

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael the Archangel

November 2020

My dear brothers and sisters,

The month of November presents us with an array of significant Scottish liturgical Feasts.

We begin with All Saints and All Souls, on the 8th Blessed John Duns Scotus, in the middle of the month, on the 16th, we celebrate St Margaret of Scotland and, on the 30th, Andrew the Apostle, principal Patron of Scotland.

Saints can seem to be far removed from us. They can seem far removed in time – Andrew lived 2,000 years ago, Margaret 950. Often, we think that they are far holier than we are: some have travelled to far distant land, endured much hardship, given up so much – even their lives. How can we possibly measure up to such example?

All Saints reminds us that the grace of God works in the lives of many ordinary people. The Saints are our “brothers and sisters”. These are people we have known who have loved God, trusted God and attempted to live like Christ. They have handed on the gift of the faith to us. They are not far removed from us, they are close to us, still alive and active in the communion that is the Church. Their example and prayers continue to sustain and inspire us.

All souls is celebrated because we believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the communion of the Church on Earth, in preparation and in heaven. We believe in One Church, One Faith, One Lord and we believe in the power of prayer to assist the living and the dead. St Paul prays for Onesiphorus (a fellow Christian who has died) and his family: ‘May the Lord grant mercy to the house of [Onesiphorus](#), for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain, but when he was in Rome, he sought me diligently, and found me - the Lord grant to him to find the Lord's mercy on that day’ (i.e. the day of judgement). 2 Timothy 1:16-18

Even when the parson has gone we believe our hearts and souls remain in communion we still need those whom we love but have gone before and they need us. Gemma Higgs recently posted this. Dreams can be powerful things. For those of you who are new to the parish Aaron (aged 11) died suddenly just at the start of lockdown.

On Wednesday night I had a dream -

I was sitting myself in a green garden just facing up towards the sky with my eyes closed. When I opened my eyes, Aaron was sitting opposite me and he said “Mum, Mum can you hear me? Mum, I am right here, look right here.” And he waved.

He then said,

“Mum, could you start saying the rosary for me? If you even know how to do it ? You can just google it if you don't. I have rosary beads; they are in a blue and white box in Granny's house you could use them.”

I said "Ok, I will"

And he smiled at me and said

"Ok, thank you. Do you want me to sit here with you and hold your hand for a little bit?" He took hold of my hand and we both looked up to the sky and closed our eyes together.

So, on Thursday I spent the day emptying the whole cupboard up at my Mums, going through all our stuff but couldn't find any Rosary beads.

Then today I knocked over Aaron's Home Learning folder that's been left at the side of the couch and this slips out from in between his books!!

I can't send you the picture but there was a simple set of blue rosary beads. I am saying Mass for Aaron and his family this Sunday.

I have attached material for ALL SOULS and ask you to pray for those who have died in the last year.

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First Holy Communion

Please pray for those who will receive First Holy Communion this weekend.

9.00am Mass

Leonardo McArdle

3.00pm Mass

Karina Cotofan

Kacper Korda

Anna Flunkert

Eryk Wawrzykowski

Other News

Event for Grandparents

If you're a grandparent, please register for 'Grandparents: Our Mission'. This Zoom event is led by Catherine Wiley of the Catholic Grandparents Association. She will present a vision of grandparents' ministry which includes sharing the faith with grandchildren and building a sense of mission in today's Church. It takes place at 7pm on Wednesday 04 November 2020. Register at bit.ly/GrandparentsEvent.

In God's Image

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland would like to hear from you if you wish to propose any changes to 'In God's Image', the safeguarding policy manual for the Catholic Church in Scotland. They state: "We want to hear from lay people, as well as from clergy and religious. Above all, we are keen to hear from survivors or victims

of abuse so that the church can plan to ensure sensitive responses to all allegations and concerns.” Closing date is 30 November. Please go to bcos.org.uk/InGodsImageV2.
Hymns

So, a good deal more than usual.

Best wishes to you all

Fr Basil

**For parishioners in the East Lothian,
Midlothian & Borders Deanery**

Life of Faith

Where does **prayer fit in?**

2PM & 7:30PM | MONDAY 16 NOV | ZOOM

With Sr Anna Marie McGuan, RSM