
In the month of November…
We remember with love and gratitude those who have died.

# In Loving Memory

*We look towards each other no longer*
*From the old distance of our names;*
*Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,*
*As close to us as we are to ourselves.*

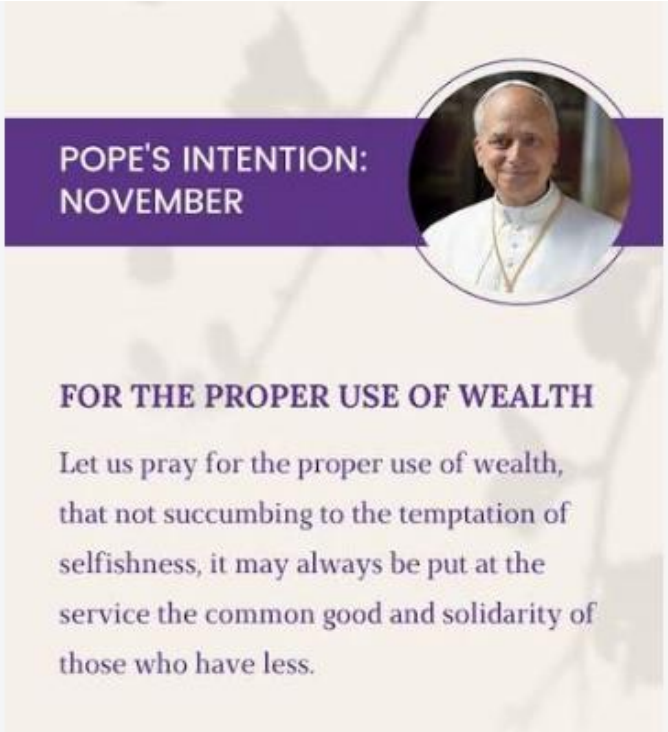
*Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,*
*We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,*
*Smiling back at us from within everything*
*To which we bring our best refinement.*

*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.*

*(John O'Donohue - an extract)*



## Pray with the Pope: For the proper use of wealth | November 2026




- https://youtu.be/eiBoCMYGe-4?si=0nitiE_yfnfsJyei

- Everything we possess—goods, talents, time, opportunities—is a gift we have received.
- However, we often let the desire to accumulate harden our hearts, trap us in selfishness, and distance us from the most vulnerable.
- True wealth is not measured by what we keep, but by what we are able to share with love and justice.

