

*Ní imithe uainn atá siad, ach  
imithe romhainn.  
They are not gone from us but  
gone before us.*

# November



# In the month of November...

We remember with love  
and gratitude  
those who have died  
and we pray for all who  
mourn.





# 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.*

# 1 November

## Feast of All Saints

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On the feast of All Saints, we honor those men and women who have led lives of heroic virtue that set an example for all Christians.

Saints are big dreamers.

They believe that with God on their side, no one and nothing can stop them. Saints are go-getters.

They don't wait for someone else to do good first; they jump right in.

Saints are love-bringers.

They try to see Christ in every person and every situation.

Saints tell us what matters most in life is not what we earn or own, not the job we have or the people we know.

What really matters is how much we love God, others, and ourselves, and how well we show that love in all we do.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/>





# 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.*



## 2 November All Souls' Day

November is the month when we reflect upon more personal experiences of loss, the loss of significant people in our lives, people who have journeyed with us, who gave us love and whom we loved in return.

The commemoration of All Souls is a day when we do that in a special way.

We feel a sense of communion with our faithful departed.

As followers of the risen Lord, we believe that our faithful have not just departed from us but have also returned to God, from whom they came. We understand death as a door through which we pass back to the source of our being, the Creator of all life.

We also believe that our loved ones, in passing over into God, do not break their communion with us. Even though they have departed from us, they remain in communion with us and we remain in communion with them.



# 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.*

# Reflection on Grief (John O'Donohue)

Though the silent weeping of your heart lessens,  
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.





# Reflections on Grief (continued)

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.



# A Celtic Blessing

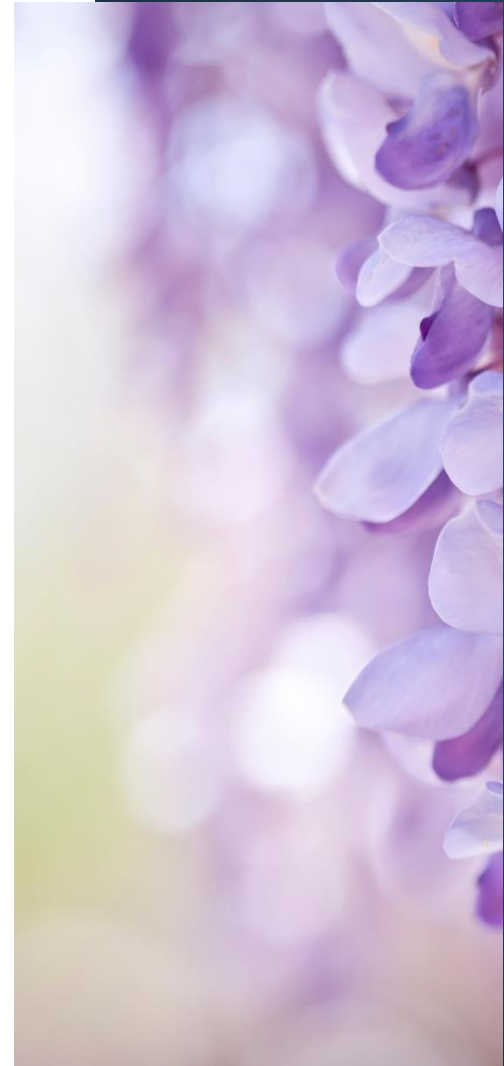
May the God of gentleness be with you,  
caressing you with sunlight and rain and wind.  
May his tenderness shine through you to warm  
all those who are hurt and lonely.  
May the God of peace be with you,  
taking away your fears and doubts.  
May the mantle of your peace cover those who  
are troubled and anxious.  
May the blessing of peace be upon you.  
The guarding of the God of life be on you,  
the guarding of the Loving Christ be on you,  
the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you to aid  
and uphold you each day and night of your lives.  
Amen.

