

## All Souls Day 2 November



### About All Souls' Day

The monastic communities of the Middle Ages offered prayers for the dead every year. This observance became fixed on this day and spread throughout the Church after the tenth century. On this day we remember the communion of saints and our need to pray for one another especially for the souls in purgatory.

### Application

Although all the baptized faithful are called to sainthood there are many who die without reaching perfection. Their souls in purgatory need our prayers to hasten their transition to life in heaven. On this day, we pray for them in a special way that we should keep them in our prayers every day of the year. If we have a list of prayer intentions for which we pray every day, it should include praying for relatives and friends who have gone before us and for all the souls in purgatory.

Many parishes have taken to having "Books of Remembrance" during November. We can also do that in our homes and other communities as well. We just need a nice book, put on a stand (even a music stand will do) with some violet cloth behind the book on the stand. In a classroom situation, children could be asked to write the names of their loved ones. You can include the faithful departed in your Book of Remembrance in your daily prayers during the month of November. During your prayer time, you may like to light a candle, reminding us that Christ is the Light of the World, whom these people followed during their time on earth.

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### Collect

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord,  
and, as our faith in your Son,  
raised from the dead, is deepened,  
so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants  
also find new strength.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children  
Jesus exclaimed,

**'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,**  
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever  
and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;  
and no one knows the Son except the Father,  
just as no one knows the Father except the Son  
and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

**'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,**  
and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

**Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'**

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## Antiphon

I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.

## Hymn for All Souls' Day

These people who lived on the earth  
have fallen asleep in the Lord,  
according to the promises  
that He made to us in His Word.

Their presence amongst us, O Lord,  
was your gift to us – a blest sign:  
for they enriched our daily lives  
revealing your presence divine.

Their hands no more can touch or feel,  
their voices can no longer sound,  
yet they pray for us and our needs,  
to them our daily prayers resound.

Now we leave their souls in your care,  
knowing that they will rest in peace.  
**May heaven's light shine upon them**  
now from sin they have found release.

We hope that when our time has come  
to join them all we shall be led  
and on the last day we shall join  
the resurrection of the dead.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
LM 88.88 Old Hundredth

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