of church building and laid the foundation stone for the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity now Christ Church Cathedral. As in Glendalough, he stretched out his hand to the poor and neglected of the city and established care centres for the children abandoned by their parents or orphaned.

He died at the Augustinian Monastery of St Victor at Eu on 14th November 1180. Laurence was canonised in Rome in 1225. He is one of the few Irish Saints to be officially canonised. He is recognised as the Patron of the town of Eu and of the Archdiocese of Dublin.

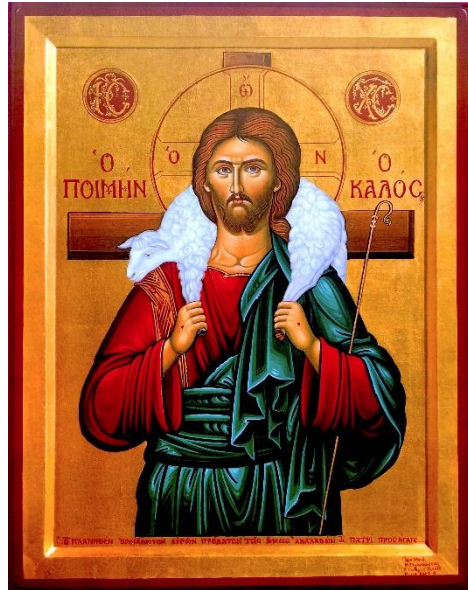
National Day of Remembrance

The Bishops of Ireland will gather in Knock Shrine on November 14th to celebrate Mass for all who have died in Ireland due to the pandemic.

November 21st Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

This is the beginning of the last week in the Churches Liturgical calendar

The question we must ask ourselves is “What does Jesus mean when he speaks of kingship?”. Contrary to our expectations Jesus has no interest in power and control. He came to preach about loving one’s neighbours and being a servant to them. What counts is truth and being faithful to God.



November 21st The Feast of the Presentation of Mary

Joachim and Anna, when they brought their daughter to the Temple to be presented to the Lord could never have imagined what great things lay in store for her. Today's feast is a reminder to us all that at our baptism we too were called to serve the Lord. In a particular way the Presentation Sisters founded by Nano Nagle in Cork in 1775 celebrate their Foundation Day each year on this great feast day.

<https://presentationsisters.org/who-we-are/nano-nagle>

November 27th Feast of the Miraculous Medal

St Catherine Labouré has a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary standing on a globe with rays of light from the gems on Our Lady's hands symbolising the graces she bestows on us. Catherine saw an oval frame with the words "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee." A voice then said to Catherine, "Have a medal struck after this model. Persons who wear it will receive great graces, especially, if they wear it around their neck".



<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day>

November 28th First Sunday of Advent

Advent means “the coming” of something.

Advent is a period lasting FOUR Sundays (not weeks) preparing for the birth of Jesus. The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning and no end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope we have in God, the hope of renewal and eternal life. The four candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays. The four Advent themes are HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, JOY. A fifth candle is sometimes lit in the middle to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



November 30th Feast of St Andrew the Apostle

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day>

OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS



His Holy Father, Pope Francis has asked us to pray for “People who suffer from Depression” this November.

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

<https://popesprayerusa.net>

Mass for the Opening of the School Year will be celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Farrell on Wednesday November 10th at 7p.m. in St Patrick’s Chapel, DCU. Due to COVID 19 attendance is restricted and invitations to schools will follow.

This month we were asked to provide a **Prayer Service**, that could be adapted by schools during November, to remember our loved ones who have died in the past year especially those who experienced Covid 1. Please include the hymns/songs of your choice that best suit your school.



In November We Remember

Today we remember and pray for our Faithful Departed in our special November Liturgy of the Word.

We remember with great love and affection our family members who have died this year and in particular all who have died from Covid 19. There are many families, friends and colleagues who have not been able to grieve their loved ones as we in Ireland are accustomed to. Today is a celebration of the lives of those who have gone home to the Lord and for us a time to reflect on the positive influence the deceased person had on our lives.

Lighting of the Candle

Lord Jesus, you said, "I am the light of the World". (Candle Bearer now lights the candle).

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.

My brothers and sisters, as we enter God's presence open our hearts to his Word, may we comfort one another, finding light in times of darkness and faith in times of doubt.

We will now take a moment to silently remember our loved ones.

Reflection

Death seems so cruel, so purposeless at times.

But it's not. Death is what alerts the rest of us to life,

There is a period when the parts of us that died with the death of those we loved

Rises again in the recollection of past moments and the tears of past tenderness.

This is when we know for certain that every deed we ever do lives on

Somewhere, in someone, who remembers it.

This is when we are made to see death as a prod to life.

Death gives us all the gift of time - our own, and the time of those around us.

It calls us to stop and look at sunflowers, to care for the grasses always,

To embrace the planet forever, to pay attention to our friends, to take comfort in the dark,

To remember that daffodils will unfold again.

It is time to plant spring in our own hearts,

To remember the light that no darkness can take away.

There is only one breath between life and death.