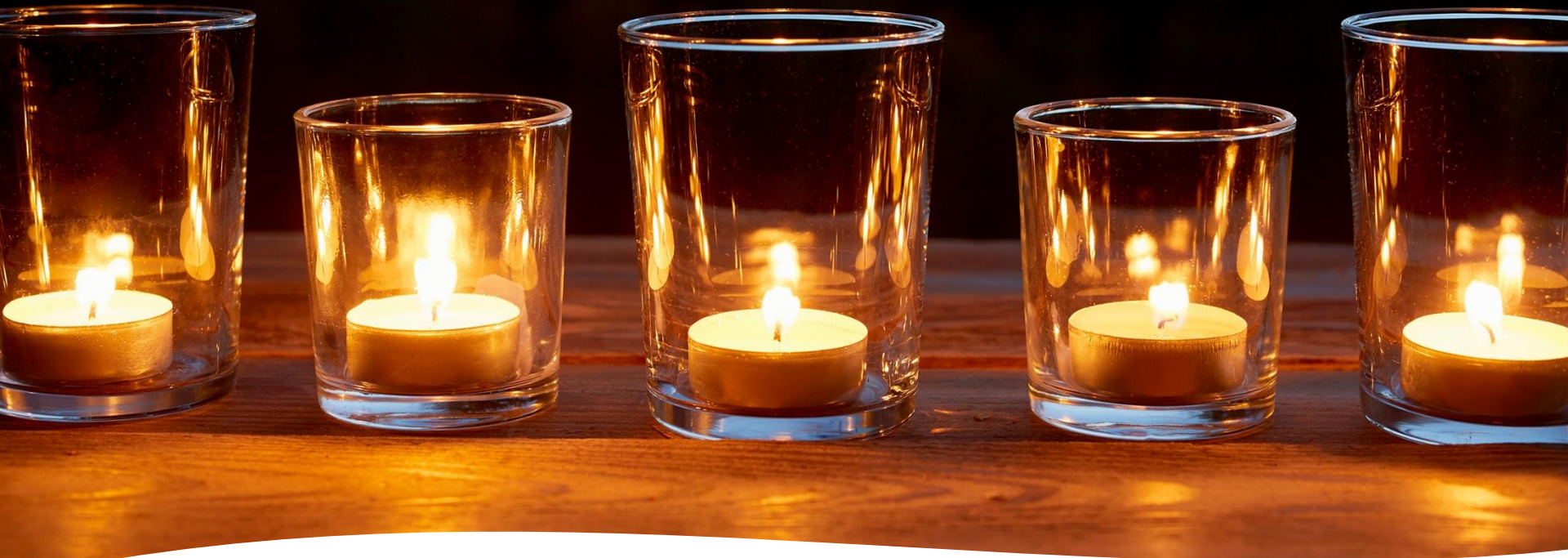
See also <https://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/2015/04/gathering-for-funeral-ministry-workshop/>



## **Guardian of the Grieving (Joyce Rupp)**

Guardian of the Grieving,  
You do much more than stand there  
Being attentive to heart-sore spirits.  
You lovingly embrace and closely guard  
Those who feel bereft and lonely  
You vigilantly attend to each one  
Lest they be overtaken by their sadness.  
Your protective gaze of compassion  
Softens the blows of their sorrow.  
Guardian of those who have lost much,  
Watch devotedly over those who mourn.





# **Interfaith Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land**

God, you are the shepherd of Israel and Palestine.  
We pray to you as our faithful God of mercy, compassion and  
steadfast love.

We are a people who desire peace and fear war.  
Change the hearts of those plotting death, destruction and  
devastation. Transform the souls of those who are motivated by  
violence and vengeance.

For our God is the God of the child desperate for water and is  
the same God of the family terrified for their precious hostages.

God is in all souls. God waits on every path.

<https://www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk/>

A row of lit tealight candles in glass holders on a wooden surface. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with soft lighting. The candles are lit, and their flames are visible. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# Interfaith Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land (continued)

Today, the valley of the shadow of death is crowded with God's children, who want to sit down at God's table, as people who share the Holy Book, who live and dwell in the Holy Land, and who can trace a shared past - back to Abraham.

Help us to see that what we share together in common is so much more than what divides us.



**Interfaith Prayer  
for  
Peace in the Holy Land  
(continued)**

May we speak healing words, to share an anointing of peace and to shatter the overflowing cup of death, before more is poured out on those who are innocent.

Goodness and mercy will follow us even in these days of fear and grief. May we build your house of reconciliation and peace, to dwell in it together.

# The Clouds' Veil

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

## Chorus

Even though the rain hides the stars,  
Even though the mist swirls the hills,  
Even when the dark clouds veil the  
sky,

You are by my side.

