**In November We Remember**



There are two parts to our CEIST resources for ‘In November we Remember’.

The first part of the Resource is a short service for schools that would like to take a very specific moment to remember the death of a member or members of their school community. There have been a number of deaths, many of them very tragic, in our CEIST family of schools over the last year and we are conscious of how gathering in prayer as a community to remember can bring solace not just to the community but also to family members affected most directly by the death that has happened. When we remember our loved ones, we offer prayers for them, and we also hope in our prayers that we give solace and comfort to families still deep in grief and loneliness following the death of their loved one.

The words, images and prayers in this resource are all well known. This predictability provides consolation and helps build a safe space for those gathered to pray. This Prayer Service can be adapted for use in a more general November Remembrance Prayer Service.

In offering this part of the resource – a specific prayer moment for loved ones lost over the last year – we are mindful that you, the principal, deputy principal, year heads and RE team will be best placed in terms of details around the service e.g. in terms of inviting family members to the service and in having a picture of the person as part of your sacred space. Obviously, we don’t want to pick open a wound that is only just beginning to heal. However, it can be very consoling for young people and for family members to know the person has not been forgotten, is still thought about and is still loved within the school community. Many students and indeed staff most affected by the loss will be receiving additional supports within the school, and also outside school as well. Other students can be offered support if they need it as you see fit. Given the sensitivities around ongoing and very real grief a service like this might be best offered to a smaller group within the school.

Finally, in terms of this first part of the resource, consideration will also need to be given, of course, to the venue for the prayer service. You will be best placed to decide whether the service takes place in the school, the local Church or another location.

The second part of the resource are suggested readings, prayers and reflections for a class, year or school Mass that you might as a school wish to hold. This material can also be used to put together your own prayer service within the school.



**Part A – Prayer Service following a recent loss within the school community.**

*A sacred space can be set up in advance of the Prayer Service. This sacred space can use the beautiful autumnal colours all around us and can draw from nature to capture the theme of death and dying and new life. A crucifix, a bible, a candle and a picture of the person you are remembering will all be placed in the sacred space during the service.*

*Your music department will be best placed to pick suitable hymns for the service.*

**Principal:**

*Brief words of welcome to all gathered.*

We begin our prayer today, “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” These are the words that we use when we pray in our school because we believe God is about relationship; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And God is also about relationship with us too. Our school is about relationships as well; most of all it is about our friendships. God is love and is our friend. We are called to care for one another as God cares for us.

Our school has experienced a significant loss and so this November we take a moment to remember \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of person/people) and their friends and family members.

We’re conscious of the sadness we all individually continue to feel but know that as sad as we are feeling, it probably doesn’t even compare to how sad (……) family and closest friends are feeling. But please God, (….) family will feel lifted up even a little bit by our prayer today and by knowing that our whole school continues to pray with them and for them today. God may your love and our solidarity and support help them to get through this very difficult time.

So what as a community here in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (school name) are we called to do with our grief and with our desire to offer comfort to those who grive. A beautiful poem prayer might help us understand the deep quiet, empathy, love and respect we’re called to share. Let me read it for you:

***When you meet someone in Deep Grief***

“Slip off your shoes   
and set them by the door

Enter barefoot,   
this darkened chapel

hollowed by loss,   
hallowed by sorrow.

its grey stone walls   
and floor

You, congregation   
of one

Are here to listen,   
not to sing.

Kneel in the back pew,   
make no sound

Let the candles   
speak.”

*– Patricia Mckernon Runkle*

So we light a candle now in memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and enter a deep quietness that is full of compassion and love. Light in many faith traditions symbolises the presence of the divine, the presence of God. In also symbolises hope. As we light this candle, we take a moment in silence to remember our own beloved dead as well and to bring all of our prayers to this sacred space here in our school today.

We listen to our readings.

**Reading**

**Reader 1:**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

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

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek, he will take away his people’s 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Symbols:

**Reader 2:**

We present now symbols that speak to our faith about the mystery of death and the joy of the Resurrection.

1. We present a Crucifix. The Crucifix is a symbol of hope because in it although we see the suffering of Good Friday, we know also the hope of Easter Joy. Jesus knew what it was to suffer deeply, and he walks with us in our own suffering, carrying the burden of our pain on himself.
2. We present a Bible. The Bible for Christians is the Word of God, and it is a word most basically about Love. God is love.
3. Autumn leaves. The natural world has a wonderful way of teaching us about the mystery of life. We recognise that death is a part of life. After Autumn comes Winter, and after Winter comes new life in Springtime.
4. *Optional: a picture of the person for whom this service is being prayed.* We present a picture of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ We pray for him/her and for all those gathered here who deeply mourn his/her loss.
5. Finally, we turn to the light at the centre of our sacred space that was lit at the start of our service. We remember the power of light in darkness, and we pray that we will always know the consolation of faith even in the darkest times in our lives.

