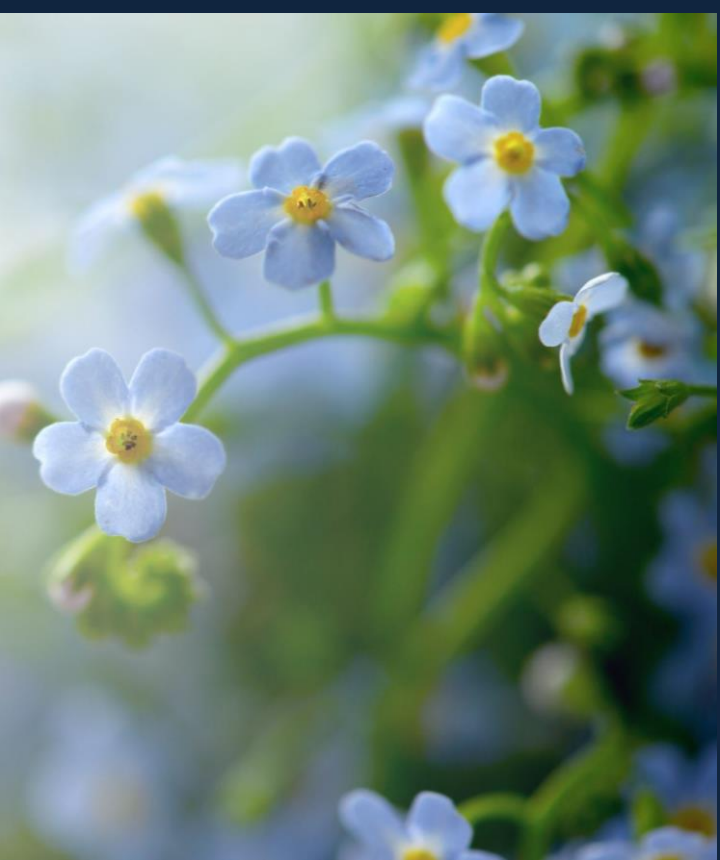


In November,
we remember
with love and
gratitude
those who
have died.

Those who die
go no further
from us than
God and God
is very near





**Gracious God, who loves and cares for us,
we come in prayer to you today.
In the month of November especially,
we remember with love and gratitude
those who have died
and we pray for all who mourn.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3hsBGwQjBw>



1 November Feast of All Saints

*All Saints Day,
also known as All Hallows' Day,
or Hallowmas,
is a Christian celebration
in honour of all the saints
from Christian history.*



2 November All Souls' Day

*All Souls' Day,
and throughout the month of
November,
is traditionally the time in the
Church
when we remember
our loved ones who have died.*



6 November

All Saints of Ireland

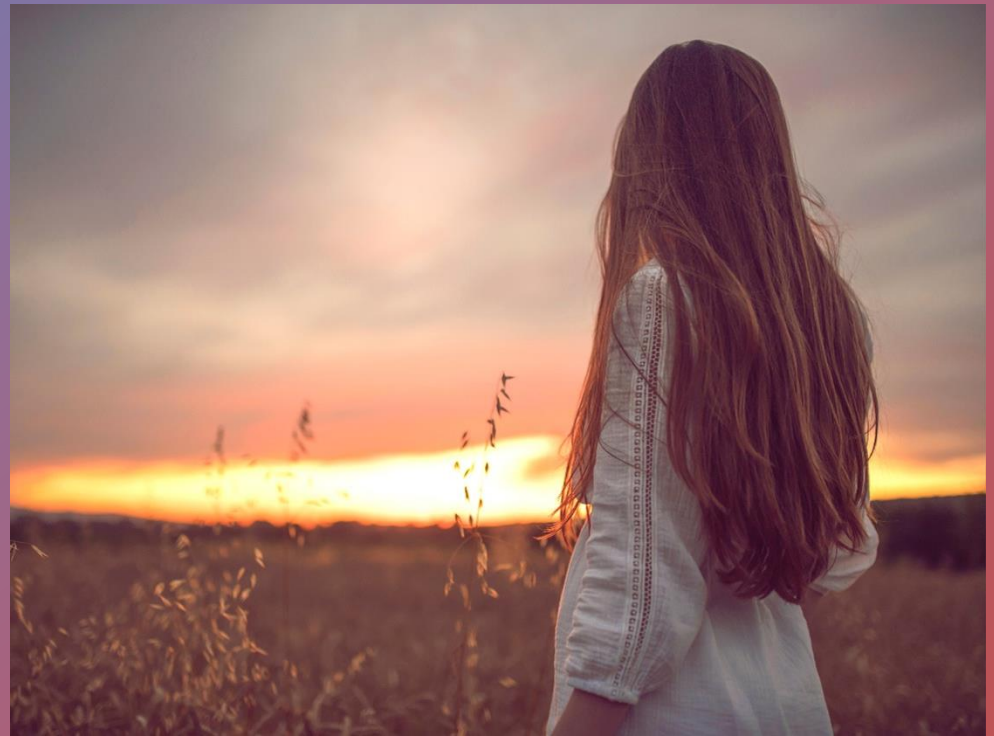
- *Only four saints, St Malachy (1094-1148), St Lawrence O'Toole (1128-80) and St Oliver Plunkett (1625-81) and St Charles of Mount Argus (1821-93), have been officially canonised.*
- *All the other Irish saints, such as Saints Patrick, Brigid, and Colmcille, are saints, as it were, by acclamation of the local Church.*
- *The scope of this feast is wider as it includes those who had a reputation for holiness and whose causes for canonisation have not yet been completed.*
- *It also includes those whose lives of sanctity were known only to their families, friends or members of their parish diocese or religious community.*

