



03 November 2021

November - Month of Prayer for those who have Died

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints—transferred from the 1st November. Tuesday 02nd November will be All Souls Day, a day when the Church commemorates the Faithful Departed. These two days introduce us into the month of November which is marked as always by our consideration of eternal life in a more profound way.

All Saints Day allows us to reflect on the fact that we are created not for this life, but for the next; not for life on earth, but for a life in Heaven with God and His Saints. The summons or call to becoming a Saint is not something we do alone. The life of the Christian is a life lived in communion with God and one another. So, we do not achieve holiness, and Heaven itself, by our own efforts or by our own means. Salvation comes to us through Jesus Christ and the Grace which He provides which are given uniquely through His Catholic Church. As we begin this month of November, let us keep eternal life clearly before our eyes. None of us know the precise day or time that God will call us to Himself to give an account of our lives, but we are called to always stand ready.

During November we customarily keep the memories of our Beloved Dead in our prayers. Their names can be placed under the Altar in both of our chapels. In this way, we present them to God in the Masses during this month of the Holy Souls. Visiting a place of burial—or cemetery—is also a custom at this time. The Church offers a Plenary Indulgence in November for those who pray for the deceased in a particular way, following the usual conditions.

Main School Office

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As Catholics, we have a duty to pray for those who have died. Each day at 3pm, our school community will stop and pray the 'Eternal Rest' prayer, and each day at daily Mass, the names of all those contained within our remembrance box will also be prayed for. Your child will have a chance during their Theology classes, to write the name of a loved one to include here.

As part of our observance of the month of November, I am pleased to share with you that we will begin an annual tradition of celebrating a special Mass of Remembrance for deceased students and staff and loved ones, gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

This Mass will take place on **Tuesday 30th November at 08:20am** in the Lower Site School Hall. ΑII students, staff, parents and governors are invited to join us for this special liturgy. During the Mass, a list of the names of deceased loved ones will be read aloud.

Let us continue to pray for one another during this month, and thank you for supporting the Religious Life & Catholic Ethos of our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Dr P.C. Doherty QBE

Headmaster

Mr L Connolly

**Assistant Headteacher** 

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