**Reading**

**Reader 3**

A reading from the first letter of St John [4:7-12.17]

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God’s love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God’s love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us, and his love will be complete in us. Love will come to its perfection in us when we face the day of Judgement without fear.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Principal:**

*You might say a few words here about the experience of grief that is ongoing for the school community and how as a faith community, we walk together to console and comfort one another in the sure knowledge that our God is a God of love and compassion.*

*Then introduce our Prayers of the Faithful*

**Prayers of the Faithful (Readers 4 – 9)**

1. For one another gathered here. That we would, as a school, continue to support one another during these time of grieving. And that through this support we would come to know more deeply the love of God for each of us. Lord hear us.
2. For our whole school community. That we would, as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (founding congregation) school, always remember the importance of prayer, particularly for our beloved dead. Lord hear us.
3. For those we are mourning in our own lives, friends and family members who have gone before us. Console us through the care we experience from one another and bring us into a deep sense of peace. Lord hear us.
4. For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . We take a moment to pray for him/her. We pray for his/her family and closest friends. Lord, be with them all as they grieve and let them be totally assured of our love for them in these difficult times and always. Lord hear us.
5. For peace in our world. God of peace inspire us to always work for peace in our families, school, communities and our world. Help us know the deep peace your love brings into our own hearts. Lord hear us.
6. For our own private intentions, we take a moment to pray…………….. Lord hear us.



**Principal:**

As our short prayer service draws to a close shortly, we listen now to three beautiful reflections.

**Reader 10:**

*On the Death of the Beloved, by John O’Donohue*

Though we need to weep your loss,

You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,

Where no storm or night or pain can reach

you.

Your love was like the dawn

Brightening over our lives

Awakening beneath the dark

A further adventure of colour.

The sound of your voice

Found for us

A new music

That brightened everything.

Though your days here were brief,

Your spirit was live, awake, complete.

Though we cannot see you with outward

eyes,

We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,

Smiling back at us from within everything.

Let us not look for you only in memory.

May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.

To serve the call of courage and love

Until we see your beautiful face again

In that land where there is no more

separation,

Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,

And where we will never lose you again.

Amen.

**Reader 11:**

PSALM 23:

The Lord is my Shepherd.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name‘s sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.



**Reader 12:**

The Muslim mystic Hafiz offers to us these words of profound wisdom that speak to people of all faiths and to people who do not profess a religious faith.  Hafiz tells us,

I once asked a bird, "how is it that you fly in this gravity of darkness?"   
She responded, "Love lifts me".

**Principal:**

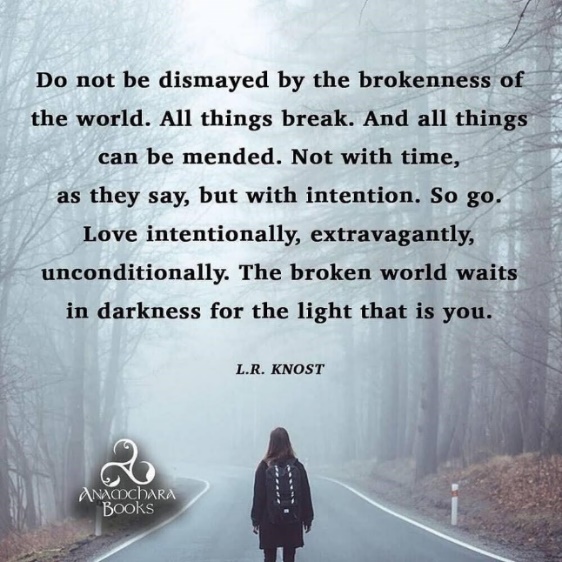
We draw our short prayer service to a close now by turning our attention again to our lighting candle. We take a moment of silence to reflect on the brightness of the light coming from this candle. Our service has been about hope, about love, about resurrection, about life, about care and about what it means to be part of our school community here in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (school name).

As our service comes to a close, we offer now to one another a sign of all those things, particularly a sign of peace. (This can be done through a handshake, a hug, or a wave to those sitting around you.)

*A few concluding words here of thanks would be sufficient.*

*A gathering after this service – particularly if family members of the deceased had been invited – would be appropriate.*

*You can then conclude with a hymn of your music department’s choosing.*



**PART B: Readings, Reflections, Prayers etc. for a Prayer Service or Mass for *In November we Remember.***



**Litany of the Saints\***

Priest (if a Mass)/Leader of Prayer service (if this is a prayer service): We pray now our CEIST Litany of the Saints.

Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy on us**.

Christ hear us,  
**Christ graciously hear us**.