The important thing is to make every breath count.

People return to us after they die – not in body but in essence.

Then we see most clearly who they were.

The central question of life is: What will people see in me then, what essence of my life will remain with those left behind?

The death of someone we know reminds us that we are still alive for a purpose.

Our growing is not over yet; our giving is not finished.

A Month of Memories:

Words of Comfort on the Death of a Loved One.

Procession of Symbols placed around the Candle

There are many people to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their care, support and courage during the past year. In procession today we offer

A Mask: To all who protected us by wearing face coverings we say **thank you Lord.**

A Dustpan and Brush: To all who made sure that every surface we touched, every building we entered and especially every hospital and care home was clean we say **thank you Lord.**

Rosary Beads: To every person who prayed with us and for us and our loved ones we say **thank you Lord.**

First Aid Kit: For Frontline Workers who provided the interventions we needed when distressed we say **thank you Lord.**

A Crucifix: The cross represents our burdens and the pain we bear following the loss of our loved ones, for the gift of faith which comforts us and heals our hearts we say **thank you Lord.**

A Plant: Life is a gift from God, for some it is fleeting, for others decades. To God we say **Thank you for the people who meant so much, to so many, may they now rest in His presence.**

ALL Together

May the strength of God pilot us.

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us.

May the Word of God direct us.

May the love of God give us peace.

May the love of God be always with us today and every day. Amen

Liturgy of the Word from the Gospel of St John 14: 1 – 6

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house.”

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 where 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

Prayer of the Faithful

Let us now remember before the Lord all our loved ones and those who have no one to pray for them.

For those struggling with the many faces of grief; those who are stuck in shock, anger, fear or sorrow. May God's peace and consolation give them the courage to move through their grief.

Lord hear us

We place in God's loving arms all who have died especially those who suffered from Covid 19 that God will bring them to a place of peace and happiness.

Lord hear us

We pause to remember our loved ones--- we give praise and thanks to God for all the joy they have brought to our lives, and we ask that we will continue to draw strength from their goodness

Lord hear us.

We pray for all bereaved families that in these November days the Holy Spirit will comfort them and give them strength

Lord hear us.

We pray together the words our Saviour gave us:

Our Father---

Create an image of a circle – the circle of loved ones

Let us sit in silence for a few minutes, remembering the presence of the Lord who is with us and who understands the loss we feel.

God of life's journeys, we have gathered here today to celebrate the goodness of our departed family and friends and to ask your blessing on them. May the love that is in our hearts be a bond that unites us forever, wherever we may be. May the power of your presence bless this moment.

We Know that God is with us.

As the journey continues may we remember always that our love and appreciation for you is etched on our hearts.

We know that God is with us.

As we meet the poor, the pained, the stranger on our way, may we see in each other the face of Christ

We know that God is with us.

As we walk through the good times and the hard times, may we never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms.

We know that God goes with us.

As we question our decisions and wonder about the fruits of our choices, may the peace of God reign in our hearts.

We know that God goes with us

We entrust into your loving care all who have died this last year. Shelter them, protect them, welcome them as you have promised and may their legacy to us be a source of many enriching and transforming moments.

Amen

Together we pray

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them, and 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.



Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord knowing that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with us always.

Amen.

EMBER TEAMS

Congratulations to the Ember Teams throughout the Diocese who are continuing to light the flame of faith in their fellow students this year. Training and commissioning ceremonies have been taking place throughout October and will continue this month. A special thank you to the teachers who have taken on the role of mentor to these Teams. If your school is interested in introducing the Ember Programme to your school, please get in touch with us here at Education Secretariate.

Catholic Schools Week 2022

This school year Catholic Schools Week will be held from 23rd to 30th January. The theme this year is "Living Life to the Full"

Perhaps you can make an approach to your Parish Team as to how you can celebrate this event in the liturgical life of your Parish. Further information to follow when available.

Days of Remembrance This November

November 20th Universal Children's Day. This year we are asked to come together to reimagine the type of world we want to create. Some of your students may be interested in an art competition based on this year's theme see the link below for information.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day>

November 21st World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

<https://worlddayofremembrance.org/#about>

November 25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us>

Archdiocese of Dublin

See the Archdiocese of Dublin website for information on events, which take place throughout the Diocese each month.

<http://www.dublindiocese.ie>

Publications

The Pastoral Letter "**The Cry of the Earth- The Cry of the Poor**" written by Archbishop Dermot Farrell is available from Veritas. We have been asked to reflect in groups at both school and parish level on the serious issue of Climate change and to then take practical steps to offset the damage we have caused. Maybe this Advent, we can spend some time, as we await Christ's Birth, reflecting on this issue.

Our School is Catholic- So What? written by Mr Mark Hamilton is an exploration of what makes a school Catholic, addressing all the current challenges to Catholic identity facing Ireland's primary and secondary schools. The work delves into what constitutes catholic education and how a school can safeguard its ethos in the face of secular opposition. Further information available at

<https://www.sowhat.ie>



Prayer for the invocation of the Holy Spirit on all gatherings, national, diocesan or parish during this time

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

