



The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland



Level 1	Level 2
<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wants all people to be happy with him forever in heaven (1 Jn 3:2; 1 Cor 13:12; CCC, 1023) When we die we go home to God (CCC, 1020) <p>Strand: Liturgy and Prayer</p> <p>Strand Unit: Additional Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer for the dead/for those who are sick and dying 	<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus promised new life here on earth and after we die We believe that: when we die, God calls us to heaven (CCC, 1011) God's plan is that when we die we will live on with God, Jesus, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven (CCC, 1024) <p>Strand: Liturgy and Prayer</p> <p>Strand Unit: Liturgical Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Feast of All Souls the Church remembers those who have died and prays for them.
Level 3	Level 4
<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wants all people to live happily with him in heaven forever, through the salvation brought by Jesus (GS, 18; CCC, 1026) Jesus rose from the dead in his own body and entered heaven so we might join him one day and share in eternal life (CCC, 666–7) The Lord Jesus said, 'Whoever believes in me shall have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the Last Day.' Christians believe and hope that they too will rise to new life with the risen Jesus. This is called eternal life (1 Cor 15:23–4) Just as Christ is risen and lives forever, so all of us will rise at the last day (CCC, 1016; 1 Cor 15:54–7) Christians believe that when they die they shall be with Christ, and they shall see God (1 Cor 13:12) 	<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All that is good in our present world will survive in the Kingdom of Heaven Every act of kindness, generosity and service contributes to the building of the Kingdom The happiness of heaven consists of living with God and with all the blessed forever in a relationship of knowledge and love (CCC, 1024, cf. 1026–7) The body will die but will rise again (in a renewed form) at the end of time (Resurrection of the Body; cf. LG, 48; CCC, 988–90, 1020) By God's grace and mercy, Christians have the secure hope that all those who loved God and others have found true life with God in heaven (GS, 18) The Church prays for the salvation of everyone (CCC, 1058) Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory on All Souls' Day and all through the year The Church commends the dead to God's mercy and offers her prayers, especially the Eucharist





November 2020: The Month of the Holy Souls



The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2021 is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience'. As we look forward to and begin our preparations for celebrating CSW 2021, it is important for each of us to remember those who have gone before us in the hope of the resurrection promised by Jesus. This resource aims to assist schools with activities and lesson ideas for 'The Month of the Holy Souls'. More than most years, this November will be especially poignant as we remember all those who have died during this COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this, the Moment of November recalls to us God's love for us, a love that conquers all things, even death.

'He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces' (Is 25:8). In our moments of sadness and grief, God never leaves us. God's love is so great for us that Christ was raised to new life, overcoming death forever.

As there may well be pupils or staff in your school who have lost a loved one this year for whatever reason, this famous poem may sum up best God's love for us in every moment of our lives, walking beside every step of the way.



Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream.
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
'Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed you the most, you would leave me.'

He whispered, 'My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.'





For Parishes

This moment can be situated within the liturgical themes of November and the Masses/liturgies around the Feast of All Souls and remembering our loved ones who have died. The prayer service could be used in a parish setting with children or young adults.



Resources:

- Relevant content from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*
- Junior Lesson (Junior Infants–Second Class/P1–P4)
- Senior Lesson (Third Class–Sixth Class/P5–P7)
- Prayer Service of Remembrance





Junior Lesson



Junior Infants–Second Class (P1–P4)

Teacher's Notes

The Moment of November focuses on how we as followers of Jesus are a community of hope. We live in the hope that Jesus' promise will be fulfilled for us and all those we know and love.

Jesus promises that all who believe in him will return home to him in heaven when they die. Those we love who have died are now in heaven with Jesus and we can pray for them and to them.

Throughout the month of November and on the Feast of All Saints (1 November) and Feast of All Souls (2 November), we remember family and friends who have returned home to heaven.

Saints are people just like us. They lived good lives, cared for others, prayed and tried to make the world a better place. We know about St Patrick and St Brigid. Who are the saints of today? Who are the people who show us what the Kingdom of God looks like? (E.g. Br Kevin Crowley, Sr Stan, Fr Peter McVerry, etc.)

Note: Teachers should use their own discretion when covering this material as the content may be difficult for some children, especially if they have been recently bereaved.

This YouTube video of Lego characters explains the origins of Halloween and All Hallows Eve.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy66_pgeORA

Consider

Explore with the class some of the features of each of the seasons using some of these key questions:

1. What is a saint?
2. Do we know any saints?
3. Does anyone know why we celebrate Halloween on October 31?

(It is the day before All Saints' Day. If the children are not sure, say: 'I will write a hint on the board'. Write 'All Hallows Eve'.)



Explore

November is a special month. The first of November is a special day called the Feast of All Saints. It is the day the Church celebrates with all the people who have died and are now with God in heaven. We go to Mass and remember that all these holy people are happy with God. Saints are people just like us, and they show us the way to live like Jesus taught us. Some of these people are members of our family, our friends, and our neighbours. We do not know the names of all the saints. Do you know the names of some of these saints?