# In the month of November…

We remember with love

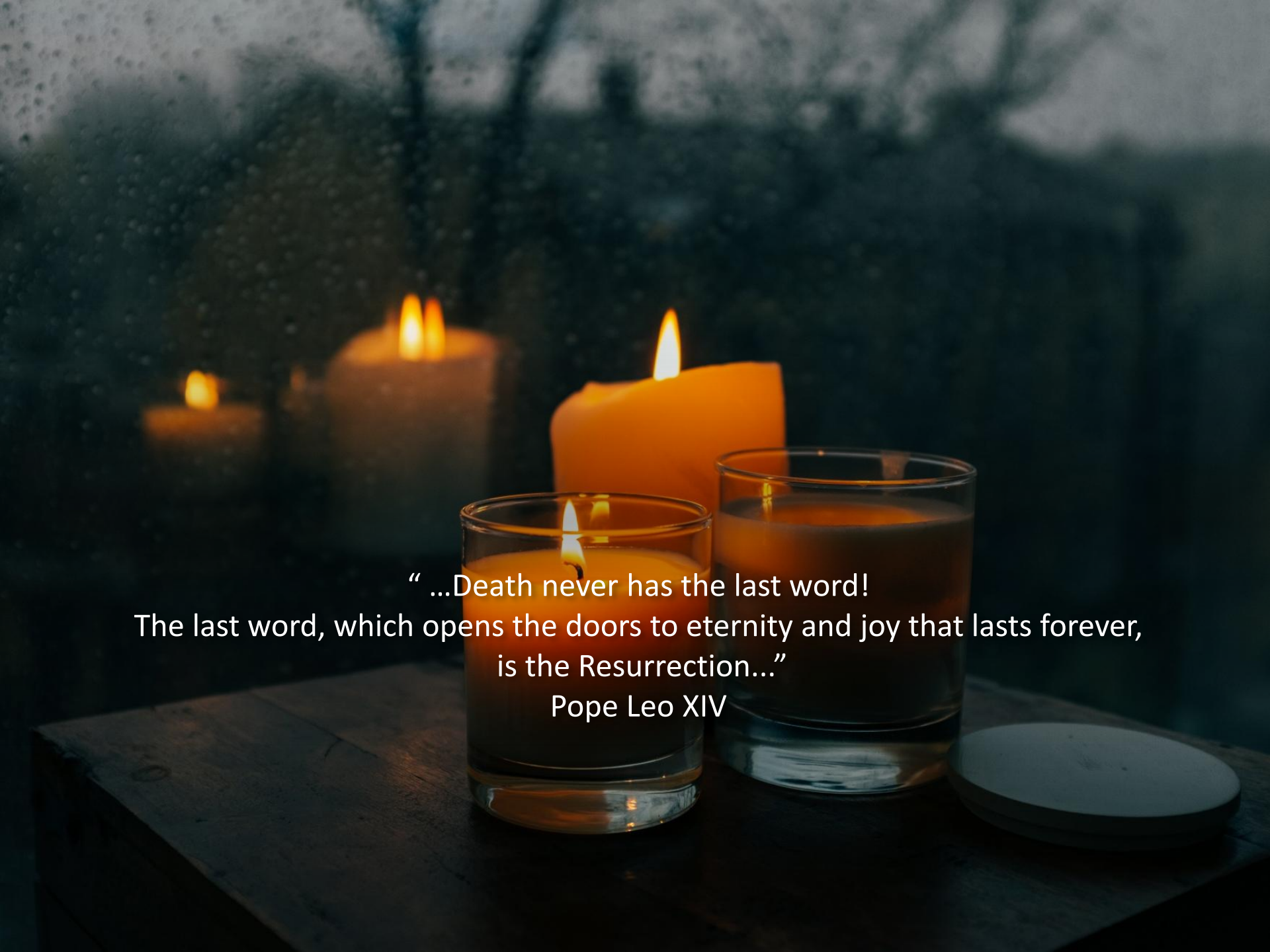
and gratitude

those who have died

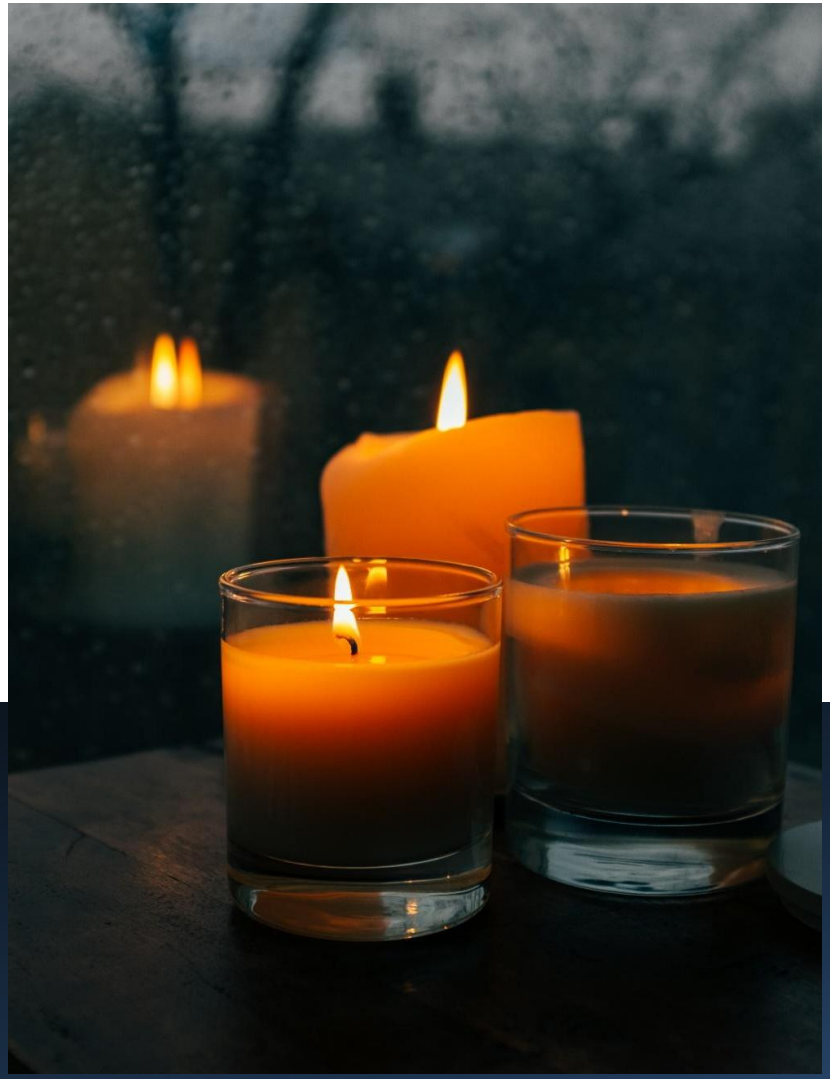
and we pray for all who

mourn.




“ …Death never has the last word!
The last word, which opens the doors to eternity and joy that lasts forever,
is the Resurrection...”
Pope Leo XIV

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



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



# 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



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.

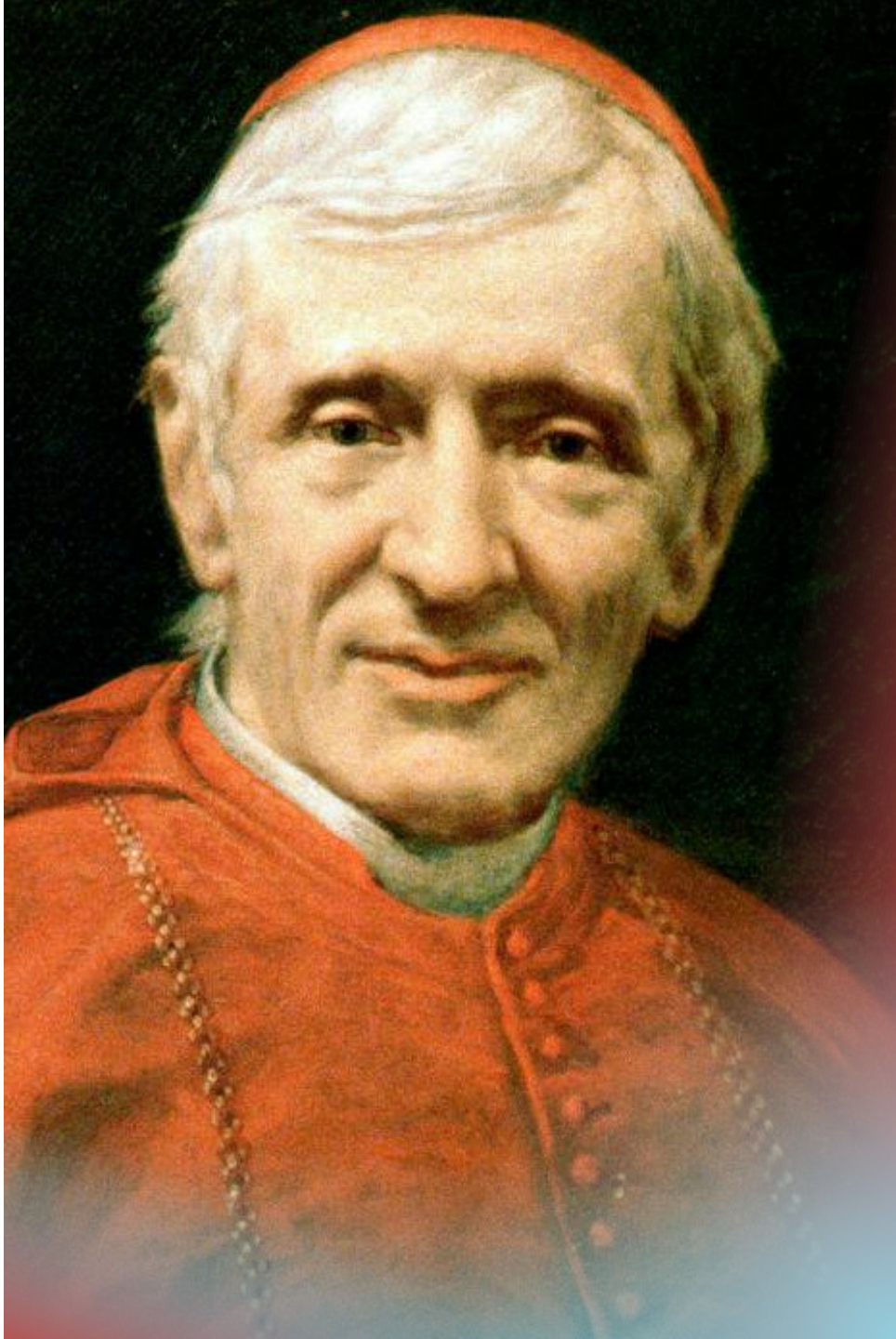
They try to see Christ in every person and every situation. Saints tell us what matters most in life is not what we earn or own, not the job we have or the people we know.