Even when the sun shall fall in sleep,  
Even when at dawn the sky shall  
weep,

Even in the night when storms shall  
rise,

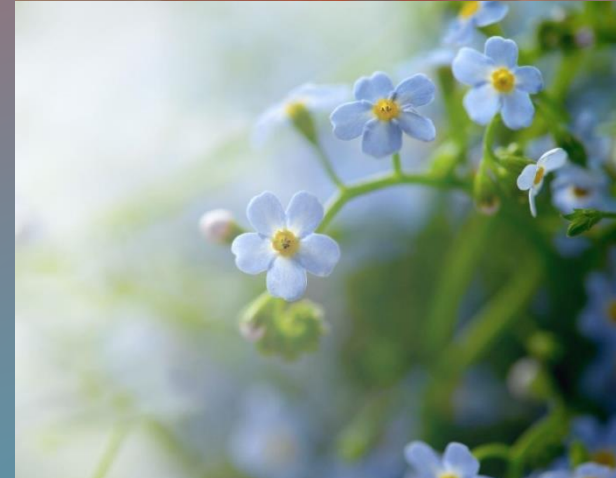
You are by my side.

You are by my side.

- 1 Bright the stars at night that mirror heaven's way to you.
- Bright the stars in light where dwell the saints in love and truth.
- Chorus
- 2 Deep the feast of life where saints shall gather in deep peace. Deep in heaven's light where sorrows pass beyond death's sleep.
- Chorus
- 3 Blest are they who sing the fellowship of saints in light. Blest is heaven's King. All saints adore the Lord, Most High.
- Chorus

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.





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.”

# On the Death of the Beloved

An extract from John O Donohue

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  
color.

The sound of your voice  
Found for us  
A new music  
That brightened  
everything.

Let us not look for you only  
in memory,  
Where we would grow  
lonely without you.

You would want us to find  
you in presence,  
Beside us when beauty  
brightens,  
When kindness glows  
And music echoes eternal  
tones.

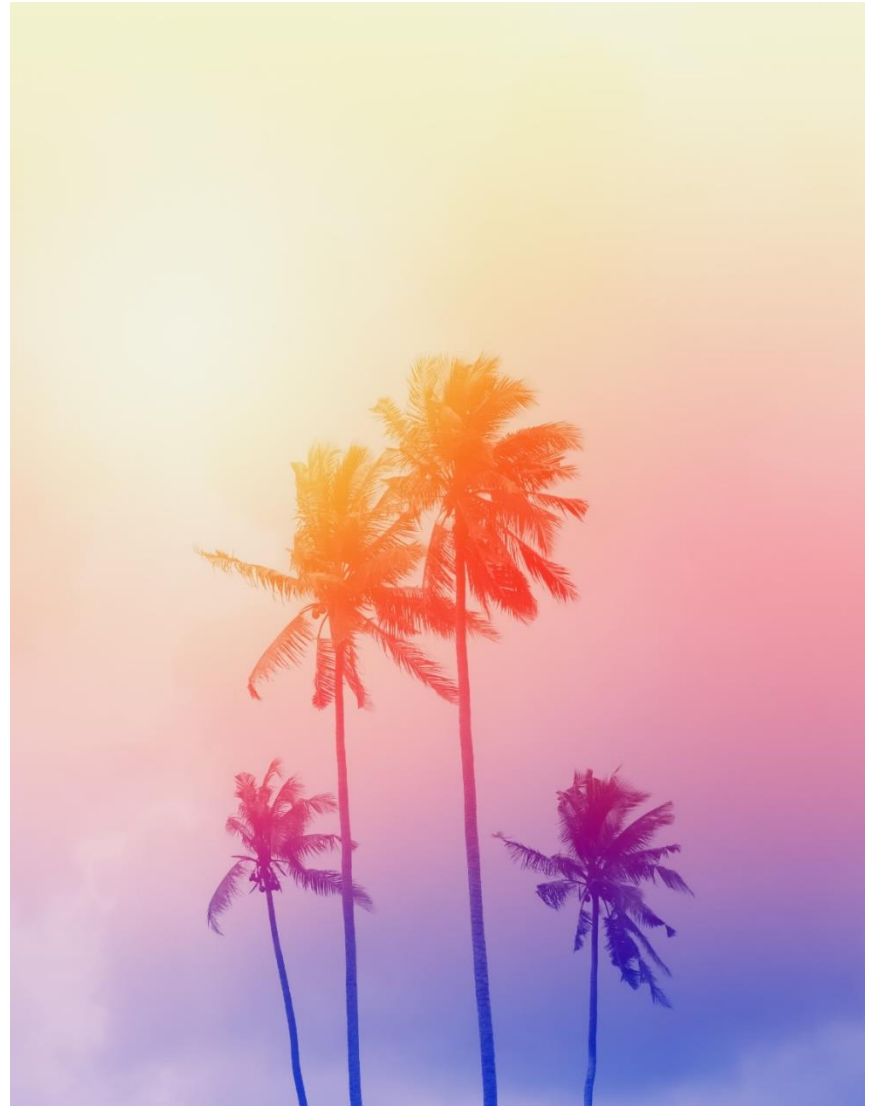
# Prayer for those who mourn


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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**

