*SAINT MUNGO'S • GLASGOW*

# November Dead List

*Remembering Our Faithful Departed*

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> *"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."*

## Why Do Catholics Pray for the Dead?

Throughout November, the Catholic Church invites us to remember in a special way those who have died. This tradition is rooted in our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the promise of eternal life, and the enduring bond of love that unites the living and the dead.

For Catholics, death does not bring an end to our relationship with those we love. Through Christ, we remain united in the **Communion of Saints**, the spiritual fellowship of all who belong to Him, whether living on earth, undergoing purification after death, or enjoying eternal life in heaven.

The Church teaches:

> *"From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice."*

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1032**

This reminds us that praying for the dead is not simply a comforting custom. It is an ancient and meaningful expression of our Catholic faith.

## The Teaching of the Church

The Church teaches that those who die in God's grace and friendship, but who still require purification, are prepared through God's mercy for the fullness of eternal life.

This final purification is called **Purgatory**. It is not a second chance at salvation, but the purification of those who are already assured of salvation.

Our prayers, particularly the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, can assist those undergoing this purification.

The Catechism explains this teaching in paragraphs **1030–1032** and reminds us in paragraph **958** that our prayers for the departed are an expression of the Communion of Saints.

When we pray for our departed relatives, friends and fellow parishioners, we entrust them to God's mercy and ask that they may enter the joy of His heavenly Kingdom.

## What Does Sacred Scripture Tell Us?

The practice of praying for the dead is rooted in Sacred Scripture.

**2 Maccabees 12:38–46** recounts how Judas Maccabeus arranged an offering for those who had died, expressing faith in the resurrection and the importance of prayer for the departed.

In **John 11:25**, Jesus tells Martha:

> *"I am the resurrection and the life."*

And Saint Paul reminds us in **1 Thessalonians 4:13–14** that Christians grieve with hope because Jesus died and rose again.

Our Christian hope does not remove the sadness of bereavement, but assures us that death does not have the final word.

## Why Is November Special?

The Church dedicates November particularly to remembering and praying for the faithful departed.

On **1 November**, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, giving thanks for those who share in the glory of heaven.

On **2 November**, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, commonly called All Souls' Day, we pray especially for those who have died.

Throughout the remainder of November, many Catholic parishes continue this remembrance through Masses, personal prayers and the November Dead List.

This tradition invites us to remember not only our own loved ones but also those who have nobody left to pray for them.

## The November Dead List at Saint Mungo's

At Saint Mungo's, we invite parishioners to submit the names of deceased relatives, friends and loved ones whom they wish to remember in prayer during November.

These names form our **November Dead List**, a visible expression of the love, remembrance and prayer of our parish community.

By submitting a name, we are not merely recording someone who has died. We are making an act of faith, entrusting that person to the loving mercy of God and remembering them in the prayers of the Church.

We invite you to complete the form below with the names of those you wish to remember.

## A Prayer for Our Faithful Departed

Merciful Father,

We commend to Your loving care all those who have gone before us, especially those whose names are remembered in our November Dead List.

Forgive their sins, heal whatever remains imperfect, and welcome them into the peace and joy of Your heavenly Kingdom.

Comfort those who mourn, strengthen our hope in the Resurrection, and help us to live each day in the light of Your promise of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## Further Reading — The Teaching of the Catholic Church

• **Catechism 958:** Our communion with the dead.

• **Catechism 1020–1022:** The Christian understanding of death and judgement.

• **Catechism 1030–1032:** Purgatory and prayers for the departed.

• **Catechism 1055:** The Church commends the dead to God’s mercy.

• **Catechism 1689:** The Eucharist and prayer for the departed.

• **Sacred Scripture:** 2 Maccabees 12:38–46; John 11:25–26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 21:1–4.