

## Why November?

As winter approaches, these November days shorten. The leaves turn brown and red and gold and fall to the ground. All of nature seems to be dying – entering its annual winter slumber.

At the same time Christian people turn to those who have died and remember them in prayer. Our remembrance is filled with hope – hope that just as in nature after Winter there comes the Spring so too after death there comes eternal everlasting life with God.

## Commendation of the Dead

May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

May choirs of angels welcome you  
and lead you to the bosom of Abraham;  
and where Lazarus is poor no longer  
may you find eternal rest.

Amen

## For the Bereaved

Merciful Lord,  
You know the anguish of the sorrowful,  
You are attentive to the prayers of  
the humble. Hear your people who  
cry out to you in their need,  
and strengthen their hope in your  
lasting goodness; We ask this through  
Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayers from the Order of  
Christian Funerals  
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DIOCESE OF CLONFERT



November  
Remembrance of  
Our Dead in a  
Time of Pandemic

GRAVESIDE PRAYER



During the month of November you are encouraged to visit the graves of loved ones. This short service of prayer may be celebrated during your visit or at home – either alone or as a family.

At the beginning of November your local Priest will privately bless the graves in each cemetery of the Parish.

Envelopes are provided in churches throughout the Diocese for the list of family members and friends whom you wish to have remembered in prayer.

## As we begin ...

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*Pause for a moment to become aware of God's presence*

Father, creator of the world and the source of all life!

**We turn to you in prayer.**

Jesus, who died but rose to life on the third day!

**We turn to you in prayer.**

Spirit, who brings consolation and healing in our sadness and loss!

**We turn to you in prayer.**

## From the Gospel of John 11: 21-24

Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you". "Your brother", said Jesus to her, "will rise again." Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes Lord", she said. "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

*Pause for a moment of quite reflection on the words of the Gospel*

## Remembering by name

Father, I thank you for all who are buried here.  
*(mention their names)*

We ask you to gather them more closely into your eternal heavenly embrace.

We miss them – help us when we are sad.

Give us hope that one day we will see them again in your presence. **Amen**

*In silence place flowers or some token of remembrance on the grave*

**Our Father**, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

**Hail Mary**, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. **Amen**

**Glory be** to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen**

## As we end ...

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. **Amen**

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

## A Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
May the Lord lift up his face upon us and grant us his peace. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**