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/

# Saint John Henry Newman

On November 1, 2025,
during the Jubilee of the World of Education,
the title of Doctor of the Church
was conferred on
Saint John Henry Newman,
who contributed decisively to
the renewal of theology
and to the understanding of the
development of Christian doctrine.
His feast day is celebrated on 9 October.





# 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.


- https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/the-commemoration-of-all-souls/



# 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.

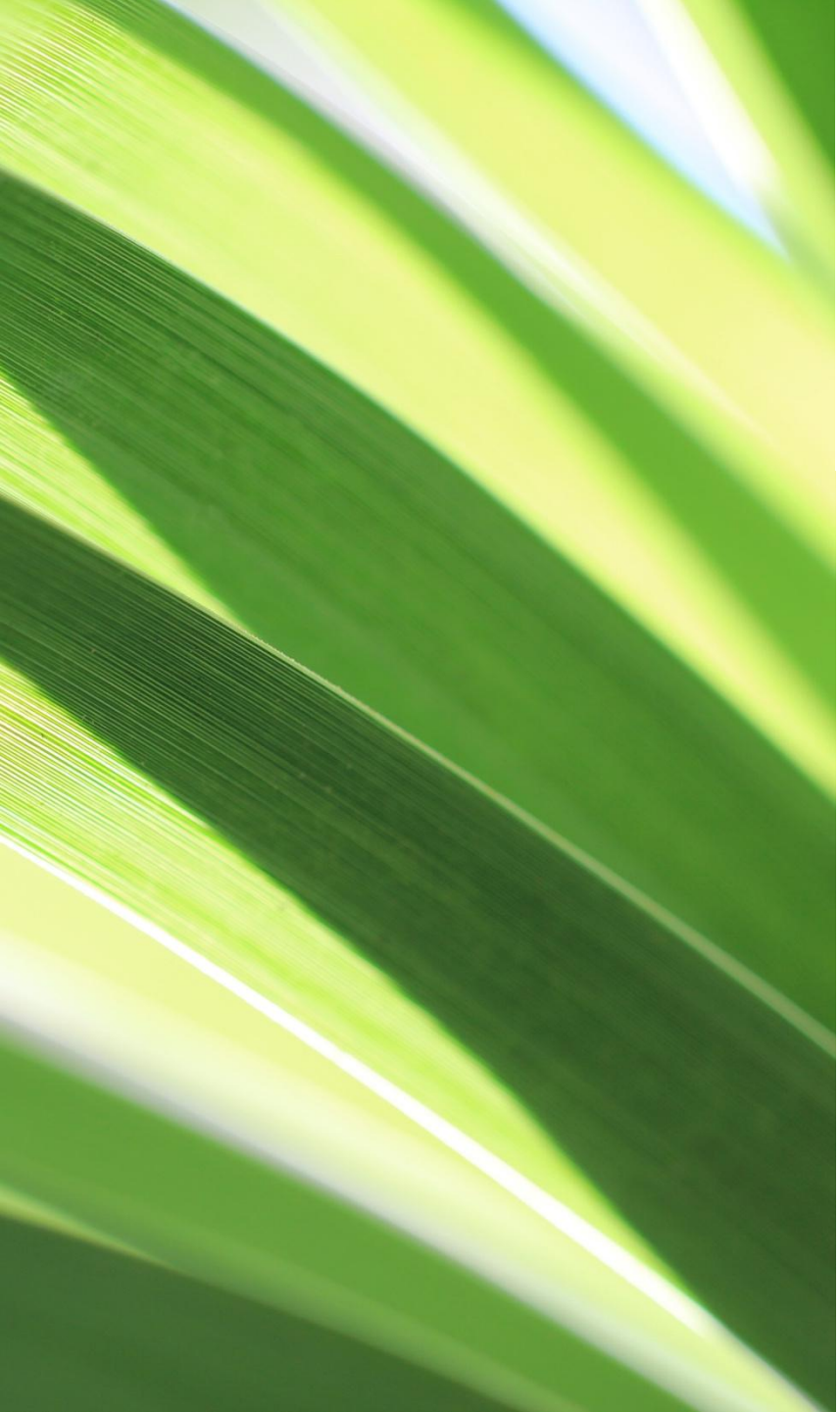
Though we may forget them, they can never forget us; their secret embrace unknowingly shelters and minds us.



