



*God bless to us this day,
God bless to us this night,
Bless, oh bless the world around us,
Every day and hour of our life.*

*"May He support us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed
and the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging
and a Holy Rest
and Peace at the last."*

(St. John Henry Newman)

A TIME FOR REMEMBERING

The feasts of All Saints and All Souls give a real focus for remembering all of our loved ones who have died, and particularly those in our communities who have died recently. These last seven months we have had to confront the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on all our lives. The memories associated with this in terms of grief, loneliness, redundancy and anxiety continue to be felt. As ever, at this time of the year we remember all in the armed services who have lost their lives in war and other conflicts.



"Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light." Matthew 11:28-30

LIVING WITH LOSS

Over these last months we have all been living with an immense spectrum of losses, most significantly the loss through death of loved ones, either as a result of Covid or other causes. But there have been other losses which have also taken their toll.

Restrictions imposed on us because of the pandemic have caused real difficulties for families and friends as they have been unable to meet; many people have been isolated and lonely; wearing masks sometimes even prevents us from recognising each other, and our sense of belonging and community have been severely disrupted.

- **In our living and loving and losing, keep us united Lord in our care and concern for each other.**
- **Dear God we trust that you will be with us as we navigate the frightening landscape of grief and loss.**
- **Help us Lord to hear the quiet and gentle voice of hope amidst the sadness and sorrow.**
- **Dear Lord give us courage and compassion as we try to support each other in the uncertain times in which we are living.**

In Trust and Hope we pray,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him"

(Lamentations 3 verses 22-24)



As we celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, we remember....

- Those who brightened our lives with joy.
- Those who touched us with their care and compassion.
- Those with whom we laughed and cried.
- Those whose loss leaves us diminished.

We pray for all who have gone before us and who have shown us how to live in love, and die in faith and hope.

IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES WE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Our priests who are celebrating Mass in restricted circumstances and together with deacons are organising funerals where only a limited number of family and friends can attend.
- Our doctors, nurses and other health care workers who are working on the front line—often having to suppress their own natural anxieties and fears.
- Our refuse collectors, shop workers, bus drivers and those who have made so many deliveries to our doors.
- All those friends and neighbours who have so generously offered their time to help the more vulnerable members of our communities.

In his new encyclical, Pope Francis reminds us that we are all connected. Covid-19 has shown that we are a "global community, all in the same boat." This crisis gives us the opportunity to continue to 'look out for each other' especially the poor and vulnerable in our communities. As we are connected with the living so also are we connected with those who have gone before us.