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Do not let your hearts be  
troubled.

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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.

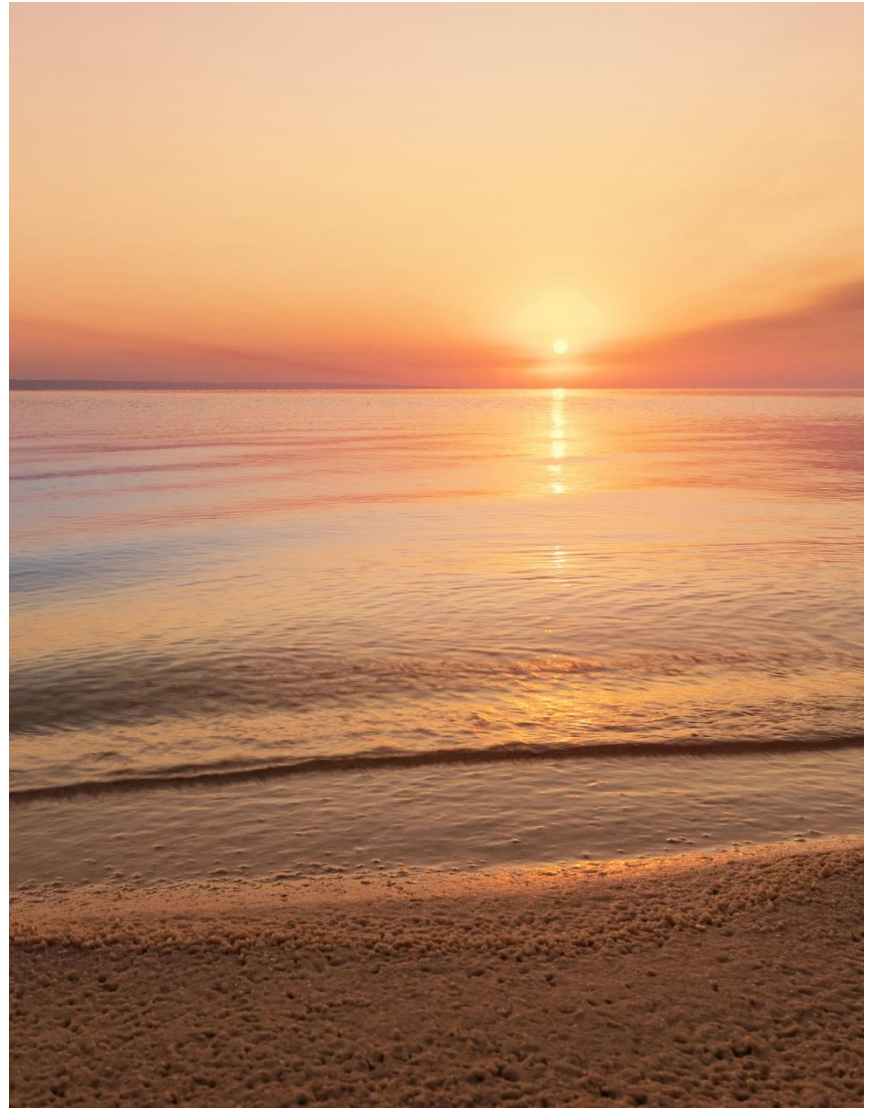




We remember in prayer all in our Loreto family who have died.

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.





