

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD AT THE FUNERAL MASS

A Catholic funeral Mass is not just a memorial service to remember the dead person. It is certainly important to give expression to the grief of family and friends at the loss of someone they cherished, and whose goodness they want to remember. A funeral is a leave taking, it is saying goodbye, but in the belief and hope that we will all be reunited in the kingdom of God.

Catholic funerals are realistic. They are not canonisations that treat the deceased as though they were flawless human beings. It is often at death that family and friends become most painfully aware of the shortcomings and failures of a person's life. There may have been relationships that were not properly healed but festered over many years. There is now no time for healing. A parent may have to struggle with the suicide of a child, wondering what was wrong that they never knew about. Someone may have died in difficult human circumstances, even perhaps violently, or causing violence to another. Celebrating a funeral in circumstances like these can be troubling, unless we remember that an essential element of every Catholic funeral is praying that the sins of the departed may be forgiven.

The earliest reference in the Bible to praying for the dead dates from about 160 years before Christ. After a battle to defend Jerusalem and its temple, it was discovered that some of the young Jewish troops were wearing pagan charms. Jewish Law regarded this as idolatry. Knowing that these young men had fought for the faith, but that in a moment of weakness, they reached out for another security, Judas Maccabeus, the

general, arranged for sacrifices to be offered for the dead 'so that they might be released from their sin' (2Ma 12:45). At every funeral Mass, we pray for the same intention, that this person, woman or man, young or old, "might be released from their sin."

REMEMBERING THE DEAD AT EVERY MASS

One of the most moving deathbed scenes in Christian writing is that of St Monica. She took ill at Ostia, near Rome, while waiting to sail home to North Africa. Her two sons, Augustine and Navigius, were with her. Navigius, probably a man of more feeling than his brother, was anxious to get her home to die among her own people. Monica looked at his tears, and said to both her sons: "Lay this body anywhere, let not the care for it trouble you at all. This only I ask, that you will remember me at the Lord's altar, wherever you be."

In every Mass then, we pause to remember at the altar of the Lord the dead "who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith." It is a good custom to spend a few minutes before Mass remembering the dead we wish to remember especially during this celebration – especially those recently departed or whose anniversaries are close.

The departed can pray for us. First of all, the saints who have finally made their way into the fullness of life remember us and pray for us. We can also ask the prayers of the souls in purgatory to intercede for us in our earthly needs, especially in return for our prayers for them. ■



Today's readings

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

Matthew 25:31-46

In the first two chapters of Matthew's account, known generally as the Infancy Narrative, the theme of Jesus, King of the Jews is introduced.

Here are some symbols which might help us appreciate the kind of king Christ is:

Crib: the word of God took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary; through the person of Jesus the risen and glorified Christ understands what it means to be human;

Crook: Christ is the shepherd king like David; today's reading from Ezekiel and the Psalm recall the Lord as shepherd, gathering the flock and judging between its members;

Cross: Jesus is proclaimed King on the Cross, the symbol of his complete obedience and dedication to the mission entrusted to him by the Father;

Crown: Jesus is exalted as Son of God through his offering of himself for our sake; this is expressed in the New Testament by means of psalms used at the coronation of the Israelite kings.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

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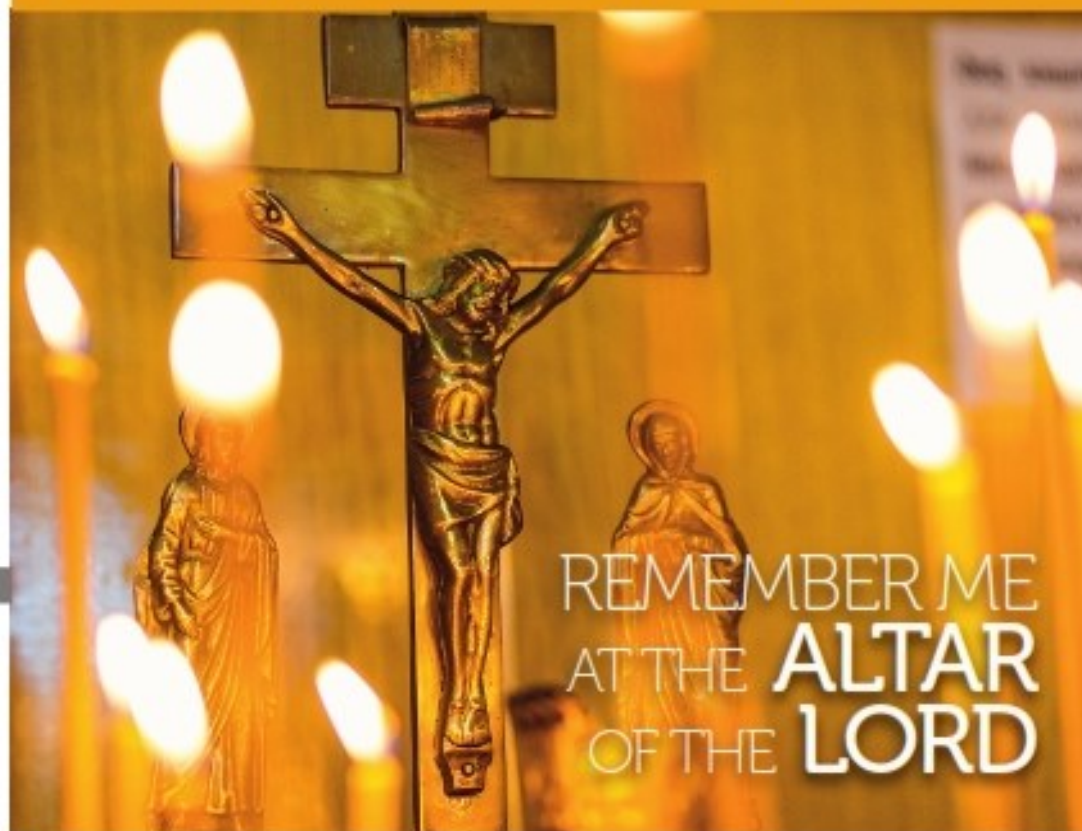
26 November 2017 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe **Year A**