# Reflections on Grief (continued)

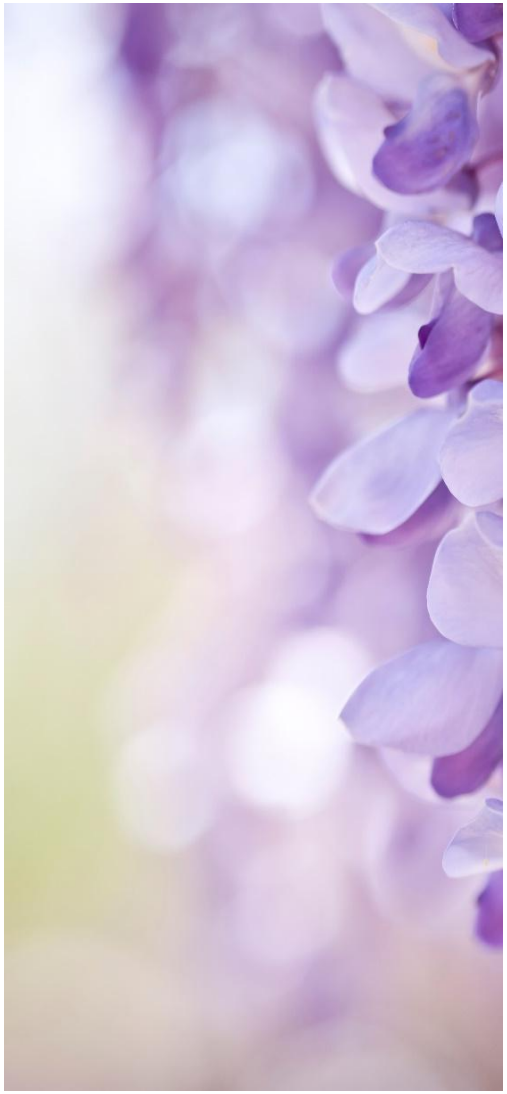
The bright moment in grief is when the sore absence gradually changes into a well of presence. You become aware of the subtle companionship of the departed one. You know that when you are in trouble, you can turn to this presence beside you and draw on it for encouragement and blessing. The departed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



# 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.



# 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.

MEETING FOR PRAYER FOR PEACE

# *ADDRESS OF POPE LEO XIV IN THE PRESENCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS*

*Colosseum, Rome*
*Tuesday, 28 October 2025*

*https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/october/documents/20251028-meeting-pace.html*

In the power of prayer,

with hands raised to heaven and open to others,

we must ensure that this period of history,

marked by war and the arrogance of power,

soon comes to an end,

giving rise to a new era.

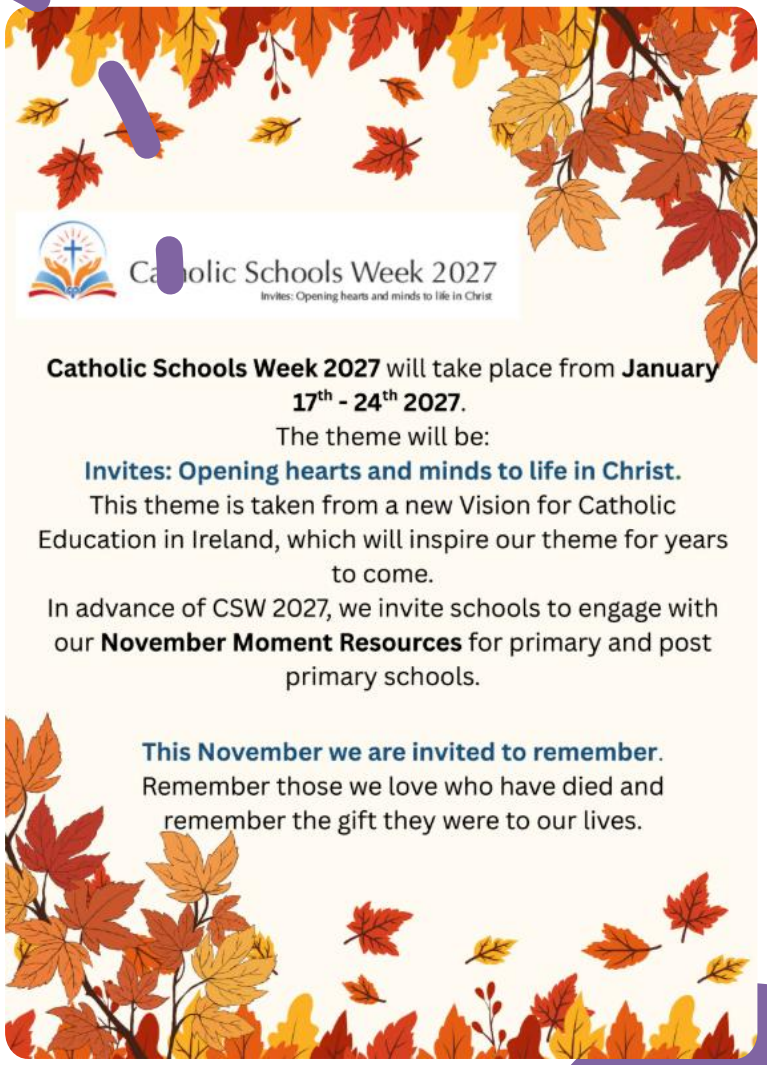


# November Moment 2026

- Catholic Schools Week 2027 takes place 17-24 January with the theme (taken from *A Vision of Catholic Education in Ireland*):
- **Invites: Opening hearts and minds to life in Christ.**
- In November 2026, we are invited to remember those we love who have died.

- For prayers and resources, see

https://catholiceducation.ie/november-moment-2026/#:~:text=The%20theme%20will%20be%3A,theme%20for%20years%20to%20come.



