**November Remembrance Service**



*Prepare a Sacred Space: Include a candle, a Bible (with the readings marked)*

*and either a small ‘remembrance’ tree, or a basket.*

*At the door of Prayer Room or room where service will take place have a table with of slips of paper and pens on it. Invite each person to write down the names of those who they especially wish to remember. If using the remembrance tree also supply a means of hanging the names on the tree.*

**Opening hymn.**

***The Cloud’s Veil*** - Liam Lawton

Even though the rain hides the stars, even though the mist swirls the hills,
even when the dark clouds veil the sky, God is by my side.

Even when the sun shall fall in sleep,

even when at dawn the sky shall weep,
even in the night when storms shall rise,

God is by my side. God is by my side.

*(A student may light the candle in the sacred space as the*

*hymn is being sung).*

Bright the stars at night that mirror heaven’s way to you.
Bright the stars in light where dwell the saints in love and truth.

Chorus

Deep the feast of life where saints shall gather in deep peace.
Deep in heaven’s light where sorrows pass beyond death’s sleep.

Chorus

Blest are they who sing the fellowship of saints in light.
Blest in heaven’s King. All saints adore the Lord, most high.

Chorus

**Opening Prayer:**

***Leader:***

Lord our God, we thank you today for the gift of the lives of those we have loved who have died. As we remember them we thank you too for the love they had for us.

We remember especially those who have died during this past year.

 *(Invite all present to come forward in silence bringing the names they have written*

 *and to place them on the tree or in the basket in the sacred space).*

*(The first reader waits until all students have returned to their seats; takes the Bible from the sacred space and reads. When finished passes on the Bible to the next reader).*

***Reading****:* ***Romans 14:7-9***

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die,

we are the Lord’s.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

*The word of the Lord*

***Psalm*: The Lord’s my Shepherd.** *(Either read or sung)*

***Gospel Reading*: John** 11: 17-27

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you." "Your brother," said Jesus to her, "will rise again." Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though they die, they shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes Lord," she said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*The Bible may now be replaced in the Sacred Space.*

**We pray:**

1. We pray for all those who are mourning because someone they love has died. May they be comforted and consoled by those around them.

 *We pray to the Lord … Lord hear our prayer.*

1. We remember all those who are sick and dying and ask you to be with them at this time giving them strength and hope as they make their journey home to you.

 *We pray to the Lord … Lord hear our prayer.*

1. We pray for all those caring for the sick and nursing the dying. May they be blessed with the grace of compassion as they face the work they do each day. *We pray to the Lord … Lord hear our prayer.*
2. And we pray for all those who have died, especially those whom we remember today *(Pause).* Keep them always in your loving care in the peace and joy of their heavenly home.

 *We pray to the Lord … Lord hear our prayer.*

***Leader:*** God our Father, hear the prayers we make to you today as we remember those who have gone before us. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Reflection:***

A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says ‘she is gone’.

Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all. She is just as large now as when I last saw her. Her diminished size and total loss from my sight is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone at my side says she is gone there are others who are watching her coming over their horizon and other voices take up a glad shout ‘There she cones!’

That is what dying is. An horizon and just the limit of our sight. Lift us up, Oh Lord, that we may see further.  *Bishop Charles Henry Brent.*

*Pause.*

***Leader***: Let us all join together and pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

 **Our Father** …

God our Father, as we remember those who have died, we ask you to strengthen in each of us your gifts of faith and hope. You raised Jesus, your Son, from the dead. We pray that one day, together with all those we have loved and who have gone to you before us, we will share Jesus’ resurrection and live with you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen***.*

**Final Hymn:** I Watch the Sunrise. John Glynn.

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,

Casting its shadows near.

And on this morning,

Bright though it be,

I feel those shadows near me.

But you are always close to me,

following all my ways.

May I be always close to you,

following all your ways Lord.

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,

Warming the earth below.

And at the midday life seems to say,

I feel your brightness near me.

For you are always close to me,

following all my ways.

May I be always close to you,

following all your ways Lord.

I watch the sunset, fading away,

Lighting the clouds and sea.

And as the evening, closes its eyes,

I feel your presence near me.

Yes, you are always close to me

following all my ways.

May I be always close to you,

following all your ways Lord.

Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin 2018