Psalter Week 2

SERIES: REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Session colour: **GREEN**

In this short series, Fr Brendan McConvery remembers the dead during the month of November.



REMEMBER ME
AT THE ALTAR
OF THE LORD

We usually pray more for the dead during November than at any other time of year. I was taught as a child to pray especially for three kinds of souls in purgatory – those who were nearest to finishing their time, those who were the most forgotten and those who most deserved to be remembered by me – family members, neighbours, those who had been good to me or anyone I may have hurt during their life time. Praying for the dead is an expression of our faith in the "communion of saints" which we profess every time we say the creed. It is not a prayer intention to be confined to November.

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**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
26th November 2017**

Jesus, the Lord of all creation cared so much for those in his domain, that he was willing to die, in order to care for them. Those who will finally belong to him, will be those who have shared his care for the hungry, the naked, the lost, the crippled and the strays of this world.

CHOOSE LIFE

"Adopting a child is an act of love, offering the gift of a family to someone who has none. It is important to insist that legislation help facilitate the adoption process, above all in the case of unwanted children, in order to prevent their abortion or abandonment."
Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 179

NOVEMBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

CEMETERY ROSARY The Rosary will be recited in Sligo Cemetery today at 3.00pm. This is the final Cemetery Sunday for the month of the Holy Souls this year.

FIRST FRIDAY Friday, 1st December, is the First Friday. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm. Confessions will take place before the 8am, 10.30am & 7pm Masses.

THANK YOU FR. ANDRZEJ

We thank Fr. Andrzej, for his service and dedication over the last few years as Chaplain to the Polish community here in Sligo. We wish him well and pray every blessing upon him as he leaves us now for pastures new.

ROSARY IN THE CATHEDRAL Rosary is said daily at 10am, before 10.30am Mass, year round. Please tune in on our website, www.sligocathedral.ie and click on the red "watch us live" button or join us in the Cathedral for this prayerful time.

CHORAL FESTIVAL THANK YOU

We thank most sincerely Sligo Gospel Choir for singing at our 12noon Mass last Sunday and enhancing the liturgy so much.

ROSARY BY THE COAST As part of a national prayer initiative, you are invited to join with thousands of others who will pray the Rosary around the coast of Ireland for the protection of life today, Sunday 26th November at 2.30pm. Sligo locations: Strandhill, Rosses Point, Streedagh Beach, Mullaghmore Beach, Lissadell Beach, Culleenamore/Kellystown Beach. For meeting points and details of over 200 other locations see www.coastalrosaryireland.ie

SUNDAY READINGS for 3rd December: 1st Reading: Is. 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8; 2nd Reading: 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Gospel: Mk. 13:33-37.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT,
SUNDAY 26th November at 9.00pm**

TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,750.
Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 19th November **PARISH ENV: € 1645 PL/STAND. ORD: €2085**
THANK YOU for your contribution.
ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261
✉ email us at info@sligocathedral.ie We welcome your comments.

CHRISTMAS FAIR IN ST. MARY'S PARISH

A Christmas Fair will be held in the Gillooly Hall on Saturday, 9th December 2017 from 2pm to 6pm. Tickets are currently on sale for the draw. Anyone who is interested in having a stall in the Christmas Fair is asked to contact the Parish Office on 071 9162670. We are also looking for Volunteers to work on the day and donations of unused decorations for the Hall. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist with any of this.