# Hold me to your heart

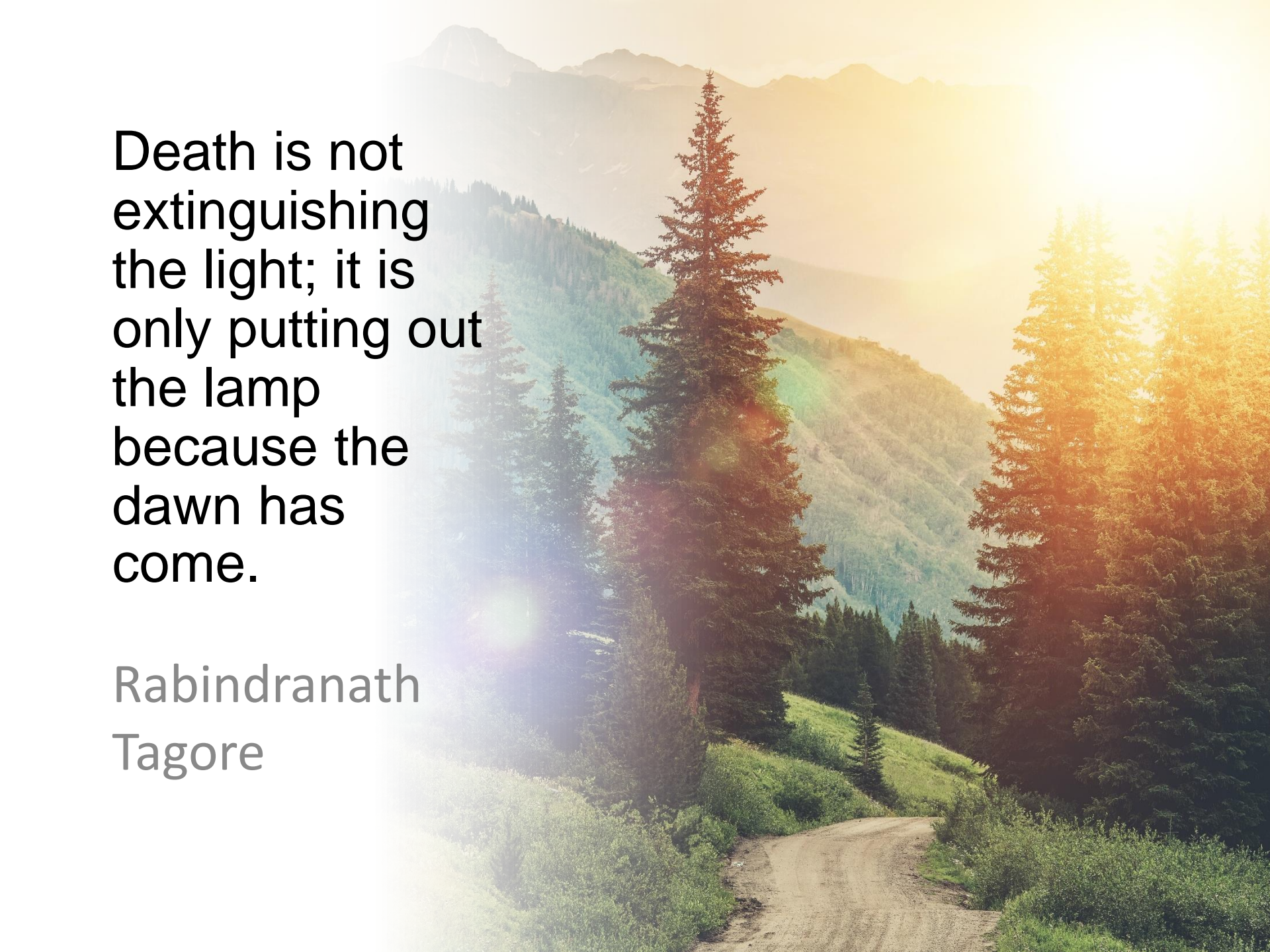
God of compassion,  
when I feel helpless in my grief,  
hold me to your heart.

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*



Death is not  
extinguishing  
the light; it is  
only putting out  
the lamp  
because the  
dawn has  
come.

Rabindranath  
Tagore

"What do we do when our hearts hurt?" asked the boy



"We wrap them with friendship,  
Shared tears and time, till they  
wake hopeful and happy again."



## **Prayer of Cardinal Newman**

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
Until the shadows lengthen and the  
evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over  
and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy  
grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last,  
through Christ Jesus, our Lord.



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.

# Concluding Prayer

Loving 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.





