



## November 2018: The Month of the Holy Souls

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2019 is 'Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Own Catholic School'. As we look forward to and begin our preparations for CSW 2019, it is important for each of us to remember those who have gone before us by celebrating our faith in the resurrection. This resource aims to assist schools with their 'The Month of the Holy Souls' celebrations as they look forward toward their CSW 2019 celebrations beginning on 27 January 2019.

**The Moment of November** is rooted in our belief in the promise that Jesus made when he said: 'For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day' (Jn 6:40).

Our hope as Christians is that death is not the end but that at the end of our time here on earth we will be reunited eternally with Jesus in heaven.

We are reminded of this faith in the resurrection in Pope Francis' homily from the Holy Mass of Commemoration for all the faithful departed at Prima Porta cemetery in 2016 which reminds us that the sadness of death will give way to the bright promise of eternal life in God:

'The commemoration of the dead has this twofold meaning. A sense of sorrow: a cemetery is sad, it reminds us of our loved ones who have passed on. It also reminds us of the future, of death.

'But in this sadness, we bring flowers, as a sign of hope, and also, I might say, of celebration, but later on, not now. And sorrow is mingled with hope. Today, in this celebration, this is what we all feel: the memory of our loved ones, before their remains, and hope.

'But we also feel that this hope helps us, because we too must make this journey. All of us must make this journey. Sooner or later, with

more pain or less, but everyone must. However with the flower of hope, with that powerful thread that is anchored in the hereafter. Thus, the hope of resurrection still does not disappoint.

'Jesus was the first to make this journey. We are following the journey that he made. And it was Jesus himself who opened the door: with his Cross he opened the door of hope, he opened the door for us to enter where we will contemplate God. "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth... I shall behold him, and not another, I shall. My eyes shall behold him, and not another".

'Let us return home today with this twofold remembrance: remembrance of the past, of our loved ones who have passed on; and remembrance of the future, of the journey that we will make. With certainty, security; that certainty came from Jesus' lips: "I will raise him up at the last day" (Jn 6:40).'

### 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





# The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland

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## From the Curriculum ...

### Level 1

**Strand:** Christian Faith

**Strand Unit:** Eternal Life

- 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)

**Strand:** Liturgy and Prayer

**Strand Unit:** Additional Prayers

- Prayer for the dead/for those who are sick and dying

### Level 2

**Strand:** Christian Faith

**Strand Unit:** Eternal Life

- 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)

**Strand:** Liturgy and Prayer

**Strand Unit:** Liturgical Year

- On the Feast of All Souls the Church remembers those who have died and prays for them.

### Level 3

**Strand:** Christian Faith

**Strand Unit:** Eternal Life

- 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)

### Level 4

**Strand:** Christian Faith

**Strand Unit:** Eternal Life

- 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



## Junior Lesson

# Junior Infants – Second Class (P1–P4)

### Teacher's Notes

**The Moment of November** focuses on how we as followers of Jesus are families and people 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 Souls (2 November), we remember family and friends who have returned home to heaven.

In many ways our lives are like the days and nights of the beautiful world God created for us. We are young and growing in the morning of our lives and mature in the evening of our lives. The Bible tells us, 'For everything, there