Thank you.

DATE FOR DIARY

Please reserve Sunday, 17th December for our Carol Service which will be at 8.15pm in the Cathedral.



SPRING CLEAN OF THE CATHEDRAL There will be a clean-up of the Cathedral for Advent and Christmas on Friday, 1st December from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. All welcome to join in. Please bring a duster, mop or vaccum cleaner etc with you on the evening. Thank you for your support.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUPS Reflections available to download at www.elphindiocese.ie/advent and other prayer booklets available from Justin Harkin, phone 087 6171526 or email justin@elphindiocese.ie

PRO LIFE CAMPAIGN NATIONAL CONFERENCE takes place in the Concert Hall of the RDS on Sunday, 3rd December from 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm. Guest speakers include Abby Johnson, former director of an abortion clinic and Lord David Alton, human rights activist along with other inspiring talks and testimonies. It is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of retaining the 8th Amendment in the challenging months ahead. Registration is important. Call 087 2668702 or email info@prolifecampaign.ie.

ELPHIN DIOCESE YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI AND ANCIENT CHRISTIAN ROME 23rd June – 1st July 2018 OPEN TO YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 35. Cost €599. see www.elphindiocese.ie for details. For Further Information please contact *Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, St. Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo, Tel: 087 9880690* Email: frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie

DEMENTIA INFORMATION EVENING in the Clayton Hotel, Sligo town on Thursday, 30th November 2017 at 8pm. **Home Instead Senior Care**, invites you to a free information evening for anyone directly or indirectly affected by Dementia / Alzheimers. Topics covered on the night are; 1) Understanding Dementia, 2) Living Well with Dementia, 3) Legal & Financial Concerns, 4) Caring with Confidence, 5) Family Carers Wellbeing and Support. RSVP to Home Instead Senior Care, Sligo by Tuesday, 28th November at 071 9317051.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**
THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 29th November **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 2nd December **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

PARISH OFFICE at St. Mary's Presbytery ☎ 071 9162670

Please note that the parish office is open to the public at the following times:
Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4pm & Friday 9.30am - 2pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

CAKE SALE IN AID OF MITCHELL SISTERS INDEPENDENT LIVING PROJECT will be held in Ransboro N.S. today, Sunday, 26th November from 10.30am - 2pm. Baked items may be left in the school hall on Saturday, 25th November from 4pm - 6pm or Sunday morning from 9.30am. All baked items would be greatly appreciated. Contact Nuala on 086 0894890.

ADVENT PREPARATION EVENING geared towards adults with an interest in Sacred Scripture will take place in Summerhill College Sligo on Tuesday, 28th November from 8.00pm to 9.15pm. Guest speaker: Fr. Eugene McLoughlin PP Athleague-Fuerty. All welcome.

HEART SUPPORT GROUP meeting will be held in Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday, 29th November at 7pm. Speaker: Lorraine Boyd, Social Worker for older people in Sligo/ Leitrim. Topic: Future Planning.

URSULINE NETWORK - Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29th November in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP next meeting Wednesday, 29th November at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE Everyone is welcome for our Visiting Sunday on 3rd December. Fr. Robert Bulbrook will celebrate mass at noon, and there will be tea and a tour afterwards.

RHS HOME CARE is a Non Commercial Home Care Provider bringing professional home care services to those who need assistance to remain living in their own homes. We are now recruiting new Healthcare Assistants in your area and would love to hear from you. Potential applicants must have the required Fetac / QQI level 5 (two modules completed care skills and care of the older person). Please email your CV to jobs@rshomecare.ie or call Aoife on 090 6625988.

NORTH WEST SIMON COMMUNITY wish to express sincere thanks to all who contributed to the recent church gate collection at St Marys Cathedral, €1,015.64 was collected for the local homeless charity, thanks to the valued volunteers on the day.

ANNIVERSARY & REMEMBRANCES

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 27 th	WILLIAM & CHRISTINA SWEENEY	—
TUES 28 th	—	CATHY MCELROY
WED 29 th	—	SALLY, BERTIE & JOSEPH HENRY
THURS 30 th	—	ANNA & GERRY MARSHALL
FRI 1 st	ALBERT, MARGARET & PATRICK GORMAN	—
SAT 2 nd	PATRICK & MARY ELLEN LYNCH	Month's Mind ROISIN DOLAN

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS for MICHAEL COEN will be celebrated at the 7.00pm Mass on Friday, 1st December.

MONTH'S MIND MASS for MARY WEIR will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 2nd December.

Rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: SEAN KEIGHRON, St. Bridgid's Place; INA MONAGHAN, Thornhill & late of Convoy, Co. Donegal; WILLIAM CRUMMY, Upper John St and BRENDAN MORRIS, St. Joseph's Tce. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*