***Deora Dé -***  
**Burnchurch / Na**  
**Casaidigh óga**

For those missing loved ones as the season of  
Advent draws near and we prepare for Christmas ...  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6HJmNqfUXA>

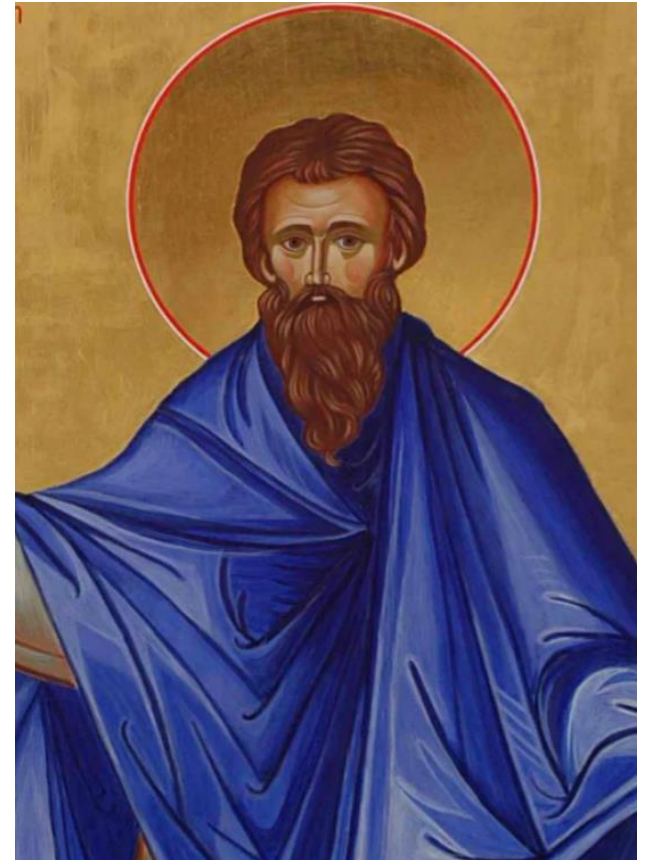


# St Laurence O'Toole Patron Saint of Dublin

## 14 November

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- Laurence (Lorcan) O'Toole was born in 1128 near Castledermot in Kildare.
- He became a monk at Glendalough and was elected abbot at the age of 25.
- His duties included not only the governance of his monastery, but also the relief of famine in the area.
- For his life-story, see <https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/f1114s/>



# The Presentation of Mary

## 21 November

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- The feast of the presentation of Mary dates back to the 6th century in the East and the 15th century in the West. It is based on an ancient tradition that says Mary was taken to the temple in Jerusalem when she was three years old and dedicated to God. What we celebrate on this day is the fact that God chose to dwell in Mary in a very special way. In response, Mary placed her whole self at the service of God.
- <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/presentation-of-mary/>