God the Father,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity,  
**have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, **pray for us.**  
St. Michael, **pray for us.**  
St. Gabriel, **pray for us.**  
St. Raphael, **pray for us.**  
All you holy angels and archangels, **pray for us.**

St. John the Baptist, **pray for us.**  
St. Joseph, **pray for us**.  
All you holy Patriarchs and prophets, **pray for us.**

St. Peter, **pray for us**.  
St. Paul, **pray for us.**  
St. Andrew, **pray for us.**  
St. James,**pray for us.**  
St. John, **pray for us.**  
St. Mary Magdalen, **pray for us.**

**Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.**

**Venerable Nano Nagle, pray for us.**

**Servant of God Jules Chevalier, pray for us.**

St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, **pray for us.**

Fr. Antoine Receveur, **pray for us.**

***(Important: Include here local saints from your own Diocese, parish and local town/city/village etc. by putting their name and the response, ‘pray for us’.)***

All you holy apostles and evangelists, **pray for us**.  
All you holy martyrs,**pray for us.**

All you men and women, Saints of God, make intercession for us.  
**Be merciful, spare us, O Lord!**

Lord, be merciful,  
**graciously hear us, O Lord!**

**Amen.**

***Readings***

*First Reading*

A reading from the book of Wisdom (3:1-6.9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

**A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-12)**

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.  
What does a worker gain from his or her toil ?  
I have seen the burden God has laid on his people.  
God has made everything beautiful in its time,  
also he has put eternity into the human mind,  
yet even still we cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.  
I know that there is nothing better for a person than to be happy and to do good while they live.  
That everyone may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their work – that is the gift of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah (46:8:14-16)**

Thus say the Lord: ‘in a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you.” But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.’

‘Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands”.

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial Psalm (this should, if possible, be sung)*

**Psalm 32**

**Response: Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his Own.**

1. They are happy, whose God is the Lord,

the people he has chosen as his own.

From the heavens the Lord looks forth,

he sees all the children of people.

Response

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,

on those who hope in his love,

to rescue their souls from death,

to keep them alive in famine.

Response

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our shield.

May your love be upon us, 0 Lord,

as we place all our hope in you.

Response

**Psalm 138**

**Response: Lord, you have made me, and you know me.**

O Lord, you search me, and you know me.

You know my resting and my rising;

You discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark when I walk or lie down;

All my ways lie open to you.

Response

O where can I go from your Spirit;

Or where can I fly from your face?

If I climb to the heavens you are there,

If I lie in the grave you are there.

Response

If I take the wings of the morning

And dwell at the sea’s furthest end,

Even there your hand would lead me,

Your right hand hold me fast.

Response

For it was you who created my being,

Knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I thank you for the wonder of my being,

For the wonders of all your creations.

Response

O search me, God, and know my heart.

O test me and know my thoughts.

See that I follow not the wrong path

And lead me in the path of life eternal.

Response

Look towards him and be radiant.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Lord is close to the broken hearted;

Those whose spirit is crushed he will save;

Those who hide in him

Shall not be condemned.

*Response*

*Second Reading*

**A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4: 4-9)**

We want you to be quite certain, sisters and brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus; God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord’s own teaching that any of us who are left alive until the Lord’s coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. With thoughts such as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8.3I-35, 37-39)**

With God on our side, who can be against us? Since God did not spare his only Son, but gave him up to benefit all, we may be certain after such a gift, that He will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits could anyone condemn?

Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loves us.

For I am certain of this; neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, nor heights, nor depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Peter**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons and daughters, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God’s power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time.

This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold-only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire-and then you will have praise and glory and honour.

You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is , the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

*Gospel*

**Matthew 14:22-33**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost’ they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, ‘Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid’. lt was Peter who answered. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.’ ‘Come’ said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. ‘Lord! Save me!’ he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him.

‘Man of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’ And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God’.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Matthew 17:1-9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, ‘This is my Son; the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.’ When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. ‘Stand up,’ he said, ‘do not be afraid.’ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, ‘Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Mark 10: 17-30**

He was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, ‘Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’ And he said to him, ‘Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days’. Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, ‘There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ But his face fell at these words, and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!’ The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, ‘My children,’ he said to them ‘how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were more astonished than ever. ‘In that case’ they said to one another ‘who can be saved?’ Jesus gazed at them. ‘For people’ he said, ‘it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.’

