

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints Catholic Academy Trust

Thursday 5th November 2026

We Gather

Light a candle and start with the sign of the cross.

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

November is a special month when Catholics remember and pray for those who have died. It can be both a sad and a beautiful time for families, but it is a journey we share together in faith. The Catholic faith teaches us to have hope when we think about death, knowing that God's love is stronger than death and promises eternal life.

We owe so much to the family members who have come before us. Many of them showed great courage, leaving other countries to move here to England for work, love, or opportunity. Because of their brave steps, we have so much to be thankful for today. For many of us, they were also the ones who passed on the precious gift of the Catholic faith.

Pause for a moment of quiet.

Place before God all the members of your family who have died, especially those who were brave, loving, and passed on the gift of faith to your family.

We Listen to the Word

There are many rooms in my Father's house

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:1–6)

Jesus said to His disciples:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We respond

Jesus reassures us that those who have died are safe in God's presence. In His Father's house, there is a place prepared for everyone, reminding us that love never ends and that death does not break the bond of a family.

During November, the Month of Holy Souls, we honour our ancestors and relatives. Taking time to talk about family members who died before children were born, or when they were very young, keeps their memory alive. Telling stories about their courage, their journey to this country, their hard work, and their faith helps us understand who we are and gives us reasons to be grateful.

In Catholic traditions around the world, such as in Mexico, families create a special table or altar of remembrance called an *offrenda*. By gathering photographs, lighting candles, and placing flowers or a Remembrance Wreath, we create a quiet space in our homes to remember, share memories, and pray for those who have gone before us throughout November.

As a Family

- What family stories can older family members share about relatives who have died?
- What courage or sacrifices did our ancestors make so that we might have the life we have?
- How did our family members help pass down the Catholic faith to us?

- Which photographs and memories can we gather to create an *offrenda* or Remembrance space in our home this month?
- How does Jesus' promise of a place prepared for us bring comfort when we miss someone?

We pray 

Loving Father, source of all life and hope,
We thank you for the lives of our family members who have gone before us.
We give thanks for their bravery, their sacrifices, and the gift of faith they passed on to our family.
Bring comfort to all who miss loved ones, and fill our hearts with the hope of eternal life in Your Heavenly Kingdom.
Bless our home as we remember those we love, and keep us united in prayer across generations.

Together we pray the Requiem prayer:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

We Go Forth 

Remembrance is an act of love and gratitude. When we pray for those who have died, we remain connected to them through the family of the Church. This week, take time to celebrate the lives and stories of those who prepared the way for your family today.

Family Action for the Week

Select one or more actions to complete together:

Create a Home 'Offrenda': Set up a dedicated table or shelf in your home with photos of deceased family members, a candle, a cross, and flowers.
Share Family Stories: Look through old photo albums together and tell children stories about grandparents, great-grandparents, or relatives.
Make a Remembrance Wreath: Construct a paper wreath decorated with flowers and write the names or attach photos of loved ones to display during November.
Visit a Church or Cemetery: Light a candle in your parish church or visit a graveyard to pray for the Holy Souls.
Evening Family Prayer: Say the Requiem prayer ("Eternal rest grant unto them...") together as a family before bedtime throughout November.

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

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

Prepared by Deacon Liam Lynch
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