# St Cecilia

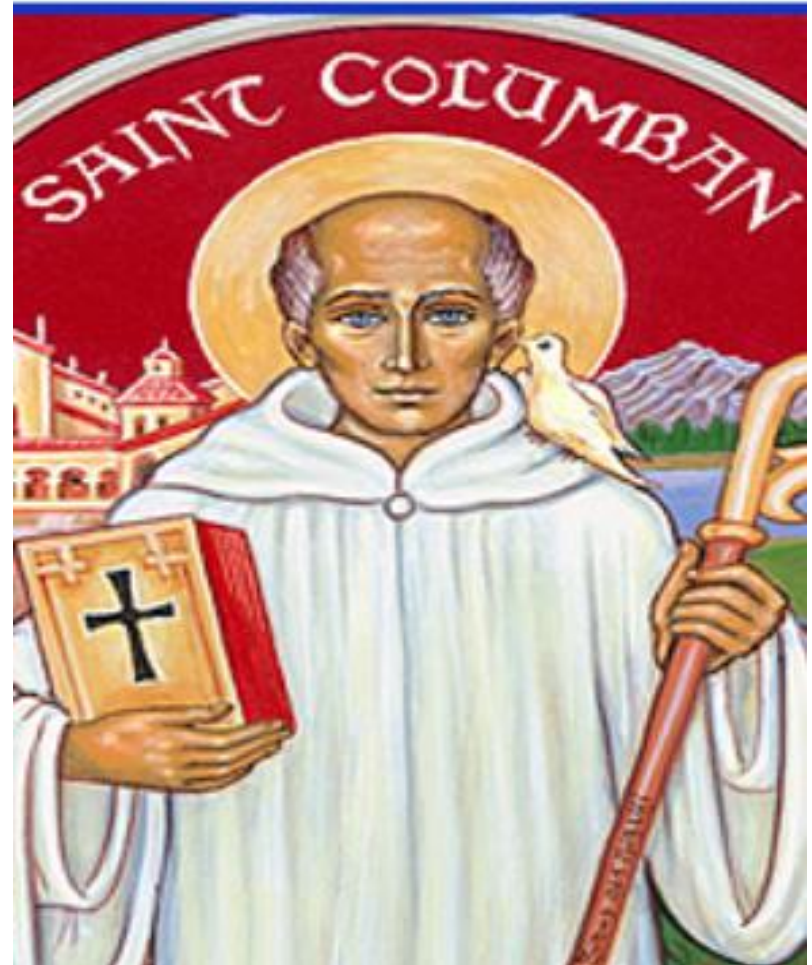
## 22 November

- Why is St. Cecilia the patron saint of musicians?
- <https://aleteia.org/2019/11/22/why-is-st-cecilia-the-patron-saint-of-musicians>

# St Columban Abbot and Missionary 23 November

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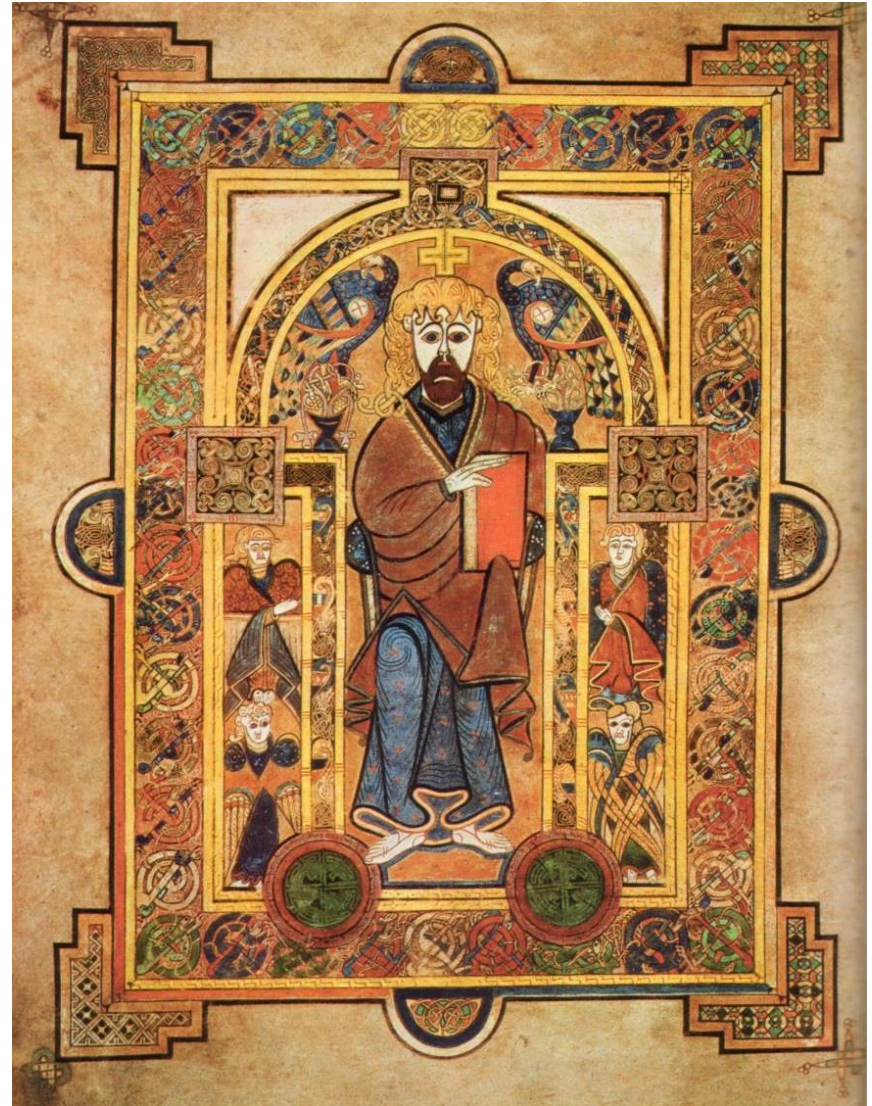
- St Columban is recognised as one of the great pioneers in western European civilization.
- He was born in Leinster in 543.
- He left Ireland to proclaim Jesus Christ and His Gospel to Western Europe.
- Amid hardship and persecution, Columban and his followers founded monasteries throughout France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.
- <https://columbans.ie/spirituality/st-columban/>



