

# Christian Prayer: November

## *Praying for those who have died*

*November is the month when the Church celebrates two great feasts.*

*The first is on November 1st (unless in a particular year it is transferred to another day). This is the feast, the Solemnity, of All Saints. This is a day when we give thanks to God for the saints — all of those in whom the grace of God has borne the most visible fruits of holiness and love, and whose example we seek to follow. This day is also a Holy Day of Obligation, when Catholics attend Mass.*

*The second, normally celebrated the following day, November 2nd is the feast of All Souls (when we pray for all the faithful of God who have died).*

*These days are a special focus for our prayer and they introduce the month of November, a month in which we especially pray for the dead.*

*There are many customs associated with the month, for example visits to the graves of family members, offering Mass for them, and praying for them in other ways.*

*There is a short responsory that is used in the funeral Liturgy which is also often prayed by Catholics when we learn that someone has died. It is a responsory that it is good to have learnt by heart, so that on those occasions we can take the fullest part when prayers are offered.*

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

*And let perpetual light shine upon him/ her.*

May he/she rest in peace. *Amen.*

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

*(Generally when the responsory is used the Leader says the parts in standard type,  
and the rest of those gathered say the words in italics.)*

*Where a number of people who have died are being prayed for the words are as follows:-*

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

*And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

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

