

Virtual Family Prayer Bag

Dear Parent / Carer,
Here is our virtual Prayer Bag for Halloween



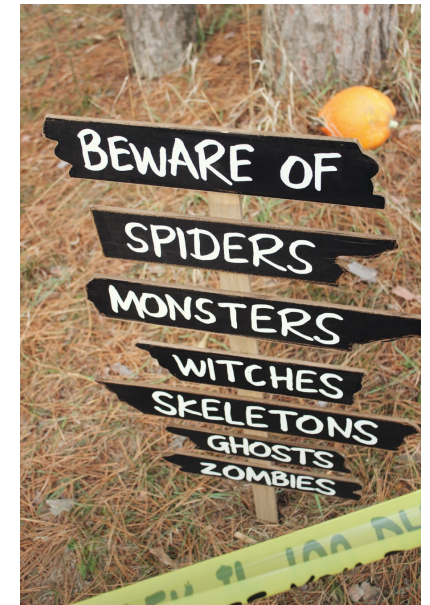
Celebrating Halloween

Please take some time over the next few days
to come together, as a family, in prayer.

Halloween is celebrated on Sunday 31st October the eve of
All Saints' Day on 1st November



What will you do for Halloween?



Why do we do all these things?

Halloween goes back thousands of years.
As the nights got darker and longer
people thought wickedness and evil got stronger.



But for people who believe in God
we know that evil can never be
stronger than good.
Good will always be stronger than evil.

The old English word 'Halloween' means 'hallowed eve'.



'Hallow' means to make holy.
So Halloween is the evening before **All Hallows**.

People began to prepare the night before
to celebrate a day when goodness and holiness
win the victory over bad and evil.

We now call it **All Saints' Day**

All Saints' Day

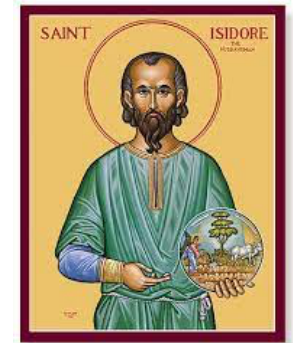
On this day we think about all the Saints in Heaven.

Saints are good, holy people.



Do you know the names of any saints?

Also there are lots of unknown or forgotten saints and we can remember them too.



You might know someone who was especially good and kind to everyone in their lifetime who has now died and gone to heaven. Are they are a saint now?



Some well know Saints are:
St Bernadette, St Peter, St Catherine, St Paul.



Maybe you are named after a saint
or maybe your school is named after a saint.
Perhaps you could find out about some of the saints

We belong to the Communion of Saints

Christians,
whether they are living on earth or in heaven,
belong to what is called the Communion of Saints.
Communion means to belong together
and saints are those who follow God's way.



We are all called to be saints
to live in God's way,
to be kind, generous, loving,
forgiving and caring.

We are called to be the best we can be!



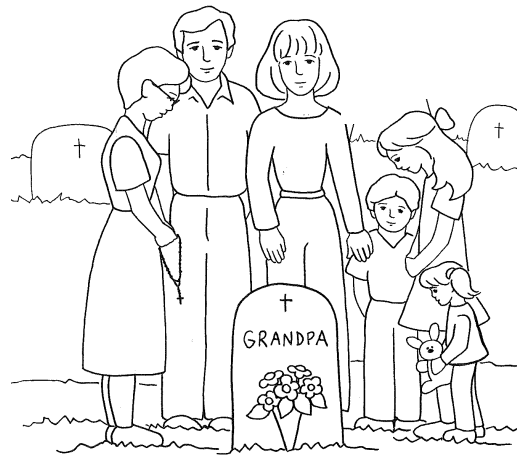
The day after **All Saints Day**,
is another special day..... **All Souls Day**.

On this day we remember all the people
who have died.

It is a time to remember the good and happy
times we had together and to pray that those
who have died will be happy, in heaven,
with God.



Some people like to go and visit the grave yard or cemetery on this day and take flowers to put on the grave – not to be sad but to think about the loved one who has died and to remember the good and happy times they had.



How might you

remember the

people you know who have died?

Let's gather together in prayer
Make sure you are all sitting comfortably.
Light a candle



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

A Message from Bishop David



Dear young friends in our Catholic schools,

November is one of my favourite months!

It begins with a celebration and a commemoration. On November 1st we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Perhaps you have a favourite saint, someone you may be able to identify with, someone who is a role model for you. Well the Feast of All Saints not only celebrates the well-known ones, those whose holiness has been recognised by the Church. It also includes those we may have known in our own lives; grandparents, friends, those who having lived here in this world, are now enjoying the fullness of life in heaven. Perhaps more than the famous saints, these little ones remind us that we are all called to become saints with God. This is our destiny and our vocation.