Activity

In November, we remember the people we love who have gone before us. To help us remember those we love who have died, and illuminate our hope that they are now in heaven with God, we will write the name or draw a picture of someone we love who has died on the sheet on the Junior Activity Page. This could be a family member, a friend, a neighbor or a pet. It can also be for those people who have no one to pray for them.

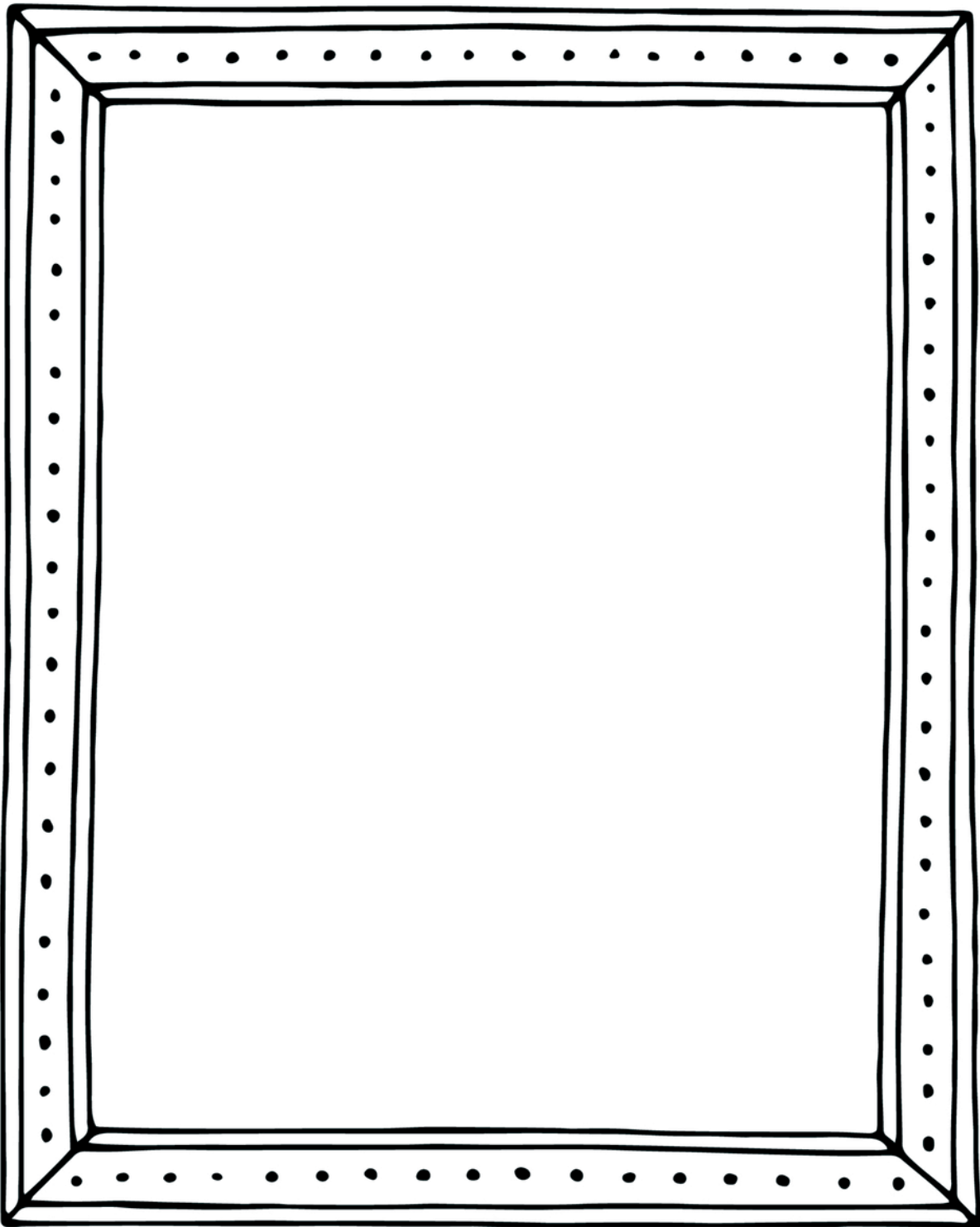
Display these sheets in the class prayer space.





The Moment of November

Junior Activity Page





Senior Lesson

(Third Class–Sixth Class) (P5–P7)



Teacher's Notes

The Moment of November focuses on how we as followers of Jesus are communities of hope. We live in the hope of the Resurrection, that those that have gone before us will be brought into the new and eternal life with God that Jesus promises.

Jesus tells us that all who believe in him will return home to him in heaven when they die. Those we love who have died are now in heaven with Jesus and we can pray for them and to them.

Throughout the month of November and on the Feast of All Souls (2 November), we remember family and friends who have returned home to heaven. We also remember those who have no one to pray for them. Sometimes it can be difficult to live with this hope, especially when someone we love passes away. As Christians, we can see the truth of the promise in the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. As well as examining this miracle, this lesson will focus on how we can remember loved ones who have died, especially in the month of November.

In many ways our lives are like the seasons of the beautiful world God created for us. We are young and growing in the spring of our lives, blossoming in the summer and growing older and maturing in the autumn. The Bible tells us, 'For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven' (Eccl 3:1).

