



Archdiocese of Dublin
Education Secretariat

Post - Primary Diocesan Advisers R.E. News Blog - November 2023

Dear Chaplain and Teachers,

November is a time for remembering. In November, we celebrate those who have gone before us, both known and unknown, who now form part of God's heavenly kingdom. Their journey is complete and they have achieved greatness.

As teachers, our hope is to help all the students in our care discover their own path to greatness and develop the skills, the vision and the discipline to live their lives fully, generously, humbly, supporting each other and drawing strength from a relationship with God which nurtures and sustains them.

Greatness is different for many people. However those who achieve it have certain qualities in common. We do not know the name of the Roman Centurion who met Jesus and asked him to heal his servant. We do know that he cared for this servant, knew his name, knew that he was ill and suffering. The Centurion was prepared to do anything he could to get him the help that would make him better. One of the qualities of greatness is a concern for the vulnerable.

This Centurion was a leader in charge of one hundred foot soldiers and with an army of servants at his beck and call. He was also a generous man. We are told that he built a temple for the local people - generosity is a hallmark of greatness.

The Centurion has two other outstanding qualities – he is humble even though he is a Roman Officer and a Commander – he acknowledges that he is not worthy to have Jesus enter his house and he knows that Jesus can heal his servant simply by saying the word. His faith in Jesus leads him to accomplish great things.

We want our students to accomplish great things too. Perhaps in this month of November as we reflect on the Saints, we can open a conversation with our students about great people and allow ourselves to be surprised at their response..... most of all let us help them recognise that they too can be great and are, even now shining examples in a world that needs their light.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Sr. Bernadette Carron
Post - Primary Diocesan Adviser
bernadette.carron@dublindiocese.ie

Sr. Concepta Foley
Post - Primary Diocesan Adviser
concepta.foley@dublindiocese.ie

Reflection on Greatness



We can be very sure that the Centurion had tried other remedies without success before he went looking for JESUS. **Luke 7: 1-10**

Failure, especially in the initial stages of any task is common to us all.

What distinguishes great people is that they don't give up, that they seek other solutions and other means to find the success they seek.

*In the reflection below on Tom Brady, shared in the Sunday Message of the 27 Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – **Redemptorist publications**, we see the greatest in the life of some one who refused to give up in the face of rejection.*

Back in 2000, a young Irish-American quarterback dreamed of becoming a professional NFL footballer. At the end of each season, there is what's known as the draft, when the 32 professional NFL teams pick the best young college players to bolster their squad. The team with that season's worst record gets the top pick, followed by the second-worst team, and so on. This process goes on through seven rounds. It's a way of trying to ensure that each team is competitive.

The young quarterback hadn't impressed the scouts in college. He was slow, awkward, he didn't seem to have the X Factor, still he hoped to be an early pick. He wasn't picked in the first round, or the second round, or third, or fourth, or fifth. He feared he was going to be rejected. Finally, in round six, as an afterthought, the New England Patriots chose him as a possible backup quarterback. He was the 199th player selected – near bottom of the pile.

Last January, Tom Brady retired, aged 45. In the 23 years since the Patriots picked him as an afterthought, he had broken every NFL record by a mile – most career wins, most touchdown passes, most completions, most yards gained. And he had won seven Superbowls, more than any individual or team in history, winning four of them after his 37th birthday.

The player nobody wanted had become the greatest ever; the reject selected as the 199th pick had become the GOAT (greatest of all time).

Tom Brady was rejected by the top coaches and scouts. But he didn't let rejection get him down. He trusted in his ability, his potential, and he became his team's cornerstone, its anchor, the key to its years of success. Death will not have the final word. Jesus will be raised from the dead. We must never let rejection or failure get us down. We all have wonderful potential. We just need to see it and use it.

Prayer for the Future

Written by Ken Untener for Cardinal Dearden
(commonly known as "The Prayer for St. Oscar Romero")

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

*No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.*

No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

*This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.*

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

*We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.*

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen

Imaginary Conversation

by **Linda Pastan**

*You tell me to live each day
as if it were my last. This is in the kitchen
where before coffee I complain
of the day ahead - that obstacle race
of minutes and hours,
grocery stores and doctors.*

*But why the last? I ask. Why not
live each day as if it were the first -
all raw astonishment, Eve rubbing
her eyes awake that first morning,
the sun coming up
like an ingénue in the east?*

*You grind the coffee
with the small roar of a mind
trying to clear itself. I set
the table, glance out the window
where dew has baptized every
living surface.*



**This poem reflects Kirsti Nelson's simple but profound saying:
*Life is imperfect. People are imperfect. Love is the perfect response.***

It is true that life has a way of throwing us off balance and we are all prone to making mistakes. But rather than giving up or giving in to frustration, we can choose to respond with an open and compassionate heart. When we do, the path to healing, mutual understanding and new opportunities opens up before our eyes. Love can keep us connected even when we disagree. Love helps us to see that we too are imperfect just like everybody else. Genuine love can inoculate us against bitterness and cynicism; when our life feels like a burden, love can lighten the load and help us to see the possible in the impossible.

The poet, Stuart Kestenbaum, captures this truth beautifully in his poem '**Holding the Light**'.

Meditation kindles the flame of love in our hearts, providing light, hope and direction, helping us to navigate our imperfect world. It helps us to pay attention to what is and to see how ultimately everything is already stitched together.



***A message of encouragement
and thanks to our Ember teams
for 2023 - 2024***

***Never doubt that you have been called by God to be a faith leader at this time
in the life of your school.***

God called you, because he knows that your school needs you and your gifts.

God is with you in everything you do.

During September/October, students from schools throughout the diocese have participated in the residential Ember Faith Leadership Training Programme in Ovoca Manor, Avoca.

The feedback we received from the students was very encouraging and positive.