# 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

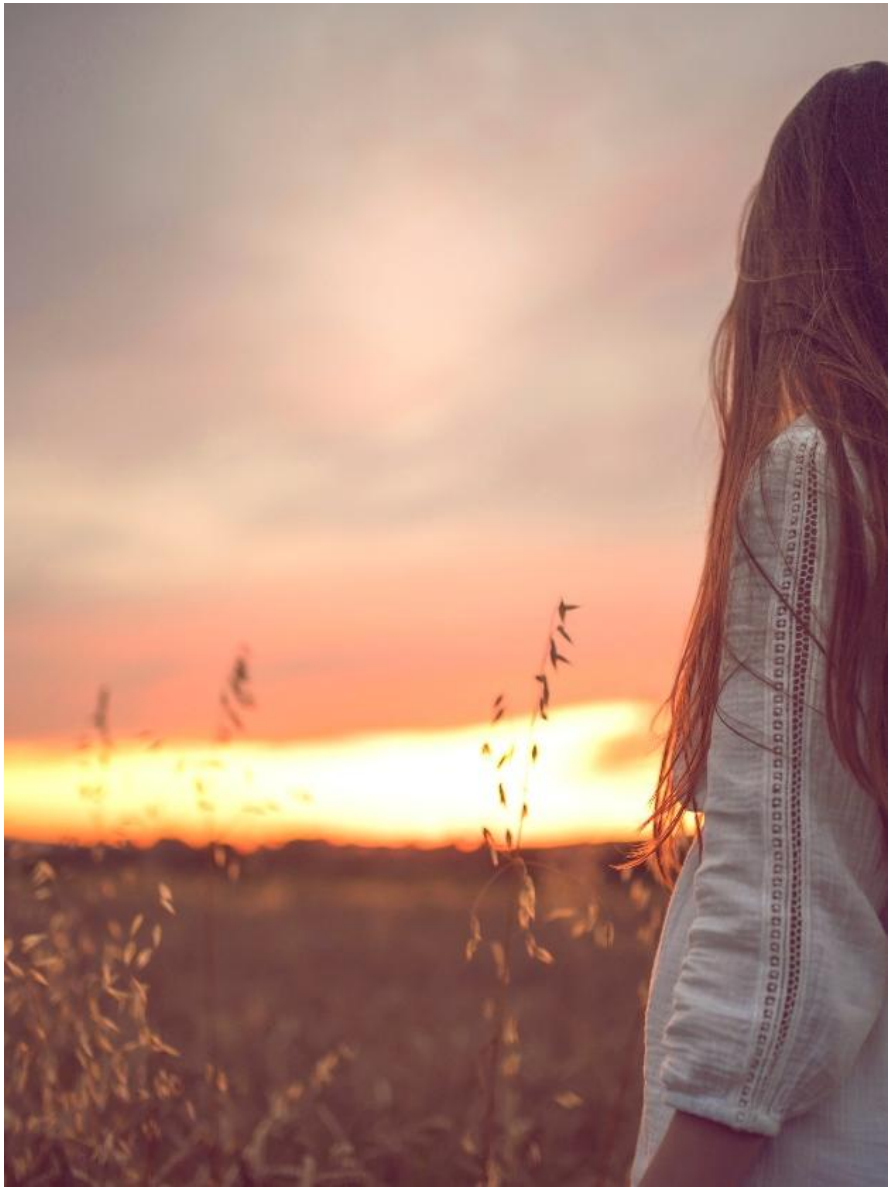




Those who die go no further from us than God and God is very near.

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

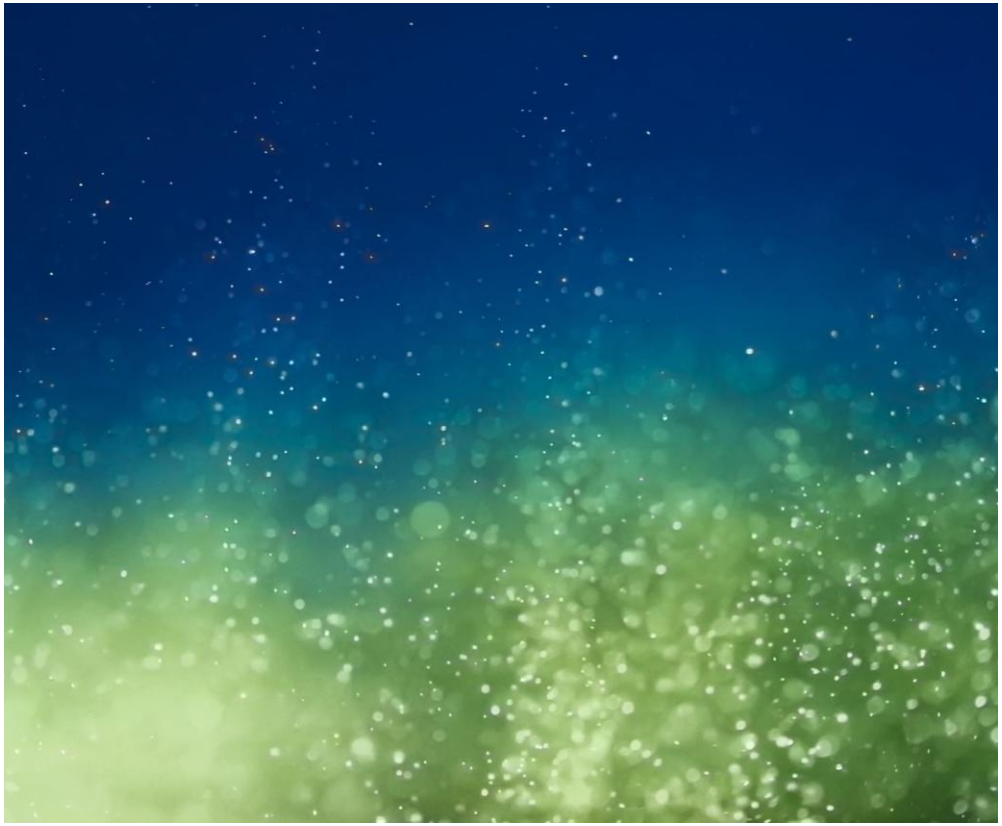
Bless those who mourn, eternal God,
with the comfort of your love
that they may face each new day with hope
and the certainty that nothing can destroy
the good that has been given.
May their memories become joyful,
their days enriched with friendship,
and their lives encircled by your love.

