

A sunset over the ocean with a pier in the foreground. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water. In the foreground, a dark pier extends into the sea, with waves breaking against its base. The overall mood is peaceful and reflective.

November, We Remember

**Ní imithe uainn atá siad,
ach imithe romhainn.**

**They are not gone from us,
but gone before us.**



INTRODUCTION

Each November Christians gather to remember those who have departed this life and to offer consolation and support to those who have been bereaved. November is traditionally the month during which, we especially remember and pray for those, whom we have loved and who have gone before us. Their loss, while always felt, feels particularly poignant as we remember all those who have died in tandem with commemorating **All Saints'** (1st November) and **All Souls' Day** (2nd November).

The grieving process takes time. Each stage of grief has its own demands and the process is unique to each one of us. When we look to the Gospel we see how Jesus was deeply moved and began to weep at the death of a close friend. (Jn 11:33-35)

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

During November we recall those who have died throughout the year. Take time to write down the names of your deceased relatives and friends and place them on a Remembrance Tree or in a basket at the Sacred Space in your school or church.

CREATE A PRAYER SPACE

A prayer space may include;

- A list of the deceased, naming the people you want to pray for or names of the people you wish to pray for written on autumn leaf shapes.
- Photographs or memorial cards.
- A candle.
- A religious symbol such as a cross, an open Bible, a sacred picture or icon, a statue or a rosary beads.
- Dim the lights of the room and quieten distractions to create a prayerful atmosphere.

This is your prayer time, be creative and include additional elements that will bring you and your classmates/colleagues solace.

If you are gathering as a group you might choose someone to lead the different prayers or to proclaim the readings.

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES

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

Lord Jesus, you said, '*I am the Light of the World*'.
As we light this candle,
we ask that your light will shine on all those who have died.
May they be bathed always in the light of your love and grace,
and come to eternal life with you.
Amen

LIGHT A CANDLE *The candle is now lit.*

Dear Friends, As we gather together, we call to mind all those who have gone before us.
As we read aloud each of the names of our deceased relatives and friends let us give thanks for their lives in the stillness and quiet of our own hearts.

The names are read aloud and followed by a time of silence or reflection using the suggested music.

The Cloud's Veil

Artist: Liam Lawton Album: The Song of the Celtic Soul



**PRAYER FOR
ETERNAL REST**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen


GOSPEL

Gospel John (14:1-3)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many places to live in; otherwise I would 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 to myself, so that you may be with me where I am.

PRAYERS

Today we take time to remember all those dear to us who are no longer with us. We also call to mind people who walked alongside us in life's journey and who touched our lives deeply. We remember especially those who have died during the past year.



Reader Loving God, you are close to those who call on you. Be with us, as we mourn the loss of family and friends. Comfort us by your promise of eternal life.
Lord Hear Us.

All **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

Reader On this November day, we bring before you in prayer all those dear to us who have died. Remember them God in your loving kindness. May we who still miss them and grieve for them find comfort in our belief that we will one day see them again.

All **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

Reader We remember also all those who have died and who have no one to pray for them. May they now rest in your eternal peace.
Lord Hear Us.

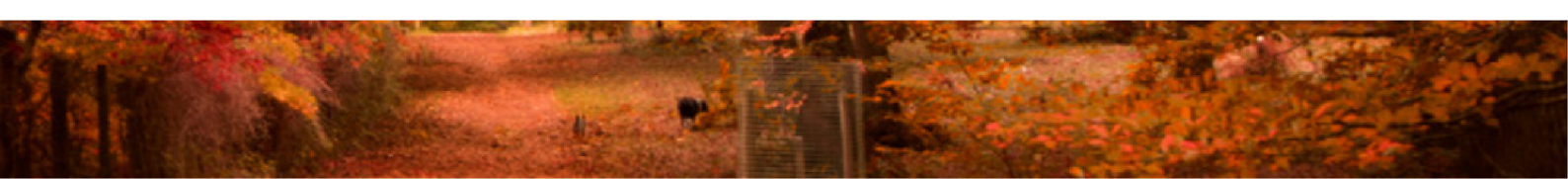
All **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

Conscious that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, together we say the prayer Jesus taught us:-

***Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in
Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen***

Prayer of Cardinal Newman

May the Lord support us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest, and peace at the last.
Amen.



REFLECTION

You can shed tears that they have gone,
or you can smile because they have lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all they have left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember 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 want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, Jesus Christ,
You experienced all that it means to be human, including the loss
of those you loved. You wept for your friend Lazarus and took pity
on the poor widow who had lost her son. When we feel the pangs
of separation from our loved ones help us to always recall your
profound love and compassion. Remind us with your gentle touch
that in death life is changed not ended.

Give us the gift of gratitude, that we may recall the generosity and
greatness of those who have gone before us. Let us live in your
grace that we may build on their legacy and honour their memory.

Amen

There Is a Place Lyrics
Artist: Liam Lawton Album: In the Quiet