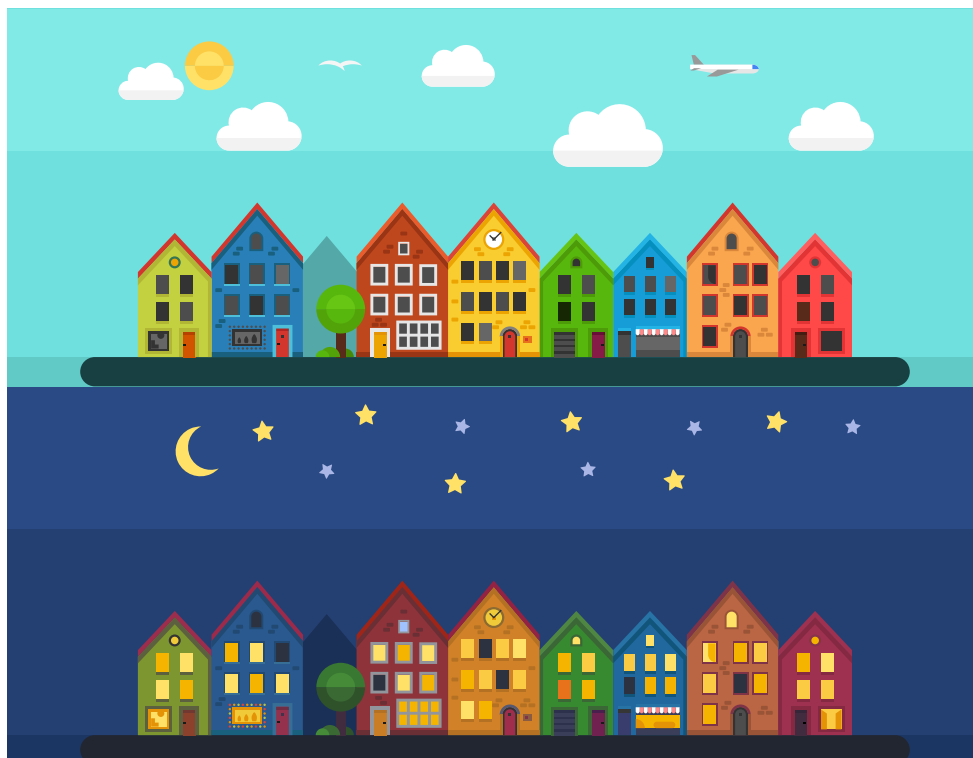
is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven' (Eccl 3:1).

**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 by revising with the children the different times of day: morning, afternoon, evening, night. Explore with the class some of the features of each of these times using some of these key questions:

- What time of day is it?
- How do we know what time of day it is?
- What other times of day are there?
- What do we know about day and night?
- What in the world around us helps us to know what time it is?
- What happens in the daytime and in the night-time?





### Explore

Our day has different times and different things happen in each. Let's look particularly at evening:

- In November, the evenings get darker, the weather starts to get colder and our world is starting to rest and become bare for winter.
- In the month of November, we remember people we love who have died. They may be gone from the world we see but they will start a new life in heaven with God, just as even the darkest night is followed by morning.
- As followers of Jesus, we know that when someone we love dies, even though we cannot see them anymore, they live on in heaven with Jesus. Just like when people go to sleep at night, they wake to a new day.

The people we love will wake to the beautiful morning of eternal life with God in heaven.

### Activity

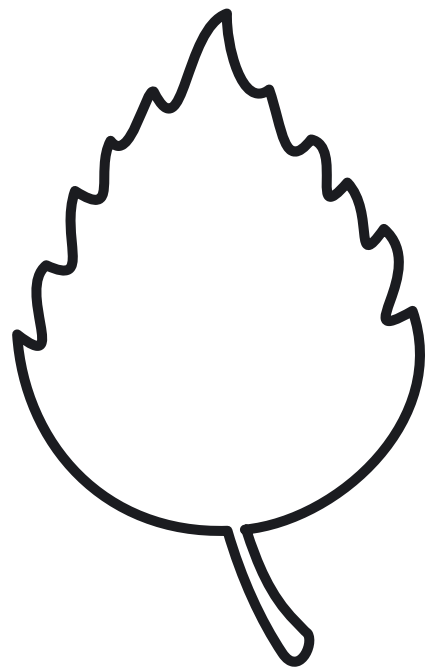
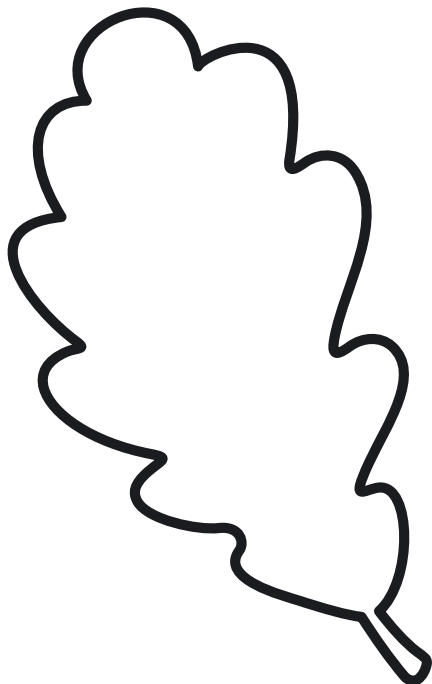
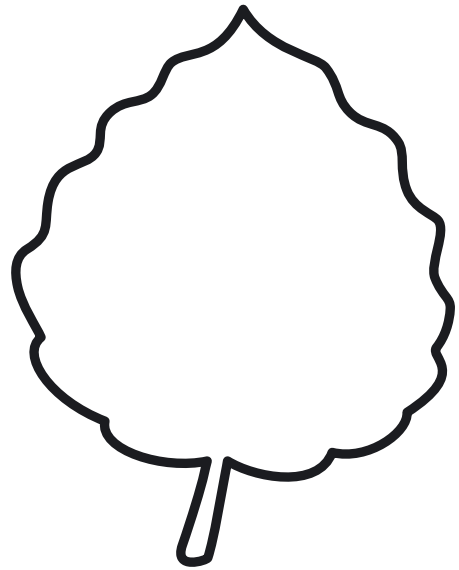
In November, we remember the people we love who have died. In particular, on the Feast of All Souls, the Church remembers those who have died and prays for them. To help us remember those we love who have died, and illuminate our hope that they are now in heaven with God where life has no end, we will write the name or draw a picture of someone we love who has died on the leaves on the Junior Activity Page. This could be a family member, a friend, a neighbor or a pet.