Amen.

*Vienna Cobb Anderson, from Prayers of Our Hearts*







Do not let your hearts be troubled.

**John 14:1**

Trust in God, and trust also in me.

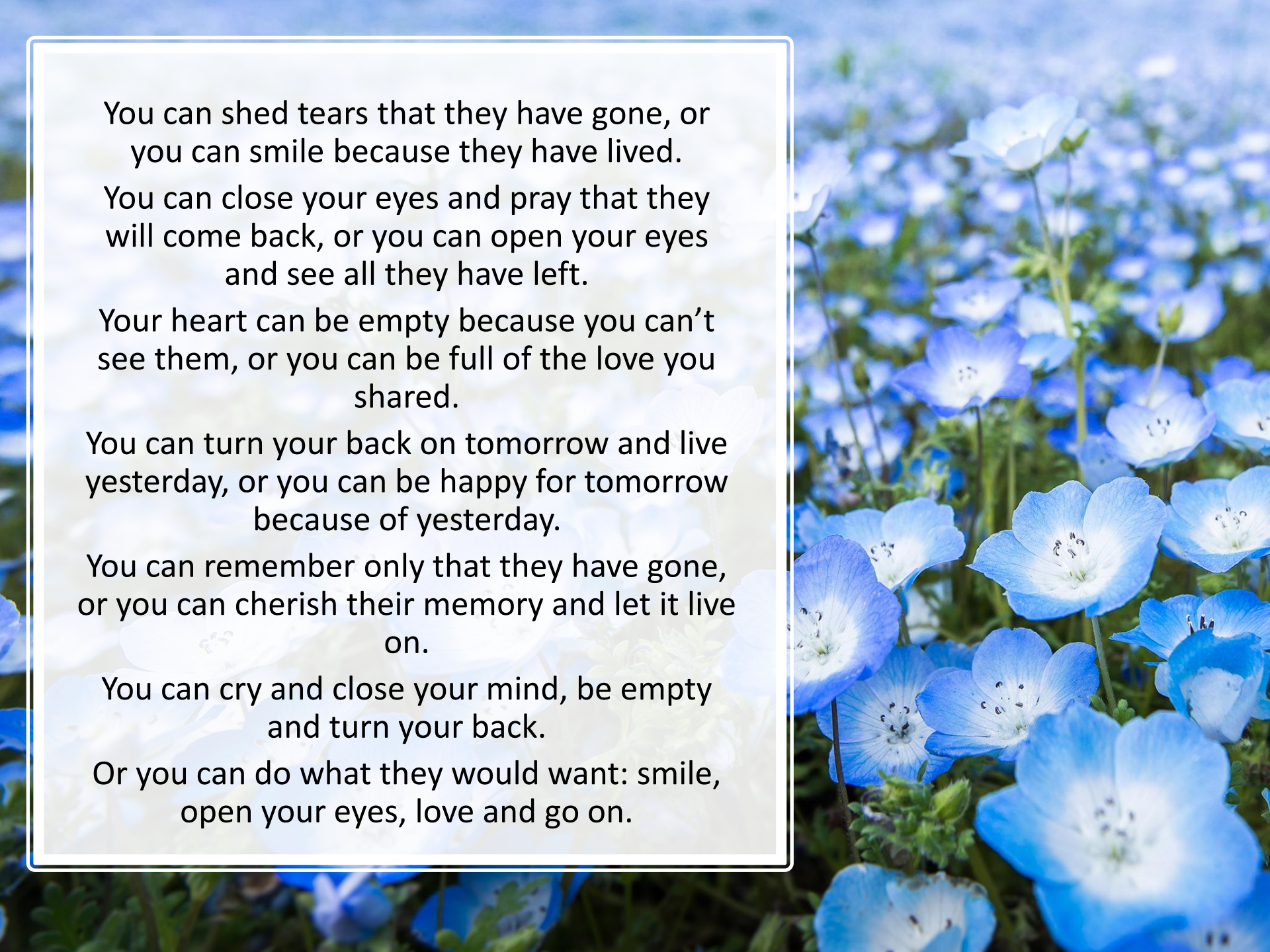


# You are the Resurrection and the Life

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.