Psalm 34:18 “The Lord is close to
the broken-hearted and saves
those who are crushed in spirit.”



Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe every
tear from their eyes.
There will be no more
death or mourning or
crying or pain, for the
old order of things has
passed away.”





John 11

Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and
the life.
Those who believe in me,
even though they die,
will live,
and everyone who lives
and believes in me
will never die.”



Prayer for those who mourn

Bless those who mourn, eternal God,
with the comfort of your love
that they may face each new day with hope
and the certainty that nothing can destroy
the good that has been given.

May their memories become joyful,
their days enriched with friendship,
and their lives encircled by your love.

Amen.

*Vienna Cobb Anderson, from Prayers of
Our Hearts*



Let not your hearts be troubled
John 14:1

Do not let your
hearts be troubled.

Trust in God, and
trust also in me.



You are the Resurrection and the Life

You are the Resurrection
and the Life.

All our hope is in you.

Christ Jesus,
you wept at the death of your friend,
Lazarus.

Now your compassion wipes the tears from
our eyes.

May we find comfort in reaching out to
others

who feel lost and alone.

You are the Resurrection and the Life.

All our hope is in you.

Linda Jones

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.





Gracious God, we ask you to bless the families of our staff and students.

Bless those who are ill and the many people in our school community who are caring for those who are sick.

We pray for the blessing of good health and protection from the virus that is currently directing so many of our decisions.