The following excerpts from their responses highlight the core of their experience.

"The unique faith of the leaders and teachers working at Ovoca Manor really inspired me and pushed me to let my faith grow and be a person of influence in a sense of faith and kindness."

"I was particularly inspired by the commadery and togetherness of all of the lads. I truly felt everyone pulled together, supported each other and took on the responsibility put before us."

"How little judgement there was which let me make the best as a member of Ember."

"Orienteering inspired me to take initiative and work with people from different schools."

"A desire to do something important. I want to make the most of my time in school while it lasts for myself and other people."

"The respect and positivity everyone had for each other."

"Before my nanny died, she used to bring me to church and tell me about my faith, so this makes me feel closer to her."

"I was deeply inspired by the Spirit of God that surrounded me during my time in Ovoca Manor."



"I loved how the training was based around faith while we were not being preached at and that we were all accepted and no one felt excluded".

"I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the meditation and how I felt I managed to stay in the moment despite so any other people around me".

"The isolation of being away from family, friends and home did not bother me during my time in Ovoca and it's way of life is comforting to my soul".

"The whole experience surprised me – the food and accommodation was amazing and I was amazed by how kind everyone was".

"I was surprised I did the leap of faith".

"I was surprised by my own ability to challenge myself in a large social setting and put myself and my ideas forward".

"I was amazed how close I got to my team mates especially the girls I wouldn't usually speak to".



"I found stepping out of my comfort zone in different scenarios a challenge".

"I was challenged by the self-reflections as it made me think about what I need to work on in myself".

"It was easy to compliment the people in my group but much harder to receive".

"I personally am not the biggest fan of meditation. I found it challenging to just sit back, relax and be in the moment with it all".

"The teamwork and consensus aspect challenged me".

"The "Leap of Faith" – pushed me out of my comfort zone and I am proud to say I did it!"

"Speaking up challenged me because although I want to be the type of person that can volunteer to speak up, at times I get very nervous and chicken out".

"Trying to figure who I was as a person and leader".

"I was very tired during the day but just thinking of God motivated me to keep going".



"The Appreciation Activity almost made me sob because it felt nice hearing someone say they hope I can break out of my shell because it shows they want to get to know me".

"Having an organised meeting together without us yelling or leaving anyone out".

"Working with new people made me realise it is ok to be me".

"The DIY Drama made me feel very emotional as the group worked together so well".

"The last night, looking at the stars was a special moment".

"The evening liturgy and the candle holding ceremony touched me and I think it helped my internal faith to grow".

"I really noticed when we were praying in silence gave me time to reflect and get in touch with my inner self".

"How caring all the the other groups were. I'm glad that they welcomed me so easily and didn't leave me out".

"The realisation that I can and will do great things".

"I was deeply touched by the relief of not being the only teen with a relationship with God. It feels good to be one with God. I love Jesus".



Christus Vivit – Pope Francis

"Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, "attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much, whom we adore in the Holy Eucharist and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us." (CV 299) Christus Vivit - Pope Francis

You are the "now" of God

"We cannot just say that young people are the future of our world. They are its present; even now, they are helping to enrich it. Young people are no longer children. They are at a time of life when they begin to assume a number of responsibilities, sharing alongside adults in the growth of the family, society and the Church. Yet the times are changing, leading us to ask: What are today's young people really like? What is going on in their lives?"

"God is Love, Christ saves and He lives!" It is up to young people to live and make these beautiful words come alive, each in their own unique way!"



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

<https://popesprayerusa.net/>

Small Group Reflection

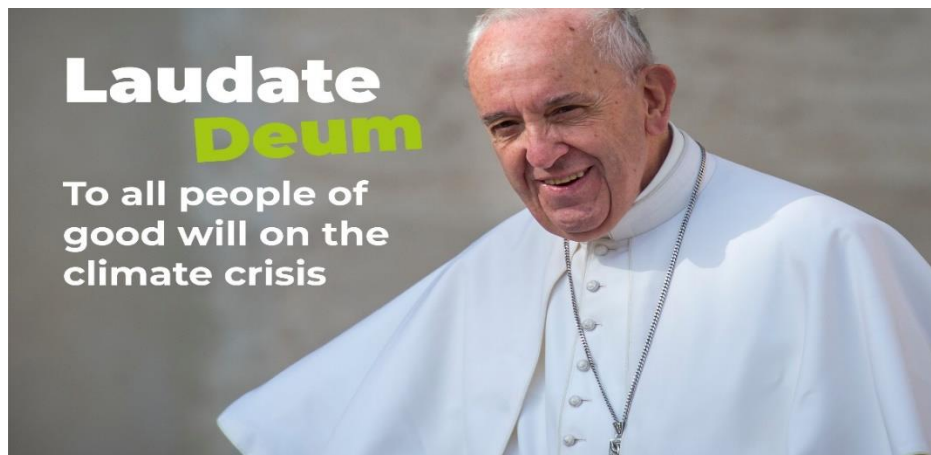
<https://popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions/>

November 2023

For Pope Francis

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION LAUDATE DEUM OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS



Below is a link to A Presentation of this Apostolic Exhortation:

“Laudate Deum” by the Laudato Si Movement. (Commentary on each chapter)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=087P_7HgxsQ (one hour approximately - various speakers)

In the final chapter of this exhortation, Pope Francis points out that caring for the environment and tending to the needs of our common home is not an optional extra for Christians! He says ‘Care for our Earth and all its Life’ is not a niche interest for a few, while everyone else can sit on the side-lines and watch this damaged and broken world reach an irreversible breaking point.

CAFOD have published a useful resource page: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/laudate-deum-explained>



Journeying together as People of God - and in this journeying we listen to one another with respect; we listen to the hopes, dreams, worries, anxieties, and complaints, as we try, under the guidance of the Spirit, to envisage the Church of the future.