Display these leaves in the class prayer space. They could be hung from a potted tree or placed around a picture of a tree.





## 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 families and people 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 Souls (2 November), we remember family and friends who have returned home to heaven.

Sometimes it can be difficult to live in the hope of the promise of Jesus, especially if someone we love has died. As Christians, we can see the truth of the promise in the miracle of Jesus raising Jairus' daughter 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.

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.

#### Explore

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

Read the miracle in Matthew 9:18-26 or the adapted version below.



Many people gathered around Jesus to hear him preach and to watch him do miracles. There were old people and young people, rich people and poor people. Some people were sick and others just wanted to listen.

One man who came to Jesus was named Jairus. A lot of people knew Jairus because Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue. Jairus' job at the synagogue was to make sure that everything was ready when the people came to learn about God. Many people respected Jairus.

On this day Jairus had a very big problem. His twelve-year-old daughter was at home in bed. His daughter was so sick she was about to die. Jairus had come to Jesus because he thought Jesus could make his daughter well again. 'Please, Jesus, come and put your hands on my daughter so that she can be well again!' Jairus begged Jesus.

So Jesus went with him. Jairus wanted them to hurry but people kept crowding around wanting Jesus to help them too. Jairus waited while Jesus helped them. Jairus' saw his friends coming toward him. They looked very sad and he knew they had bad news. 'Jairus you can stop trying to bother Jesus now. It is too late. Your daughter is dead,' the

friends said. Jairus was very sad. Jesus could have helped make his sick daughter well but nobody could make a dead girl alive. That would be impossible!

When Jesus saw that Jairus was sad and afraid he looked at him and said, 'Don't be afraid Jairus; just believe.' So Jesus, Jairus, Peter, James and John left the crowd and kept walking until they reached Jairus' house. When they arrived they heard lots of loud noise. People were crying and playing a kind of flute that people played at funerals. The dead daughter was lying down and everyone was gathered around feeling sad. Jesus told them to get out and quit all of the loud crying because the little girl was just sleeping.

Everyone laughed at Jesus because they knew that the little girl was dead. She had already stopped breathing and her heart was not beating. Everyone left the room except for Jesus, his disciples and the girl's parents. Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!' The little girl immediately got up and began to walk around. Jesus told the people to bring some food for the girl. Everyone was astonished when they saw the girl walk around. Jesus made a dead girl alive again.

### 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.

Use the leaf templates on the Junior Activity Page to write the names/draw these people. Display these leaves in the class prayer space. They could be hung from a potted tree or placed around a picture of a tree.







## Prayer Service

This prayer service could be held in a classroom, school hall or a prayer room. Members of the local parish community could be invited, including the parish priest or school chaplain. Parents and grandparents could also be invited.

### 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 remember them especially during the month of November as we remember Christ's promise of eternal life. We live in the hope that all those who have died will live happily forever in heaven.

We begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Opening Song:** I Watch the Sunrise

**Leader:** While it is sad for us to think about people who have died, we remember them today by writing their names or drawing their pictures on prayer leaves and these now hang on our Remembrance Tree. (*Alternatively, these could be in a remembrance box or written in a book of remembrance.*) We know that Jesus brought us hope and Good News. Let us now listen to that Good News.

**Reader 1:** *A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy death forever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**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 past priests and members of our parish who have died. *(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:** May the Road Rise to Meet You