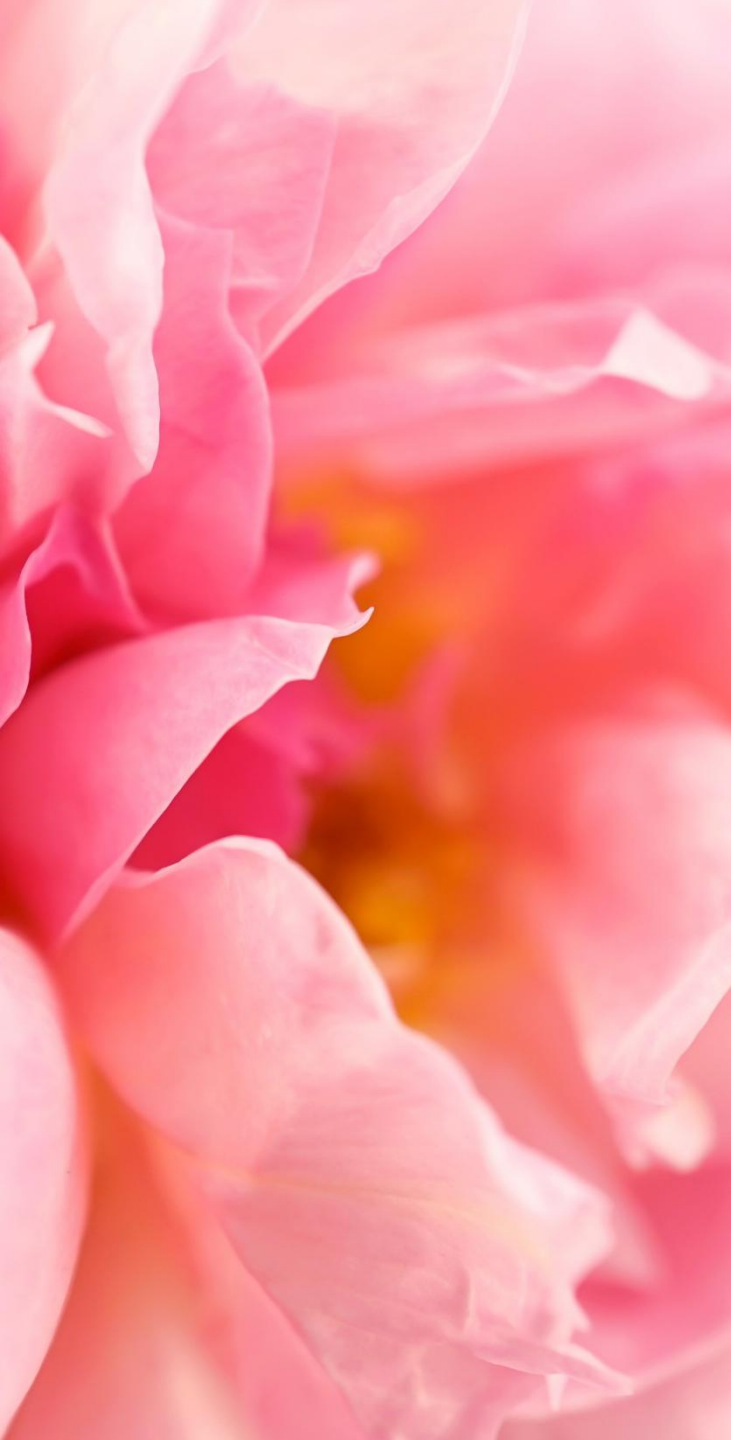
Or you can do what they would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

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

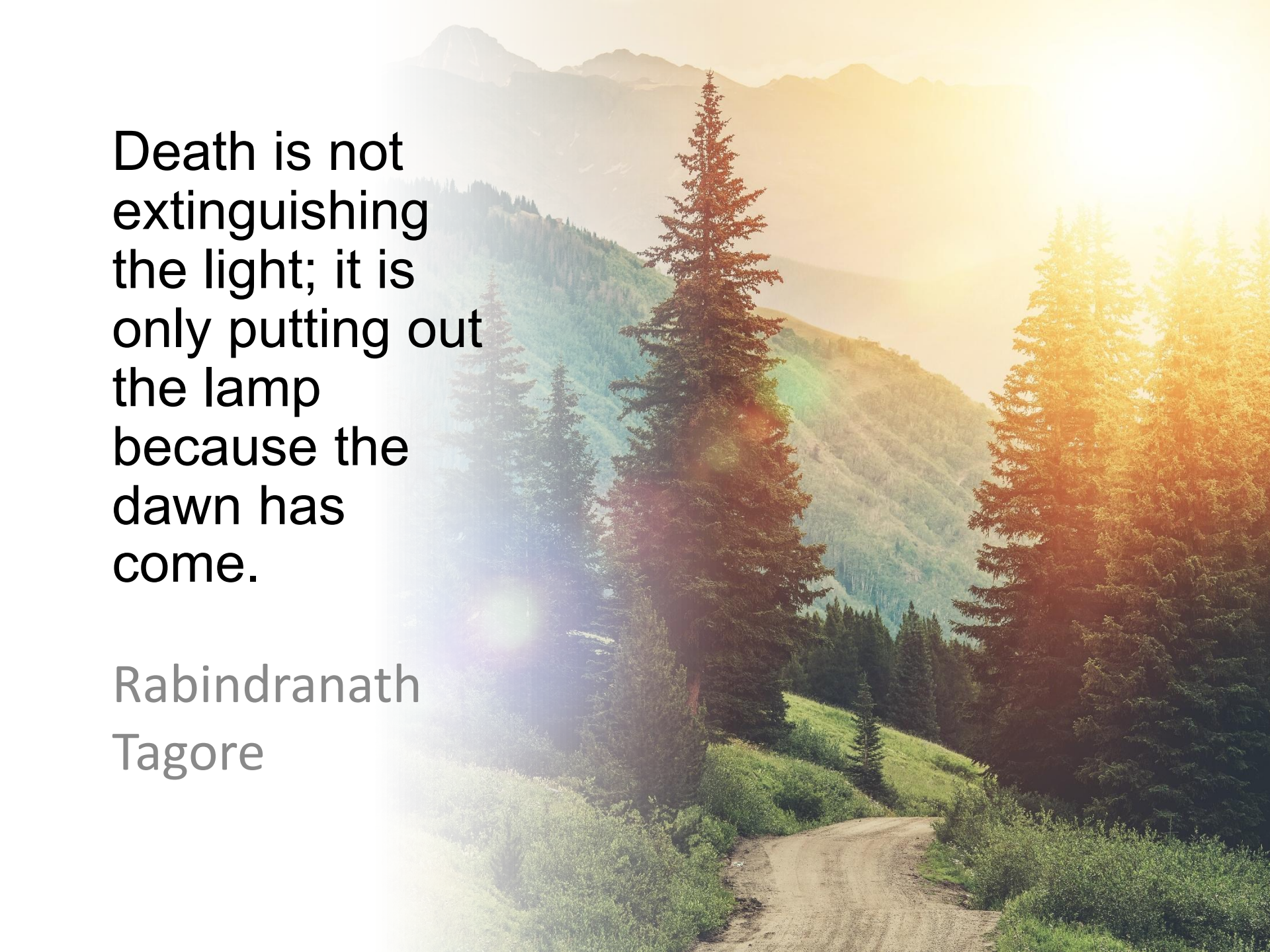
God of compassion,
when I feel helpless in my grief,
hold me to your heart.

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 Saint John Henry 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.