Pope Francis, chose a Dominican, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, to set the tone for his Synod on Synodality. Before the participants gathered in the Vatican for the synod, they took time for a three-day retreat led by the Dominican priest, who in a series of talks laid out a spiritual and theological vision for the synod.

Fr. Radcliffe acknowledged the divisions in the church. *"We are gathered here because we are not united in heart and mind," he said. "The vast majority of people who have taken part in the synodal process have been surprised by joy. For many, it is the first time that the Church has invited them to speak of their faith and hope. But some of us are afraid of this journey and of what lies ahead. Some hope that the Church will be dramatically changed, that we shall take radical decisions, for example about the role of women in the Church. Others are afraid of exactly these same changes and fear that they will only lead to division, even schism."*

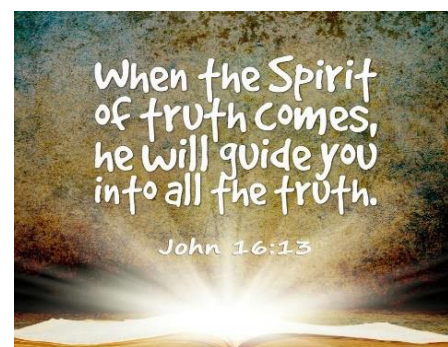
He noted that even the disciples of Jesus misunderstood each other and quarrelled.

"Do not be afraid," he said, quoting St. John. *"Perfect love casts out fear."* At the same time, he urged those at the retreat to *"always be sensitive to the fears of others, especially those with whom we disagree."*

"We may be divided by different hopes," he acknowledged. "But if we listen to the Lord and to each other, seeking to understand his will for the Church and the world, we shall be united in a hope that transcends our disagreements."

"If we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit of truth, we shall doubtless argue. It will sometimes be painful. There will be truths we would rather not face. But we shall be led a little deeper into the mystery of divine love and we shall know such joy that people will be envious of us for being here, and will long to attend the next session of the Synod!"

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP



“I am certain that you also agree on the fact that the greatest urgency, the truest reform is that of making JESUS our passion, our love, our everything.”

Archbishop Domenico Sorrentio

Archbishop Domenico Sorrentio shared the following prayer:

“O Jesus, our love, our all, in the Holy Spirit, with Mary and in Mary, we consecrate ourselves to you. Love and splendour of the Father, you are our joy, our song, our hope, all our good. Grant us to love with your heart, to think with your thoughts, to feel with your feelings, to see with your eyes, to suffer with your cross: may you be the one living in us!”

Fr. Radcliffe noted that the religious orders have something to teach the church about the art of conversation. “St. Benedict teaches us to seek consensus; St. Dominic to love debate, St. Catherine of Siena to delight in conversation, and St. Ignatius of Loyola, the art of discernment. St. Philip Neri, the role of laughter.”

Dublin’s Sister Patricia on joy of synodality, Sister Patricia Murray, a Loreto Sister born in Dublin, is the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Superiors General. At the Synod, she said: ***“Putting Jesus and the Spirit at the centre of our life and listening to the voice of everyone in a religious community to discern where God is calling one at this time, where God is calling the congregation, has been the practice of many congregations. So for me, it is an added joy to see this spread in the universal church, that this is the way we want to live and be together – those words of participation, communion, and mission.”***

Update from Rome, Synod Diary: It’s not too late to take part in the synod.....

Ashley McKinless

“I do remember hearing an announcement about it at the end of Mass once, but at the time, I was having trouble grasping the importance of a “synod on synodality.” Around the office we joked that it was basically a “meeting about meetings.” I really didn’t need another meeting in my life, much less on a weekend.”

“I am here in Rome, and I’m finally starting to get it—and regretting that I didn’t get it earlier. I’ve now spoken with many people about how transformational their participation in the synod has been. One of those people is José Manuel de Urquidi, a voting member with the Latin American delegation, [who we interviewed on “Jesuitcal” this week](#). José helped to lead the “digital synod,” an effort to reach younger people and people alienated from the institutional church who live much of their lives online. I told José that I was embarrassed that I did not take part in the local synod, and he assured me: It’s not too late. **The year between the end of this session and the second session next October, is a time for more reflecting, more listening, more “conversations in the Spirit.”**

The Nigerian theologian Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator, S.J., put it this way:

“The work of the synod will begin when the gatherings here end.”

“So if you are like me and feel like you missed your chance to be a part of the synod, do not despair—it’s not too late. Don’t wait for permission to bring synodal conversations to your parish, school or Facebook feed”.

Pope Francis wants the synod in every parish...

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=804ac68237cc1960JmltdHM9MTY5ODE5MjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTU5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmYW5zaWQ9NTI0Mg&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=pope+francis+wants+the+synod+in+every+parish&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXNulmNvbS9lbi11cy9uZXdlZL3dvcmxkL2ZyYW5jaXNtd2FudHMtdGhlLXN5bm9kLWluLWV2ZXJ5LXBhcmIzaC1oZXJlcy1ob3ctdG8tYnJpbmctaXQtdG8teW91cnMvYXItQUEaUI0V1Y&ntb=1>

Pope Francis wants the people of God to fulfill their responsibility to announce to the world the Good News of the Gospel, the love and mercy of God toward all humanity and indeed all creation. He wants the entire church to become synodal.

Every parish can have its own synodal experience by adapting the synodal process as described in "[Methodology for the working groups](#)," published by the general secretary of the synod.

Praying together is essential to the process.

Before meeting in small groups, each participant is asked to prayerfully prepare his or her own contribution to the question "by entrusting oneself to the Father, conversing in prayer with the Lord Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit."