Well I don't know about you, but I realise that my own life of virtue and holiness is not perfect. I struggle at times to be patient and charitable. We all do! This is why we have the sacraments to help us and re-focus our lives on becoming a saint. So what happens to those who are still journeying towards the fullness of holiness when they leave this world? We call them the faithful departed. On November 2nd we commemorate these Holy Souls who are still journeying towards heaven. It must be difficult to have met with God face to face, then to realise that heaven is not yet the place where we should be. Our heavenly Father is so full of mercy. He has arranged things so that we can wait awhile in a place of growth towards the fullness of holiness. During the rest of November in particular, we pray for the holy souls who are preparing to become saints.





Isn't it wonderful that we can pray for people we have known, such as our deceased relatives and friends, or those we have heard of, and that our prayers can help them in their journey to heaven.

God bless you all, and join me in saying this little prayer for the faithful departed:

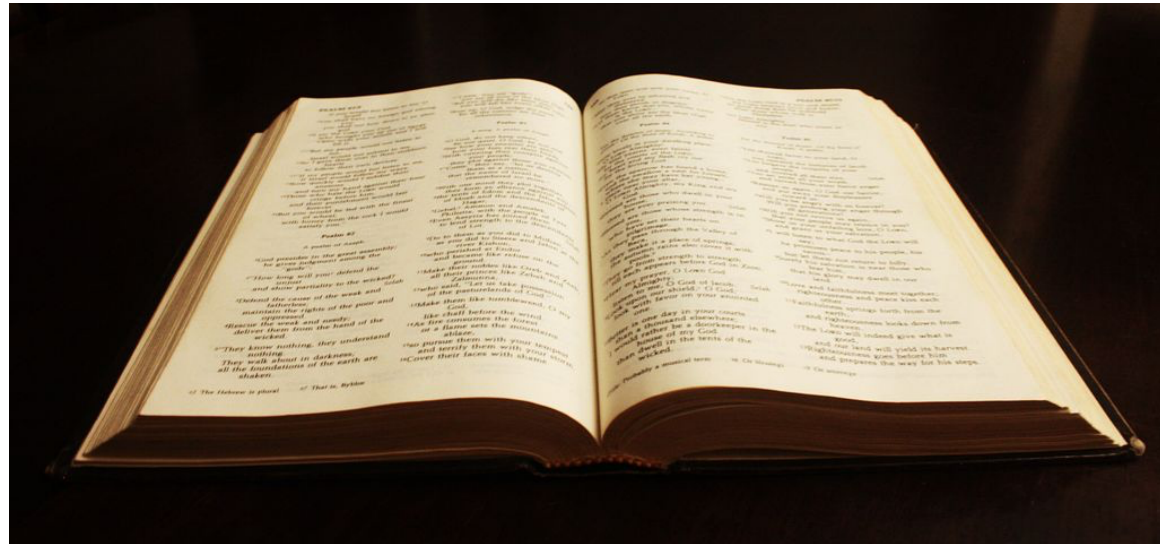
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them,
that they may rest in peace. Amen.

Loving God,
we thank you for all your gifts.
We thank you especially for the fun
we will have at Halloween.

We thank you for the Saints
who show us how to live as your friends.
Help us to become like them
and to love you more each day.

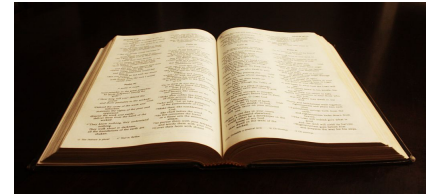
Amen





A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you O Lord



**Happy are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Happy are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

**Happy are the gentle,
for they will inherit the earth.**

**Happy are those who hunger and thirst
for what is right, for they will be satisfied.**

**Happy are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.**

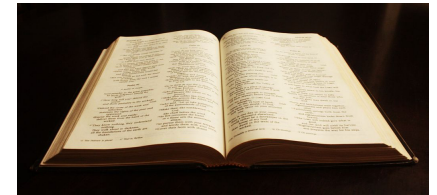
**Happy are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.**

**Happy are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

**Happy are those who are persecuted
in the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**Are you ready to follow Jesus,
to be guided by
his Holy Spirit
in making present
God's kingdom
of
justice and love?**

Loving God
help us to be more like the saints
in telling others the good news of Jesus
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us



Loving God
help us to work for justice and love
in our world
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

Loving God
we pray for those who are sad at this time
that they will be comforted
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us



Loving God
we pray for those who have died
that they will be happy with you forever.
Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

We think about the people we know who have died.

We think also of those who have no family
or anyone to pray for them.

We pray together this special prayer for those who
have died.....



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



What will you do
to become
the best person you can be?



Oliver says



I would like to be
a more
caring person
and sometimes be
nicer to others.

Carlos from El Salvador said.....



I want to be **brave**
like **St Oscar Romero**,
he was a very
good man
He helped **rescue people**.

**We end our prayer time by making
the Sign of the Cross**

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
Amen**

