REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Today, the Church celebrates the SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS - not only the famous saints we know by name, but also the countless men and women from every nation, language, and race who lived quiet, faithful lives and now enjoy the presence of God. Think of our great-grandparents who may have lived very good lives but were not canonised as Saints by the Church. The vision in the Book of Revelation in our first reading (Apocalypse 7: 2-4,9-14) reminds us that heaven is not empty; it is filled with a great multitude who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. In other words, holiness is not a dream reserved for a few special people. It is the calling of every Christian.

The second reading from (1 John 3:1-3) tells us something even more beautiful: "*We are already children of God*." This means holiness begins now. It is not something we wait for until after death. It starts in our daily choices, in the way we speak, forgive, work, pray, and relate with others. To be a saint is simply to belong to God and to allow His grace to shape our lives. Do you want to be a Saint? Don't wait till tomorrow, begin today to do good and strive towards holiness of life.

The Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12) on the Beatitudes gives us the path to attain this holiness. Jesus says that the poor in spirit, the gentle, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who hunger for justice are blessed. These are not just beautiful words; they are practical lessons for daily life. Holiness is lived when we choose honesty over lies, humility over pride, forgiveness over revenge, prayer over despair, and peace over conflict.

The saints teach us that holiness is possible in ordinary life. It is possible in the home, in the workplace, in the classroom, in illness, in old age, and even in suffering. The saints were not perfect people; they were people who kept returning to God. They failed, repented, trusted, and persevered.

Today, let us ask for the grace to live like the saints: to be f l things, generous in love, patient in trials, and hopeful in God's p y this feast renew our desire for heaven and remind us that the rc s walked one day, one decision, and one act of love at a time.

All Saints, pray for us.

Monday, 2nd November - All Souls Day

8.00am: Martin McDonagh (A) **10.00am:** Holy Souls

Tuesday, 3rd November - St Malachy

8.00am: Matthew Blades (Dec'd) **10.00am:** Mel McNally (A)

Wednesday, 4th November - St Charles Borromeo

8.00am: Tom Clough (Dec'd) **10.00am:** Mel Mulligan (2nd A)

Thursday, 5th November - St Martin de Porres

8.00am: Magdalena Pompova (Dec'd)
10.00am: Kitty Carrig & Nanny McDonald (A)
7.30pm Curry: Private Intention

Friday, 6th November - All the Saints of Ireland - First Friday

8.00am: Brigid Donnelly (A)
10.00am: Stefan Kroscen (B'day Rem)
7.30pm: Deceased Members of St Mel's Musical Society

Saturday, 7th November - St Willibrord

8.00am: For the Beatification of Frank Duff
10.00am: Mafie Flaherty (B'day Rem)

Sunday, 8th November

7.30pm Vigil: Annual Bereavement Mass

8.00am: **Mass for People of the Parish (Missa Pro Populo)**

10.00am: Teresa Gilraine (A)
Pat McGowan; Thomas & Elizabeth Kelly (A)
Brendan & Rose Lennon (A)

11.30am: Patrick & Loretta Earley & DFM
Bernard & Kate Eivers (A)
Julie & Christy Newman (A)

1.00pm: Custodio Dsilva (A)
Billy & Mai Dempsey (A)
Rosemarie Kelly (nee Martin) (A)

6.00pm: Margaret Hand (1st A)
Jimmy Quinn (2nd A)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Thank you most sincerely for your generous contribution to our collection last week which amounted to €4,150.

Thank you for your support of **MISSION SUNDAY,** which totalled €3,525 and we thank you most sincerely for your donations. If you have not donated before and you wish to do so, you may donate over the phone (01 497 2035) or on the website https://missio.ie/donate/

BAPTISM: It is with great joy we welcomed Michael Carlos Doyle, Paddy Jacob Mears, and Ruben Joseph Doyle into the Christian Community last weekend.

† RECENTLY DECEASED We remember in our prayers Kathleen Dowd (nee Clabby) late of Chapel Street whose died during the week. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT What is it and why is it being renewed in this Parish soon? Find out at masses on the weekend of the **21st/22nd November**.

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS 2026 will take place on **Saturday 7th November** at the **7.30pm** mass. The 2027 Diary is now available for those who would like to book a **First Anniversary Mass**. The Diary will be available from **Monday 2nd November** for booking of all other masses.

CONFESSIONS will be available on **Thursday 5th November:** 10.30am-11.30am and 7.00pm-7.30pm.

FIRST FRIDAY calls will take place on **Friday**. Please contact the Parish Office 04333 46465 before Thursday if you would like a priest to call with Holy Communion.

BAPTISM MEETING will take place on Friday evening, **6th November** at **8pm** for those who have a child for Baptism in the coming months.

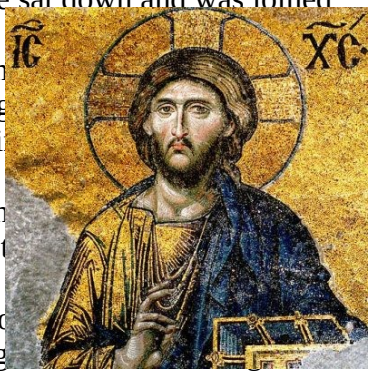
ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be administered to those who may desire to receive it during the 10am mass on **Saturday 7th November**.

ST JOSEPH'S ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS takes place on Wednesday 4th November at 6pm in the Chapel in St Joseph's.

ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD During the month of November we are invited to remember and pray for our beloved dead. If you would like to include names in the Altar List of the Dead, please take one of the sheets available in the Cathedral and place it in the designated box in the Sanctuary. The names will be remembered in all Masses throughout November.

RESPONSE: ***Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord***

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5: 1-2



Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.
Then he began to speak, this is what he taught then
'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the king
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for thei
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is righ
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown t
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons o
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of rig
heaven.
Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.'

The Gospel of the Lord . ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

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LEGION OF MARY will pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy each Sunday in November at the old Abbey in Ballymacormack at 3pm (*Sunday 22nd November prayers will be at 4pm).

BINGO will take place on **Sunday 22nd November** (NO Bingo on the 8th Nov)

ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL (O.N.E)
Annual WW1 Commemoration with an ecumenical service and wreath laying ceremony in memory of all those men and women who lost their lives during the First World War will take place on **Sunday 8th November** 2026 at 11am, Market Square, Longford. All welcome.