When the group meets, going around the table, each person has four minutes to speak from his or her own experience and prayer. This is more about sharing experiences than articulating arguments. Jesuit Brother Ian Cribb, who has led many communal discernments, suggests each participant begin by saying, "In my prayer, I ..." The group listens attentively to each participant but does not immediately respond".

The group then pauses for a few minutes of silent prayer and reflection. This reflection is not followed by debate. Nor is it the time to add what you did not get a chance to say the first time around. Rather, "from what others have said, each one shares what has resonated most with him or her or what has aroused the most resistance in him or her, allowing himself or herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit: 'When listening, did my heart burn within me?'" Brother Cribb suggests that as they go around the table the second time, each participant's short intervention begin with, "I heard in the group ..." or "I was moved by" This is followed by another period of silent prayer and reflection.

The group then engages in open "dialogue on the basis of what emerged earlier in order to discern and gather the fruit of the conversation in the Spirit." At this point participants can say what they will. The purpose is not to force agreement but "to recognize intuitions and convergences; to identify discordances, obstacles and new questions; to allow prophetic voices to emerge."

If multiple groups are involved, then each group reports its work to the others in a plenary session. Everyone should feel represented in the report from their group. After listening to all the reports, the groups meet again to reflect on what they have heard. They then distill the fruits of the plenary session and formulate a final report, including proposals for next steps.

Only a Few Things Matter

Today we gather around the listening table
and I notice how when one woman speaks
of grief, her notes ring in me as if
I were a cave made for echoing with the song
she sings, and another's words strike me
as if I'm a bell made to be rung by her voice.

And when one woman says, "I'm a digger,"
I want to shout, "I'm a digger, too,"
but I don't. I listen. I listen and notice how
the act of listening is its own kind of digging
in which we are hollowed out and filled
at the same time.

Around the listening table,
I let the spade of joy and the shovel of ache
the spoon of awe do their good digging work,
though sometimes it hurts as they
excavate in me what is real, and sometimes
it thrills me to hear another speak,
filling me with what I, too, know is true.

Rosemerry Wahtola

"The poet captures the nature of resonance very well in her poem which is set in the context of a listening table. While we may often think of gatherings as opportunities for discussion, for persuasion and decision-making, Rosemerry names this as a gathering around a "*listening table*". How much more productive might our gatherings be if that is how we approached them – as an opportunity to listen, to listen attentively to what the spirit is drawing from the group we are part of. It is not easy to listen attentively. We are so easily distracted by our own thoughts, even our supposedly helpful thoughts as we try to discern what practical advice we might offer a person in distress or how a challenge might be addressed, that we don't listen with full attention."

The poet and philosopher, Mark Nepo, observes that:

'To listen is to lean in, softly, with a willingness to be changed by what we hear.'

Excerpt from Online Christian Meditation – Noel Keating

Song for a Synodal Gathering

*Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
we walk together on the Way.*

*Love is our calling, as we journey,
may we continue from this day.*

*All of God's people filled with the Spirit,
walk with each other as we pray.*

*Mindful that Jesus calls us to reach out,
Sharing with others from today.*

*We are his Body, called to serve others,
We are his people, journeying all.*

*May we listen to the Spirit,
and together answer His call.*

(To the tune of Christ Be Beside Me)

Newsletters



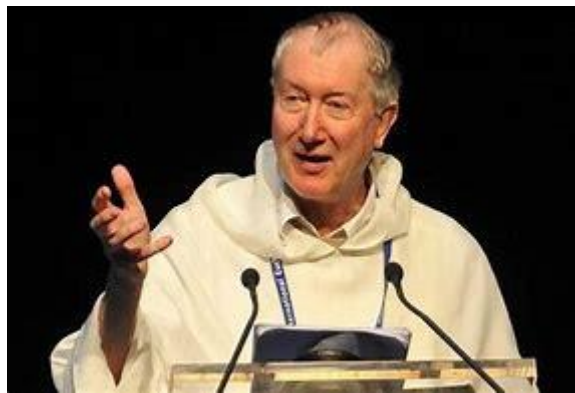
dublindiocese.ie/synod2023

Synod Diary by Gerard O'Connell

In the last of his profoundly spiritual and inspiring talks to the synod on Oct. 23, Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., offered this warning to the synod's participants as they prepared to return home:

“The global culture of our time is often polarized, aggressive and dismissive of other people's views. The cry is: Whose side are you on?”

When we go home, people will ask, ‘Did you fight for our side? Did you oppose those unenlightened other people?’”



He advised them:

We shall need to be profoundly prayerful to resist the temptation to succumb to this party-political way of thinking. That would be to fall back into the sterile, barren language of much of our society. It is not the synodal way.

The synodal process is organic and ecological rather than competitive. It is more like planting a tree than winning a battle, and as such will be hard for many to understand, sometimes including ourselves!

But if we keep our minds and hearts open to the people whom we have met here, vulnerable to their hopes and fears, their words will germinate in our lives, and ours in theirs. There will be an abundant harvest, a fuller truth. Then the church will be renewed.

It will indeed be a challenge for the 365 members of the synod to sow the seeds of synodality in their local church communities when they return home.

It is a tall order, but, as Pope Francis emphasized, “the Spirit is the protagonist” at the synod, and what is required is that all believers “listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church” in the 21st century.

November Calendar



What is All Saints Day?

All Saints Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1.

It is a day dedicated to all those who have entered heaven, including the saints who are recognized by the church and those who are not.

Saint Resources from **LOYOLA PRESS** – www.loyolapress.com

Saints Activities and Lesson Plans, Saints Reflections and Saint Stories for All Ages

Young Saints - **Christus Vivit** - Pope Francis

49. The heart of the Church is also full of young saints who devoted their lives to Christ, many of them even to dying a martyr's death. They were precious reflections of the young Christ; their radiant witness encourages us and awakens us from our lethargy. The Synod pointed out that "many young saints have allowed the features of youth to shine forth in all their beauty, and in their day they have been real prophets of change. Their example shows what the young are capable of, when they open themselves up to encounter Christ".