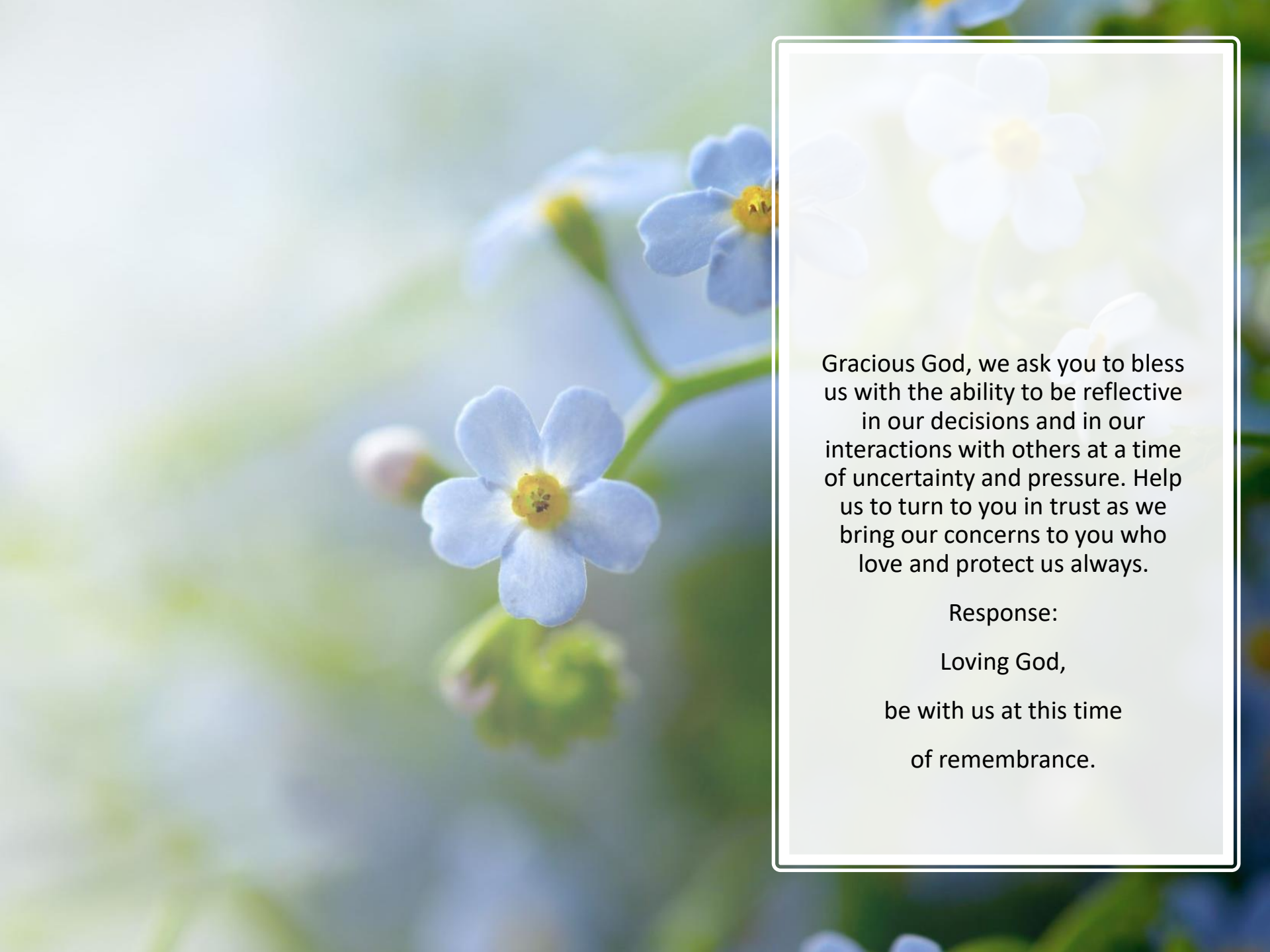
Bless all with the gifts of resilience, of compassion, of good humour, and of God-given creativity which helps us to envisage new ways of working together for the education of our young people.

Response: Loving God, be with us at this time of remembrance.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless us with the capacity to embody Mary Ward's characteristics of justice, freedom, sincerity, truth, joy and love in all our relationships in school. As we continue to care for our school community, attuned to new calls which this pandemic has occasioned, bless us with the capacity to be truly people of faith, hope and compassion.

Response: Loving God, be with us at this time of remembrance.






Gracious God, we ask you to bless us with the ability to be reflective in our decisions and in our interactions with others at a time of uncertainty and pressure. Help us to turn to you in trust as we bring our concerns to you who love and protect us always.

Response:

Loving God,
be with us at this time
of remembrance.



**Gracious God,
we remember in prayer all in our Loreto family
who have died.**

Today we remember especially those who have died recently.

**We pray for comfort and healing for their families and friends
and for all who mourn.**

Response:

Loving God, be with us at this time of remembrance.



Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon
them.

May they rest in peace.

May the souls of all
the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

Amen.