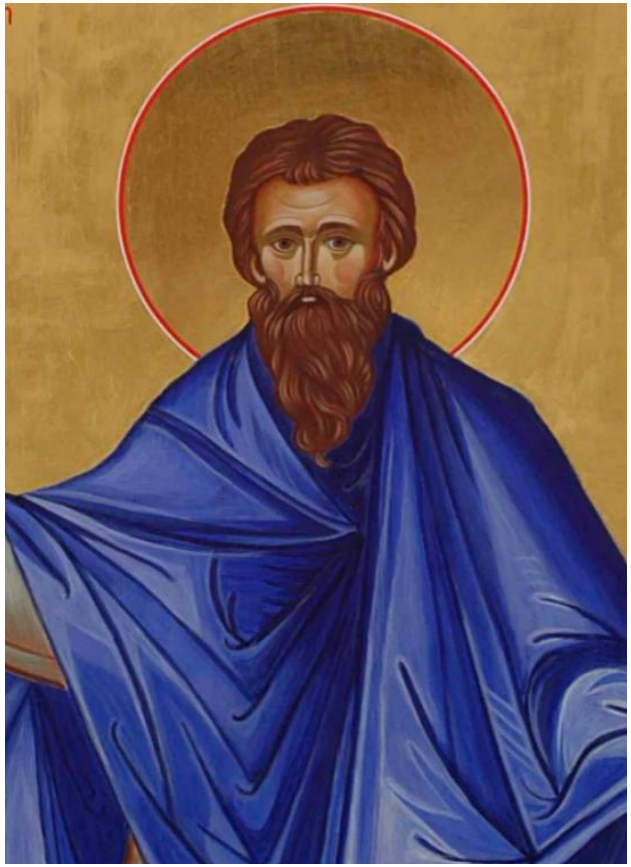
Comfort us with your promise of eternal life.

We make our prayer

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# St Laurence O'Toole Patron Saint of Dublin
# 14 November

- 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

- 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

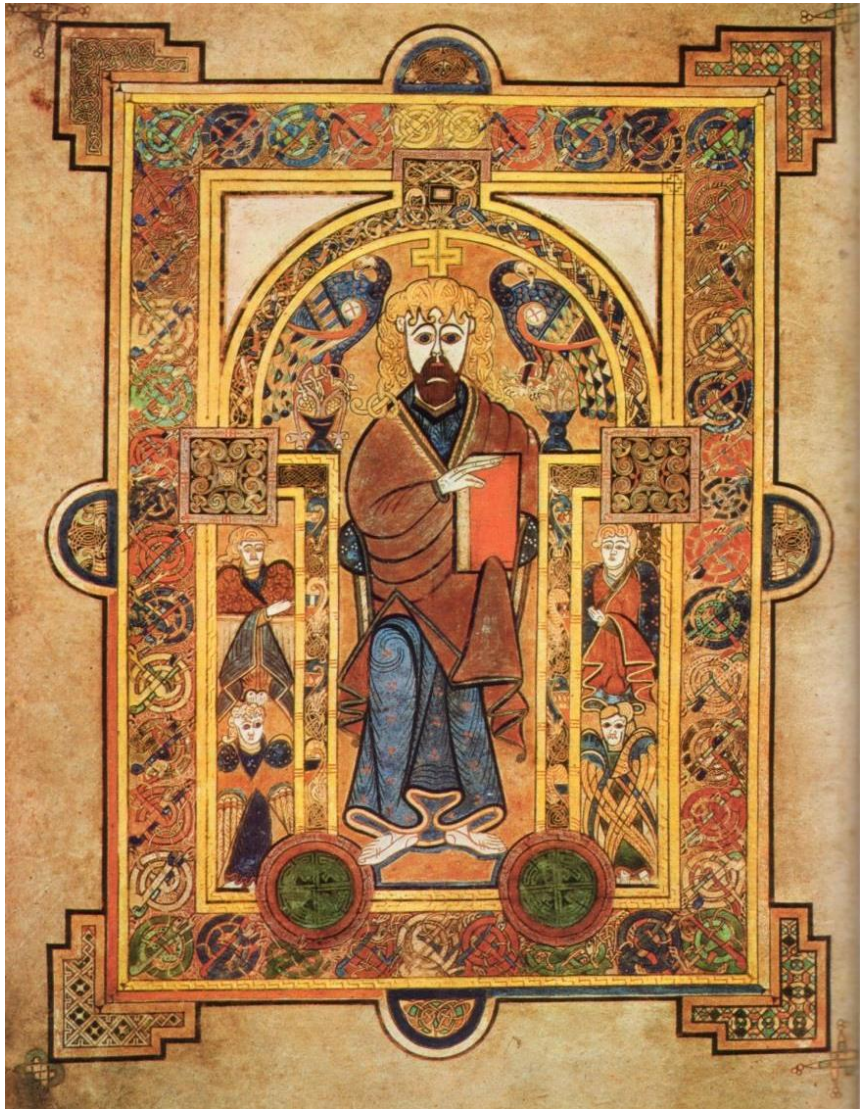
- St Columban is recognised as one of the great pioneers in western European civilization.
- He was born in Leinster in 543.
- He left Ireland to proclaim Jesus Christ and His Gospel to Western Europe.
- Amid hardship and persecution, Columban and his followers founded monasteries throughout France,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



# Feast of Christ the King November 24th

- The 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.youtube.com/watch?v=r_cr9ggFMW0&list=PL58g24NgWPIzvBk2IQVES_xC4WTm6-CDI





The first Sunday of Advent in 2026 is Sunday, November 29, 2026.
It marks the first day of the Christian season of Advent and the start of the new liturgical year (Year B)

# World Youth Day
# August 3–8, 2027

We pray for those in our Loreto Education community who are preparing to participate in WYD in South Korea next August.

The official theme for WYD 2027 is *“Take Courage, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).*

See also
https://theway.ie/39162-2/
https://register.wyd-reg.org/welcome/