50. "Through the holiness of the young, the Church can renew her spiritual ardour and her apostolic vigour. The balm of holiness generated by the good lives of so many young people can heal the wounds of the Church and of the world, bringing us back to that fullness of love to which we have always been called: young saints inspire us to return to our first love (cf. *Rev 2:4*)".^[21] Some saints never reached adulthood, yet they showed us that there is another way to spend our youth. Let us recall at least some of them who, each in his or her own way, and at different periods of history, lived lives of holiness."

Blessed Carlo Acutis

Patron of Youth and the Internet



Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in London to Italian parents, but grew up in Milan where his family relocated when he was just a child. From a young age, he displayed an extraordinary devotion to his Catholic faith. He attended Mass and Adoration daily, regularly received the sacraments as well as developing a deep love of the Eucharist. He made a point of praying in front of the tabernacle before or after every Mass. After school hours, he volunteered his time with the homeless and destitute. He spent a few years creating a website dedicated to cataloguing every reported Eucharistic miracle around the world.

On October 10, 2020 he was beatified by Pope Francis. The Church said that his beatification highlighted “the significance of his witness, particularly for the younger generation demonstrating that holiness is attainable even in our modern world.”

Carlo died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15 shortly after being diagnosed.

“Always be united with Jesus, that is my life’s programme.” Blessed Carlo Acutis

Who is Blessed Carlo Acutis: Biography – Official Foundation

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=8616c6244803392aJmItdHM9MTY5NzU4NzlwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTY5OTtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTlONQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=carlo+acutis+website+in+english&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZm9uZGF6aW9uZWVhcnxvYWN1dGlzLm9yZy9lbi90aGUtYmxc3NlZC8&ntb=1or>

Videos of Carlo Acutis Website For Teenagers in English

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=1f36bb345a1133caJmItdHM9MTY5NzU4NzlwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTY5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTE1MA&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&u=a1L3ZpZGVvcy9zZWVhcnxvYWN1dGlzLm9yZy9lbi90aGUtYmxc3NlZC8&ntb=1or>



**November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.
All Souls Day, November 2nd is a day of remembrance dedicated to those who have died.**

The day is primarily celebrated in the Catholic Church, but it is also celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few other denominations of Christianity.

"There is a mysterious solidarity in Christ between those who have already passed to the other life and we pilgrims in this one. Our deceased loved ones continue to take care of us from Heaven.

They pray for us, and we pray for them and we pray with them." **Pope Francis**

The dead are not dead but alive in the hearts of those who loved them.

"Níl na mairbh marbh ach beo i gcroí na n-éan duine."

We remember our deceased who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith.
May these and all who sleep in Christ find His presence, light, happiness and peace.

Ní imithe uainn atá siad, ach imithe romhainn.



READY OR NOT, SOME DAY OUR EARTHLY LIVES WILL ALL COME TO AN END.

- *There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.*
- *All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten will pass to someone else.*
 - *Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.*
 - *It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.*
- *Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear.*
 - *So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to do lists will expire.*
 - *The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.*
- *It doesn't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.*
 - *It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.*
 - *Even your gender and skin colour will be irrelevant.*

SO WHAT WILL MATTER? HOW WILL THE VALUE OF YOUR DAYS BE MEASURED?

- *What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave.*
 - *What will matter is not your success but your significance.*
 - *What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.*
 - *What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.*
 - *What will matter is not your competence but your character.*
- *What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.*
 - *What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live in those who loved you.*
 - *What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.*
- *Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.*
 - *Choose to live a life that matters. Choose a life of kindness. Choose a life that follows the Lord.*

Michael Josephson

November Reflection

You can shed tears that they have gone, or you can smile because they lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they have left.

Your heart can be empty because you cannot see them, or you can be full of the love you shared with them.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember them and only that they have gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,
or you can do what they would have wanted:*

Smile, open your eyes, love, pray and go on.

ON PASSING A GRAVEYARD

*May perpetual light shine upon
The faces of all who rest here.
May the lives they lived
Unfold further in spirit.
May all their past travails
Find ease in the kindness of clay.
May all their past travails
Find ease in the kindness of clay.
May the remembering earth
Mind every memory they brought.
May the rains from the heavens
Fall gently upon them.
May the wild flowers and grasses
Whisper their wishes into light.
May we reverence the village of presence
In the stillness of this silent field.*



To Bless This Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings - John O'Donohue

PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND BELLS TO BE RUNG ON



Pope Francis (pictured during his visit to Ireland in August 2018) has called for Europe to be more creative in the way that we respond to wars around the world. The Holy Father has said that there is “a need for more prayer, for conversion, and an end to the conflict.”

On Saturday 11 November, at 11.00 a.m., coinciding with the end of the First World War, cathedrals and parish churches are invited to ring church bells as a call for peace and an end to war.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

*We pray to You O Lord, through the intercession of Your Most Pure Mother Mary,
Give to the people suffering war and conflict the gift of peace, for you have given us
all else:*

A peace that all of us share in the passion and wisdom that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Sabbath, and the peace that knows no evening.

*Stir up in the hearts and the minds of our leaders and politicians a longing for
peace,*

That brings real joy and our hearts will be restless no more.

Amen

Irish archbishops urge cessation of violence in the Holy Land, respect of civilian populations and release of hostages.



Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA of Cashel and Emlly, and Archbishop Francis Duffy of Tuam, have published a joint statement in response to the large scale killings, injuries and violence that have occurred in Israel and Gaza since 7 October.