Hold me to your heart

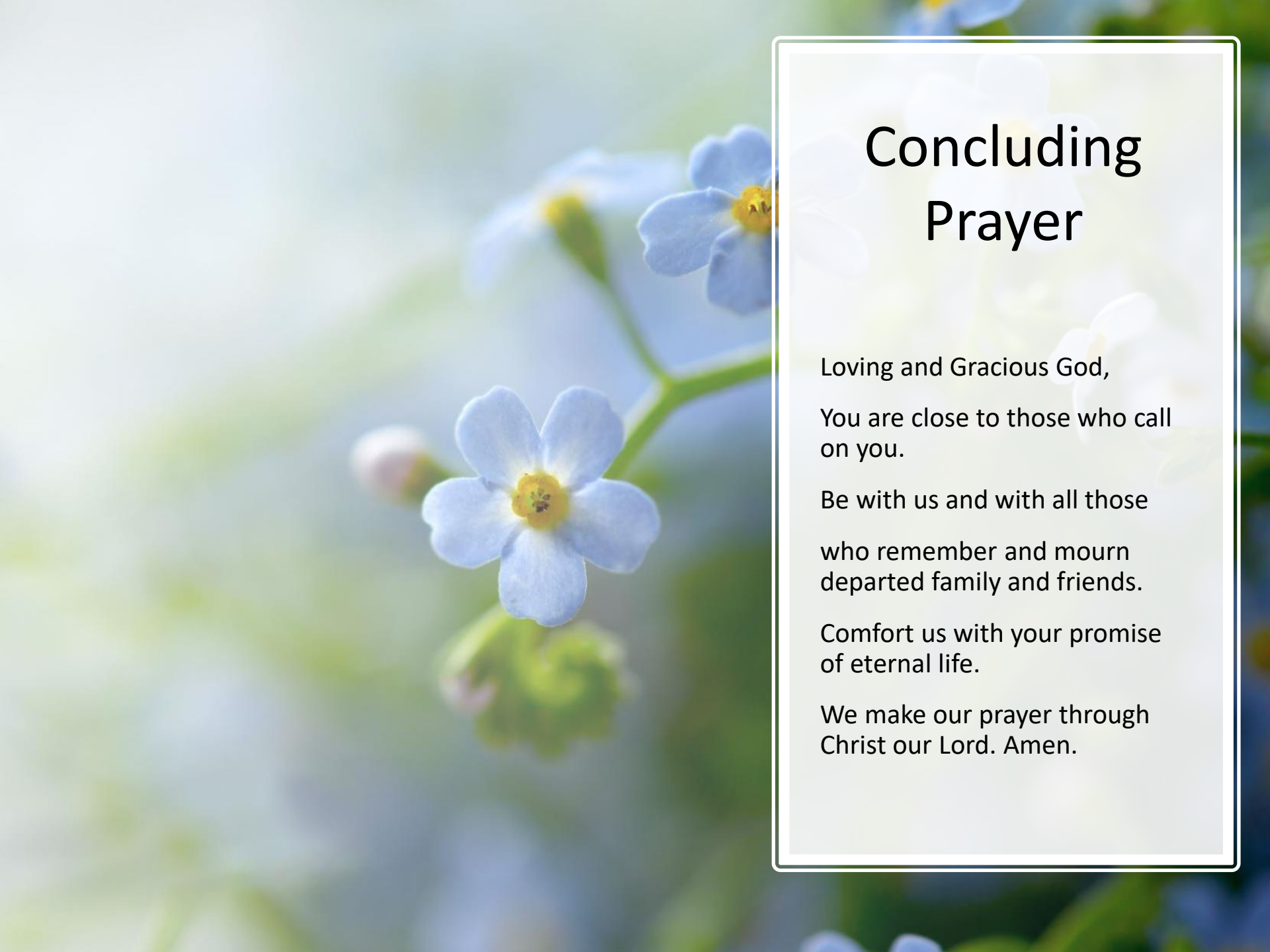
God of compassion,
when I feel helpless in my grief,
hold me to your heart.

God of gentleness,
in those moments when life is dark,
keep me close to you.

God of comfort,
when I am overcome with sadness,
shelter me under your wings.

Ever-faithful God,
help me to find reassurance and hope
in these words of hope to all your people -
"Because you are precious to me,
because I love you,
there is no need to be afraid,
for I am with you." (Isaiah 43)

Margaret Lillis



Concluding Prayer

Loving and Gracious God,
You are close to those who call
on you.

Be with us and with all those
who remember and mourn
departed family and friends.

Comfort us with your promise
of eternal life.

We make our prayer through
Christ our Lord. Amen.

The background is a vibrant stained glass window. It features a central circular medallion with a portrait of a saint, surrounded by intricate leaded glass patterns in shades of blue, gold, and red. Overlaid on the left side is a large, semi-transparent white circle containing text.

What do All Saints' Day and Halloween have in common?

James Martin, SJ

- <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-reflections/all-saints-day-and-halloween/>