Peter took this up. ‘What about us?’ he asked him. ‘We have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

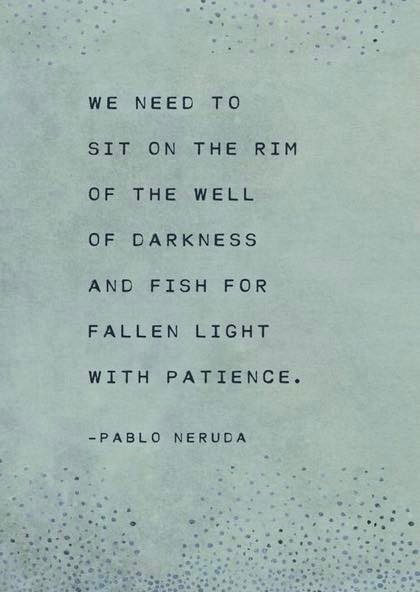


***Prayers of the Faithful***

Priest (if a Mass)/Leader of Prayer service (if this is a prayer service):

In confidence we approach the God who is love, knowing he hears our prayers, knowing his great love for us.

1. For our school community. Be with us Lord as we gather this November to remember our beloved dead. We pray that we would continue always to support one another and to care for one another; especially those who are grieving the death of a loved one close to them at this time. Lord hear us.
2. For our families. Be with us Lord as we remember the beloved dead in our own families. Guide us into a deep awareness of your love and concern for us as we remember those who have loved us, whom we have lost. Lord hear us.
3. For ourselves. Be with us Lord as we dwell in a deep awareness of the frailty of all life, including our own life. Help us always to have a deep sense of compassion and care, self-respect and love for ourselves. Guide us in behaviour and attitudes that protect and nurture the gift of our own lives. Lord hear us.
4. For our classmates and friends. Be with us Lord as we seek always to respect and care for those around us. Never let us forget the incredible identity each of us has as your beloved sons and daughter. Lord hear us.
5. For our planet. Be with us Lord as we strive to protect the gift of creation. Lord hear us.
6. For justice and peace in our world. Be with those who are suffering the devastating effects of war in our world. Make us instruments of peace in our own families, schools and communities. Lord hear us.
7. For our own private intentions….. Lord hear us.



***Reflections***

*(Many of these reflections come from a very useful compilation at https://www.ballyroanparish.ie/funerals-new/communion-reflections-for-funeral-mass/)*

***Footprints***



One night a man had a dream. He dreamt that he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed the scenes of his life. For each scene he noticed not one, but two sets of footprints in the sand. He understood immediately that one belonged to him and the other to the Lord. But then he noticed a curious thing. At the lowest and saddest times in his life there was only one set of footprints. This bothered him and so he asked the Lord: “How come that during the most difficult times in my life, the very times when I most needed you, you left me on my own?”

Then the Lord replied: “My friend, during your trials and sufferings when you see only one set of footprints, those footprints are mine. It was then that I carried you”.

***Gone only from our sight.***

I am standing on the seashore. Suddenly a ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts out for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she is only a ribbon of white cloud just above where the sea and sky mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says: “There! She’s gone!” Gone where?

Gone from my sight – that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her and just at the moment when someone at my side says: “There! She’s gone!” there are other voices ready to greet her with a glad shout: “There! She comes!” And that, dear friends, is dying.

***Death is only a Horizon (Bede Jarett, O.P.)***

We give them back to you, O Lord, who first gave them to us; and as you did not lose them in the giving, so we do not lose them in the return. Not as the world gives do you give O Lord. For what is yours is ours also, if we belong to you. Life is unending because love is undying, and the boundaries of this life are but an horizon and an horizon is but the limit of our vision. Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further. Strengthen our faith that we may see beyond the horizon. And while you prepare a place for us as you have promised, prepare us also for that happy place; that where you are we may be also, with those we have loved, forever.



***Reflection Grief (John O’Donohue)***

Though the silent weeping of your heart lessens, you get on, more or less, with your life; a place is kept within you for the one who is gone. No other will ever be given the key to that door. As the years go on you may not remember the departed every day with your conscious mind. Yet below your surface mind, some part of you is always in their presence.

From their side, our friends in the unseen world are always secretly embracing us in their new and bright belongings. Though we may forget them, they can never forget us; their secret embrace unknowingly shelters and minds us.

The bright moment in grief is when the sore absence gradually changes into a well of presence. You become aware of the subtle companionship of the departed one. You know that when you are in trouble, you can turn to this presence beside you and draw on it for encouragement and blessing.

The departed is now no longer restricted to any one place and can be with you any place you are. It is good to know the blessings of this presence.



#### *\** The Litany of Saints is an ancient and complex prayer. It has a beautiful rhythm swinging gracefully between the leader and respondents (bold text). It can prayed at any time of the year, but is especially relevant on [All Saints Day](https://cathfamily.org/heavenly-connections-all-saints-day/). The full version is quite lengthy and uses complex English in parts. This adaptation is shorter and has been written for CEIST schools. It is optional in terms of inclusion as part of a Mass or prayer service.