The Archbishops said, “over the past days we have watched with shock and dismay the events that have unfolded in the land of the birth of Our Lord. The ongoing situation has caused great suffering to many innocent people on all sides in the present conflict. The loss of innocent lives together with the large numbers of innocent people injured in the Holy Land is a great affront to a lasting peace. Unfortunately, the present crisis does not augur well for the immediate future as many more may endure destruction and death.

“We re-echo the words of Pope Francis: ‘May the attacks and weaponry cease. Please! And let it be understood that terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions, but only to the death and suffering of so many innocent people.’”

The four senior prelates concluded, “we, who love the Holy Land as the fifth Gospel, urge all people of goodwill to work towards a cessation of violence, ensuring that civilian populations be respected and that all hostages are released without harm. We join with Pope Francis, and the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa, in calling for prayers for peace, and praying for the families and individuals suffering through these events at this time: ‘Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace; teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: ‘Never again war!’ Amen.’”

Prayer for Gaza and Israel

**Heavenly Father, we pray for the many people whose lives
have been torn apart by conflict
in Gaza and Israel.**

**We come to you as the source of all comfort
asking that you send your Spirit
to surround and uphold all those who are grieving,
all those who are suffering, all those in fear,
and all those in captivity.
May the arms of comfort and compassion,
overwhelm the arms of war.**

**We come to you as the source of all peace
asking that you send your Spirit to
strengthen and uphold those pursuing
an end to violence embolden those
with a heart for truth and justice,
and amplify voices of wisdom and restraint.
May the light of peace and reconciliation,
overwhelm the darkness of destruction.**

**We come to you as the source of all hope, asking that you
send you Spirit to bring about a future,
where neighbours embrace despite their differences,
where love conquers hate, humility surpasses pride,
and where forgiveness is treasured
as a fundamental strength.**

**May our hope of a day soon be realised when weapons of conflict will
be transformed into tools of reconciliation,
so there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,
for the old order of things will have passed away.**

Amen

Calling Teachers, Senior Cycle Students, Parents and Friends

Please spread the word about the Oireachtas Essay Competition

Who is this Competition for?

The Oireachtas Essay Competition / Aiste an Oireachtais is for Senior Cycle (5th Year and 6th Year) and AS/A level students on the Island of Ireland. We are looking for essays in English or Irish (max 1,000 words) on the theme:

Parliamentary Politics Matters for Peace
An Pharlaimint agus an tSíocháin

We have €6,000 in prize money to give away.

Why are we doing this?

Many people wonder about the quality of our politics and the future of democracy itself. We hope this Competition will stimulate interest in the political process and help each student to find their role in our democratic system. As this year is the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, and with major conflicts worldwide dominating the headlines, we are asking students to reflect on and discuss the role of politics in peace-building and peace-keeping.

Who is organising the Competition?

Senator Rónán Mullen has devised the Competition with the support of a Competition Advisory Committee including academic and teaching professionals across the Island of Ireland, and with assistance from the Oireachtas Education Unit. We appreciate the great support of An Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Fearghaíl, and also the backing of books and stationery retailers Eason (Principal Sponsor) and educational publishers CJ Fallon and Folens (Associate Sponsors).

How can people take part?

Senior cycle students (5th Year and 6th Year) are invited to log on to the Competition website, read the rules and register **register by 10 November 2023**. Students need a Teacher in their school to support their registration.

The closing date for submitting essays is 24 November 2023.

World Kindness Day, November 13

There is a kindness that dwells deep down in things; it presides everywhere, often in the places we least expect. The world can be harsh and negative, but if we remain generous and patient, kindness inevitably reveals itself. Something deep in the human soul seems to depend on the presence of kindness; something instinctive in us expects it, and once we sense it we are able to trust and open ourselves.

-John O'Donohue

13TH NOVEMBER IS WORLD KINDNESS DAY, WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPREAD KINDNESS.

Studies show when we observe kindness in action, we are more likely to carry out an act of kindness, too.

The Science of Kindness – You Tube

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=55895420c9bff86cJmldHM9MTY5NzkzMjgwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTU5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTlwMQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=You+Tube+on+Kindness&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHVlZS5jb20vd2F0Y2g_dj1POVVceUx5T2pCTQ&ntb=1

Try A Little Kindness – Glen Campbell

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=7c752c310f97b3a8JmldHM9MTY5NzkzMjgwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTU5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTlwMQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=popular+songs+about+kindness+you+tube+Glen+campbell&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHVlZS5jb20vd2F0Y2g_dj1LYUNCVFNRWnExRQ&ntb=1

Posters - Random Acts of Kindness proving - "What goes around comes around"

<https://patsnutritionforthesoul.blogspot.com/>

Power of Kindness – A Short Motivational Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGyeMG9xhp8>

Feast Day of St. Laurence O'Toole, November 14



St. Laurence O'Toole Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Dublin

Man of Peace, Man of Prayer, Man of Holiness, Man of Faith and Man with a love of the Poor.

The Story of St. Laurence O'Toole

<https://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/2011/12/the-story-of-st-laurence-otoole/>

St. Laurence O'Toole was born in Castledermot, Co. Kildare in 1128. At the age of ten, he was taken as a hostage by Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster. In 1140, permission was obtained for him to enter the monastic school of Glendalough. He became a monk there and later its abbot in 1148. In 1162, he was chosen as the first native Archbishop of Dublin. He attended the third Lateran Council in 1179 and, returning as Papal Legate, he held synods to extend reform. While on a mission to King Henry 11 of England, Laurence O'Toole died at Eu, Normandy, France in 1180. He was canonized in 1225. He was buried in the Augustinian Abbey at Eu where his shrine still survives in the parish church. A small bone from his hand was brought from Eu and placed in a shrine in the church of St. Laurence O'Toole, North Wall Parish.