# Feast of Christ the King November 24th

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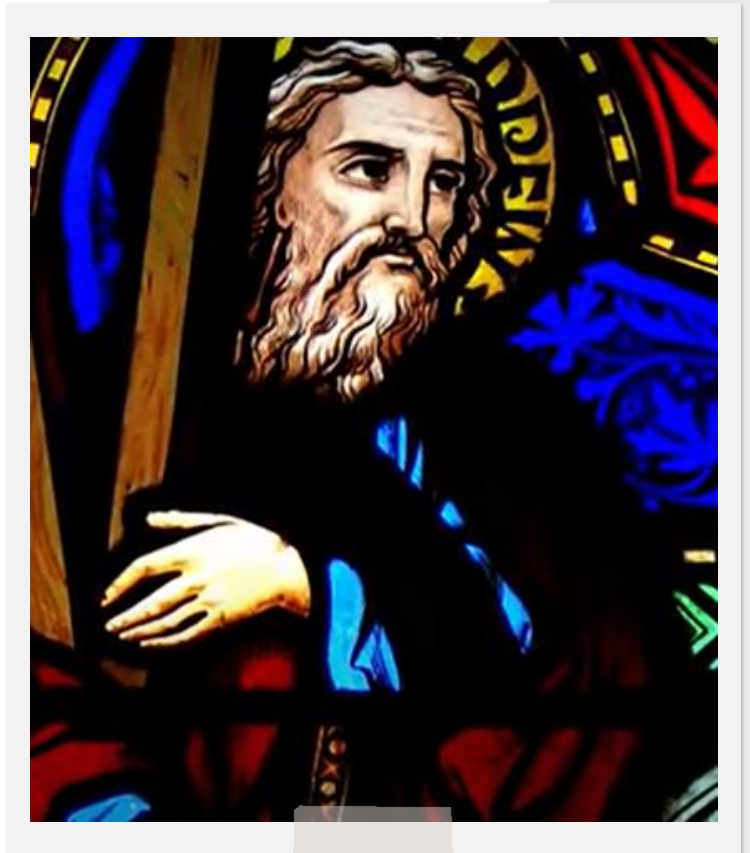
- This Feast of Christ the King is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time, which is the last Sunday before Advent begins.
- <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/solemnity-christ-king-background>



# St Andrew Apostle

## 30 November

- Patron of Fishermen, singers, Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras
- Birth: Early 1st Century
- Death: Mid-to late 1st Century
- [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=109](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=109)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-cr9ggFMW0&list=PL58g24NgWPIzvBk2IQVES\\_xC4WTm6-CDI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-cr9ggFMW0&list=PL58g24NgWPIzvBk2IQVES_xC4WTm6-CDI)



# SYNODALITY

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- On 26 October, the second month-long session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality concluded in the Vatican. This Synod was a Church gathering of 368 delegates of lay women and men, clergy and religious orders from all over the world, to discuss the theme 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.'



# Synod on Synodality Concludes

- Julieann Moran reflects with Fr Bill Kemmy on the historic moment when Pope Francis formally approved the Final Document.
- Watch this interview:  
<https://www.icatholic.ie/>
- See also:  
<https://synod.ie/author/jmoransynod-ie/>
- <https://synod.ie/final-document-from-the-universal-synod-published/>

Synod on Synodality Concludes



# SYNODALITY

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- Bishop Brendan Leahy, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, attended the Synod on behalf of the Irish Bishops' Conference.
- <https://catholicnews.ie/bishops-brendan-leahy-and-alan-mcguckian-welcome-new-synod-document/>



# SYNODALITY

- “The fruit of this Synod is not a new Church, rather a Church that is new. The Synod is inviting us to move from a way of seeing Church in terms of a ‘pyramid’ structure – a Pope at the top, and then all the way down through bishops, priests, religious, lay people – to be more collaborative and participative, with a community focus, and where each one is valued for her or his specific gifts and roles.”



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- Loreto sister Patricia Murray, a member of the synod and executive secretary of the International Union of Superiors General, speaks during a briefing about the assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican Oct. 16.
  - <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/womens-voices-being-heard-vaticans-big-meeting-churchs-future-nun-says>