Note: Teachers should use their own discretion when covering this material as the content may be difficult for some children, especially if they have been recently bereaved.

Consider

Begin the class with a brief discussion around what we as Christians believe happens after we die or someone we love dies. Where do we go? What happens at a funeral?

Note: 'We believe that: when we die, God calls us to heaven' (CCC, 1011); 'God's plan is that when we die we will live on with God, Jesus, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven' (CCC, 1024).



Whether it is a member of our family, a friend or even a pet, it can be very difficult when someone we love dies. It is completely normal to feel sad, angry, lonely or confused after we lose someone.



Jesus promises that all who believe in him will return home to him in heaven when they die. Those we love who have died are now in heaven with Jesus and we can pray for them and to them.

Explore

We can learn a lot about Jesus' promise from the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, which is told in the Gospel of John.

Jesus had three very close friends who lived in Bethany. They were Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, while Jesus was on the other side of the Jordan, Mary and Martha sent him an urgent message: 'Lazarus is very sick. Please come quickly!' But Jesus did not go right away. He waited for two more days and then said to his disciples: 'Let's go to Bethany. Lazarus is sleeping, and I am going to wake him up.' The apostles said: 'If Lazarus is asleep, that will help him to get well.' So Jesus told them clearly: 'Lazarus has died.'



When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had already been buried for four days. Crowds of people had come to comfort Martha and Mary. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she rushed to meet him. She said: 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' Jesus told her: 'Your brother will live again. Do you believe this, Martha?' She said: 'I believe that he will rise in the resurrection.' Jesus said to her: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'



Then Martha went to Mary and told her: 'Jesus is here.' Mary ran to Jesus, and the crowd followed. She fell down at his feet, and she could not stop crying. She said: 'Lord, if you had been here, our brother would still be alive!' Jesus saw how much she was suffering, and he also began to cry. When the crowd saw his tears, they said: 'See how Jesus loved Lazarus.' But some wondered: 'Why didn't he save his friend?' What would Jesus do next?

Jesus went to the tomb, where a large stone covered the entrance. He commanded: 'Roll the stone away.' Martha said: 'But it has been four days! His body will smell.' Still, they rolled the stone away, and Jesus prayed: 'Father, thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me, but I speak aloud so that these people may know that you sent me.' Then he called out in a loud voice: 'Lazarus, come out!' Something amazing happened: Lazarus came out of the tomb, still wrapped in linen cloths. Jesus said: 'Free him and let him go.'

YouTube clip of the story of the raising of Lazarus:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSxXCmM>

Activity

Write an account of the miracle as if you were present or report the miracle for the *Galilee Gazette* on the Senior Activity Page.

Additional Activity

Take some time to think/talk about people you love who have died. This could be a family member, a friend or even a pet. The children can design a picture or write the name of someone they want to remember. Place the sheets in a box at the sacred space in the classroom.

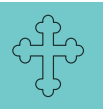
If there is an opportunity, bring the class to Mass during a school day in November. Ask the priest if the class can place the box of names at the foot of the altar during the Mass.





The Galilee Gazette

**LAZARUS RAISED
FROM DEAD!**





Prayer Service



This prayer service could be held in a classroom, school hall or a prayer room. Due to the evolving situation regarding COVID-19, it may not be possible to conduct a prayer service in significant numbers.

PRAYER SPACE ITEMS

- A Remembrance Tree/book/box.
- Completed leaf templates (Junior Activity Page)
- A green table cloth
- A candle
- Holy water
- Crucifix

Leader: Good morning, everyone. Today we are gathered to pray for family, friends, relations and neighbours who have died. We also pray for those who have no one to pray for them. We remember them especially during the month of November as we remember Jesus' promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom. We know that God's love is greater than death, and pray that those who have died are now with God in heaven. We begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song: The Clouds' Veil

Leader: Today we remember those who have passed away, and place prayer leaves with their names or their pictures and hang them on our Remembrance Tree. (Alternatively, these could be in a remembrance box or written in a book of remembrance.) Jesus teaches us that God's love is greater than death. We now listen to God's Word.

Reader 1: A reading from the first Letter of St John (1 Jn 4:7-12).

Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord.

Leader: Together, we pray for those who have died. The response to each prayer is 'May the light of Christ shine on them'.

All: May the light of Christ shine on them.

Reader 2: For all grandparents who have died. (Response)

Reader 3: For all parents who have died. (Response)

Reader 4: For all past teachers and staff of this school who have died. (Response)

Reader 5: For all those who have died during the past year. (Response)

Reader 6: For those who have died and have no one to remember them. (Response)





Reader 7: For all those whose names are included on our Remembrance Tree. (Response)

Leader: We know that Jesus prayed constantly to his Father in heaven. He asked us to pray to God the Father too. And so, as Jesus asked us we dare to say:

All: Our Father ... / Ár ...

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the lives of our loved ones who have died. We ask you to care for those who are missing them at this time. May we always remember your promise that one day we will all be together in heaven. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reader 8: May the Lord support us all the day long; till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in his mercy, may he give us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Song: There is a Place