The Prayer to St. Laurence O'Toole

<https://education.dublindiocese.ie/2014/11/16/prayer-to-st-laurence-otoole/>

A Project Idea that may help to deepen and extend students' understanding of, and response, to the life of St. Laurence O'Toole. "Laurence O'Toole helped people in the 12th century.

Write about someone you know, or make up a story about someone who is like St. Laurence O'Toole, and helps people in today's world. What kind of choices do they make in their life? What kinds of sacrifices, if any, do they make in order to help others"? **The Man in the Middle - Desmond Forristal.**

Invitation To Rouen and Eu – May 2025

The Archbishop of Rouen has invited the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell to bring a group of pilgrims from Dublin to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St. Laurence O'Toole.

International Day of Tolerance, November 16



The United Nations' annual International Day for Tolerance fosters mutual understanding among cultures and peoples.

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.” It is the basic [theme of International Tolerance Day](#).

Ten Ideas For Observing The International Day For Tolerance 16

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=3d9b4b6ede87cd45JmltdHM9MTY5ODE5MjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTYSOTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTU4ZWEmYW5zaWQ9NTQwOQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=Ten+ideas+for+observing+international+tolerance+day&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2NyaWJkLmNvbS9kb2N1bWVudC80NTk3M0MxMDEvVGVuLWlkZWZz&ntb=1>

Videos of Ten Ideas for Observing International Tolerance Day

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=2d36037f05908010JmltdHM9MTY5ODE5MjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNjM1LTYSOTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTU4ZWEmYW5zaWQ9NTE1Ng&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&u=a1L3ZpZGVvcy9zZWZyY2g_ct1UZW4raWRlYXMrZm9yK29ic2VydmmluZytpbnRlcm5hdGlvbmFsK3RvbGVyZjZStkYXkmcXB2dD1UZW4raWRlYXMrZm9yK29ic2VydmmluZytpbnRlcm5hdGlvbmFsK3RvbGVyZW5jZStkYXkmcRk9STT1WRFJF&ntb=1

World Day of the Poor, November 19

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7)



“..whenever we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus.”

**World Day of the Poor Message,
2023**

World Day of the Poor – Cafod

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=2da67ee645882c43JmltdHM9MTY5ODEwNTYwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNm1LTy50TEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTlyNA&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=world+day+of+the+poor+2023&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9jYWZlZC5vcmcudWsvchJheS93b3JsZC1kYXktb2YtdGhILXBvb3I&ntb=1>

Videos of World Day of the Poor

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=18bfa50b5301a9a0JmltdHM9MTY5ODEwNTYwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNm1LTy50TEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTM2MQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&u=a1L3ZpZGVvcy9zZWYyZg_cT13b3JsZCtkYXkrb2YrdGhIK3Bvb3IrMjAyMjYzZGZlZC5vcmcudWsvchJheS93b3JsZC1kYXktb2YtdGhILXBvb3I&ntb=1

World Day of the Poor – Society of St. Vincent de Paul- 2023 Campaign Guide

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=12f0ab6bf542c997JmltdHM9MTY5ODEwNTYwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNm1LTy50TEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmaw5zaWQ9NTM2MQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=world+day+of+the+poor+2023&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9zZ3ZwLmNhL3dwLWVbnRlbnQvdXBsb2Fkcy8yMDIzLzEwL1deUF9HdWlkZS1FTkctMjAyMy1Ob3YxOS5wZGY&ntb=1>



**Extend your mercy
towards others,
so that there can
be no one in need
whom you meet
without helping.**

Vincent de Paul

The Feast Day of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, November 21



The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated annually on November 21st, commemorates the presentation of the Blessed Virgin as a child by her parents in the Temple in Jerusalem. Before Mary's birth, her parents received a heavenly message that they would bear a child. In thanksgiving for the God's gift of Mary's birth, they brought her to the Temple to consecrate their only daughter to The Lord. Saint Joachim and Saint Anne were a childless couple for many years and on the birth of their daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, they promised to consecrate her to God.

In the book, **'Nano Nagle and An Evolving Charism,'** Mary L. Coloe, pbvm writes: *"The Feast of the Presentation celebrates a meeting point, when Mary, the new Temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, is presented to the former Temple of Israel. Israel's Temple represented by the High Priest, recognises and welcomes the New Temple, Mary. The Jerusalem Temple is no longer needed as the dwelling place of God's glory; there is a new indwelling of the Spirit, heralded first in Mary (celebrated in the Eastern feast of the Presentation of Mary), and then in Jesus (celebrated in the Western feast of the Presentation of Jesus)".*

Videos of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – You Tube

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=f401b5b59bd31850JmltdHM9MTY5ODI3ODQwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTk5NS1jNmM1LTY5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTl4ZWEmYW5zaWQ9NTE0OA&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&u=a1L3ZpZGVvcy9zZWYy2g_cT1UaGUrUHJlc2VudGF0aW9uK29mK3RoZStCbGVzc2Vkk1ZpcmdpbWV1J5K1lvdSt0dWJlInFwdnQ9VGhK1ByZXNlbnRhdGlvbitvZit0aGUrQmxlc3NlZCtWaXJnaW4rTWYFeStZb3UrdHVlZSZGT1JNPVZEUKU&ntb=1

Feast Day of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

November 27

Our Lady's Gifts to Us

Mary's words to Catherine Labouré

"God wishes to entrust you with a mission..." 1830



FRONT SIDE

The front side depicts Mary Immaculate, her hands open, full of light; she is the messenger of God, who loves us and who never ceases to come to our aid. St. Catherine Labouré saw Our Lady appear like this and heard her say, "Have a medal made according to this model. Everyone who wears it around their neck will receive great graces."

Mary stands upon the globe as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim that Satan and all his followers are helpless before her. (Genesis 3:15)

The year 1830 on the Miraculous Medal is the year the Blessed Mother gave the design of the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine. The reference to "Mary conceived without sin" supports the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary -referring to Mary being sinless, "full of grace," and "blessed among women." (Luke 1 :28) The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed 24 years later in 1854, and then confirmed when Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France.

REVERSE SIDE

Cross and the Letter M

On the reverse side, the Cross and the letter M symbolize the close relationship of Mary to the suffering, passion, and death of her Son. The cross can symbolize Christ and our redemption, with the bar under the cross a sign of the earth and the Altar, for it is on the Altar at Mass that the Sacrifice of Calvary continues to be present in the world today. The M signifies "Mary" and "mother." Jesus gave us Mary to become our Mother. The interweaving of Mary's initial and the cross shows Mary's close involvement with Jesus and our world. In this, we see Mary's part in our salvation and her role as mother of the Church.

Two Hearts Side-By-Side

Beneath the cross, bar, and the M are two hearts side-by-side: the Sacred Heart of Jesus crowned with thorns and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced by a sword. The two hearts represent the love of Jesus and Mary for us. (Luke 2:35)

Twelve Stars

The twelve stars signify the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles, who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary. They also recall the vision of Saint John, writer of the Book of Revelation (12:1), in which "a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars."

The Miraculous Medal got its name and reputation in 1832, when Paris was struck by a terrible cholera epidemic that caused at least 20,000 deaths. In June of that year, the Daughters of Charity started distributing medals.



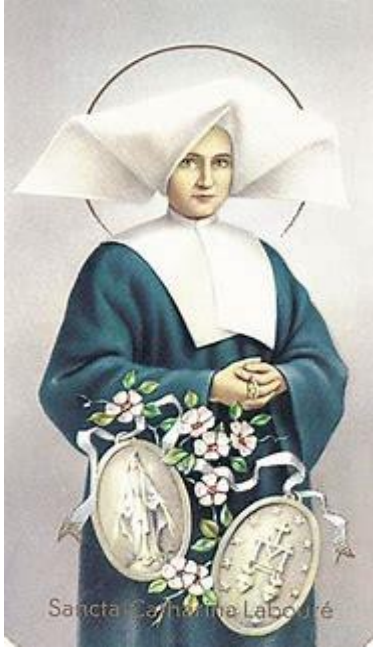
The chapel at the Rue du Bac in Paris is a place where people come to pray every hour, every day and all year round.

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=a6a34efc8723260fJmltdHM9MTY5ODE5MjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJlZTkyNS1jNiM1LTY5OTEtM2ZlOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTU4ZWEmYW5zaWQ9NTlwNg&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=You+Tube+Chapel+of+Our+Lady+of+the+Miraculous&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHVlZS5jb20vd2F0Y2g_dj0yNOFSZDJkQkYtWQ&ntb=1

For Miraculous Medals: Telephone 087 3296171 or email virgopotents@gmail.com

Feast Day of St. Catherine Labouré

November 28



Catherine Labouré was born on 2 May 1806, in Fain-les-Moutiers, France . She entered the community of the Daughters of Charity on 21 April 1830.

Although favoured with an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, yet it was in humility and silence that she devoted her life to the service of the poor.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave Catherine a message for all people, the message that her love would help them in times of need.

“ Come to the foot of this altar. Here graces will be given to all who ask sincerely for them.”

Catherine died at Reuilly, Paris on 31 December 1876 in the house where she served for forty-six years.

She was declared a saint by Pope Pius XI on 21 July, 1947.

The Story of St. Catherine, The Story of the Miraculous Medal, Share in Mary's Promise.

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=1b5e5e7cf40f3b7dJmldHM9MTY5ODE5MjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0zODJZTkYNS1jNiM1LTY5OTEtM2ZiOC1mYjk3Yzc0YTY4ZWEmYW5zaWQ9NTE5Mg&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=382ee925-c635-6991-3fe8-fb97c74a68ea&psq=amm.org+login&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYW1tLm9yZy8&ntb=1>

We know that Mary always makes herself known in an unobtrusive way, as God makes Himself known unobtrusively. Mary makes God's work known unobtrusively. Mary called Catherine to be the messenger of good news in the silence of the chapel. It is in the silence of our hearts that we come to know the Good News and that we are called to share each day.

**“ When I go to the chapel,
I place myself before the good God and say to him:**

**Lord, here I am
give me whatever you wish.**

**If he gives me something
I am very happy and I thank him.**

**If he gives me nothing, I thank him still,
because I do not deserve anything more.**

**And then, I tell him everything that comes to mind;
I tell him my sorrows and my joys,
and... I LISTEN!”
Catherine Labouré**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Christ the King, Solemnity - November 26



The Feast of Christ the King reminds us of Jesus' sovereignty in our lives and over the world.

The readings for the Solemnity of Christ the King tell us that the kingship of Christ is one of a caring master who longs for us to live together in harmony in his kingdom.

The first reading tells of the Lord gathering in his flock and tending to them.

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

The second reading reminds us that everything is subject to Jesus Christ, including death.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

In the gospel Jesus tells of the Judgement of the Nations, where those who served him in this life are separated from those who did not. **Matthew 25:31-46**

The real test is how we have loved and served others, for in doing so, we have loved and served Jesus. As we look forward to Advent, the Feast of Christ the King calls us to reflect on our lives and prepare ourselves for the great feast of Christmas.

To Conclude:

We began by calling to mind that November is a time for remembering those who have gone before us...

It is also a time for honouring the legacy that they have left behind...

Our school founders have left us a Mission, a Characteristic Living Spirit which we are called to cherish, develop, adopt and pass on to others.

All Saints in Heaven, Pray for Us.

Sr. Bernadette / Sr. Concepta