Sunday 25th October 2026
Mass Intentions.
Tourlestrane church

Sunday 25th October: 10.30am : No Mass
Monday 26th October: No Mass
Tuesday 27th October: 9.30am No Mass
Wednesday 28th October: 9.30am No Mass
Thursday 29th October: No Mass
Friday 30th October: 7pm No Mass
Saturday 31st October: No Mass
Sunday 1st November: 10.30am: No Mass

Kilmactigue church

Saturday 24th October: 7pm: Peggy, Hughie, and Kieran Leonard
Sunday 25th October: 10.30am Christina Walsh, Rita Walsh Kelly, and Mattie Walsh
Monday 26th October : 9.30am
Tuesday 27th October: 9.30am Holy Souls
Wednesday 28th October : 9.30am
Thursday 29th October: 9.30am:
Friday 30th October : 7pm Joe & Delia and Ann Seery, deceased of Seery & Goldrick families
Saturday 31st October: 11am : Darren Gaughan, John & Elizabeth Gaughan, Paddy & Mary O'Dowd
Saturday 31st October: 7pm : Joe & Mary Ellen Kennedy, daughter Margaret: Kieran & Kathleen McAllister.
Sunday 1st November: For the living

Lough Talt church

Sunday 25th October: 9.20am: Mary Kate O'Dwd, Mountaffe, all members of O'Dowd family
Sunday 1st November: 9.20am: James & Bridget Ann Deehan

First reading

Exodus 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow and orphan, my anger will flare against you

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

'"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

'"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

'"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You broke with idolatry and became servants of God; you are now waiting for his Son

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Ac16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

The commandments of love

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Offertory Collection

The Offertory Collection for weekend 18th October was €1,159.02.

Banada Tourlestrane Housing

Banada Tourlestrane Housing would like to thank everyone who supported our recent coffee morning in aid of Northwest hospice. We were delighted to present €400 euro to them.

November Envelopes

November lists are included in the Offertory boxes. November Envelopes are also available at church entrances this weekend. You can list those who have died and whom you wish to be included in Masses celebrated during November in our churches. It is customary to include a stipend with your list. Lists and stipends can be placed in the boxes provided. 14 Masses for the Holy Souls will be celebrated during the month of November in the Parish.

Norms for Indulgences at the Commemoration of All Souls

1 From noon on 1st Nov until midnight on 2nd Nov, all who have confessed, received Holy Communion, and prayed for the Pope's intentions (one Our Father and Hail Mary, or any other prayer of one's choice) can gain one plenary indulgence by visiting a church or oratory, and there reciting one Our Father and the Apostle's Creed.

This indulgence is applicable only to the souls of the departed.

Confession may be made at any time within the week preceding or the week following 1st Nov.

2 The faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead may gain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the Holy Souls on the usual conditions once per day from 1st to 8th Nov. The conditions mentioned above apply also for this.

Confessions

Confessions is available on Friday evenings in Kilmactigue church at 6pm to 6.30pm.

What are indulgences?

Indulgences are the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. The faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains the indulgence under prescribed conditions for either himself or the departed. Indulgences are granted through

the ministry of the Church which, as the dispenser of the grace of redemption, distributes the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints.

Prayers in the Graveyards.

Prayers in Kilmactigue graveyard will take place on Sunday 1st Nov at 12noon.
Prayers in Rhue graveyard will take place on Sunday 8th Nov at 3pm.

November Remembrance Ceremony

We hope to celebrate a November Remembrance Ceremony this year in Kilmactigue church on Wednesday 25th November at 7pm. The ceremony will have three main parts

1 We will remember those babies who died before or around the time of birth or at a young age.

2 The second part of our ceremony will be to remember all those who died either through tragedy or illness.

3 And in the final part of our ceremony we will remember all the souls of the faithful departed, especially those who died since last November in our own parish and elsewhere.

25 Card Game

25 card games resume in the Hilary Room, Banada, on Friday 30th Oct at 8.30pm. All welcome.

Enrolments for Drimina NS

Enrolments for Drimina NS for September 2027 are now open and will close on January 15th all details are on the website. Contact the school for an Enrolment Form.

Cloonacool Players

There are two sides to everything when it comes to Cloonacool Players in Bruce Adams' hilarious farces - 'When I snap my Fingers' directed by Eileen Davey, and 'Mary, Mary' directed by Peadar Conway - both to be staged pre-Christmas. Be prepared to laugh your socks off.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council met for the monthly meeting on Monday 21st Oct. The special evening celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Banada was reviewed and positive feedback was noted by those attending. A proposed Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist by Bishop Kevin was discussed. It will be published at the beginning of November. In discussing the letter, we also looked at our need to revitalise our Parish. We reaffirmed a commitment to making the churches welcoming for young families. We discussed the importance of music in our liturgies and to encourage parishioners to participate in responses and hymns. Identifying people for leading prayer services and Eucharistic ministers also came up. Bishop Kevin's Pastoral letter raised some discussion about the number of Masses possible in the near future. We had a short report on the National Synod and on the various proposals that were voted on last weekend. It was noted that the council is approaching the end of its four year term. We discussed the protocol for selecting a new council. It was noted that the criteria for selecting candidates is that they should have the time to give to the council. They should be able to think in terms of the whole parish (some find it hard to see beyond a particular area of interest) They should be team players, able to work well with others, good listeners, interested in other views and perspectives; they need to see beyond their own preoccupations. They should be open of new ways of doing things, with an energy and passion about the future of the parish. They should be able to work by way of meetings—planning, discussing, reviewing. (Many people who are "doers" find meetings intolerable). Attention will also be given to having a council that is representative of the church areas of the parish, of gender equality, particular skills needed by the council, and age profile.

National Synod

The Irish Synodal Pathway began in 2021 when the Bishops of Ireland invited the Church to embark on a process of renewal inviting people throughout the Church to engage in prayer, listening and reflection, and to reflect on important questions about the identity and mission of the Church in Ireland, including its pastoral life, structures, relationships, ministry and place in society. Through this process, Baptism emerged as a foundational lens for understanding the identity and mission of the Church, leading to seven priorities: belonging; co-responsibility and lay ministry; family; formation and catechesis; healing; women; and youth.

Following the Pre-Synodal Assembly in Kilkenny in October 2025, working groups were established to deepen this discernment and develop practical proposals. These 35 proposals were subsequently grouped under five pathways and presented in the *Working Document – Is not this what God asks of you?* :

– The Church that Proclaims the Gospel
– The Church as a Community of Belonging
– The Church as a Place of Healing
– The Church that Accompanies,
– The Church that Empowers for Ministry and Co-responsibility.

PATHWAY NO.	PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE	HR*	R*	RFD*	NR*
1	1	Build communion with those struggling to see relevance of Church	42.00%	36.00%	19.00%	2.00%
1	2	Challenging language and style at universal level	41.00%	20.00%	26.00%	13.00%
1	3	Renewed emphasis on inter-Church encounter and dialogue	28.00%	39.00%	27.00%	6.00%
1	4	The parish / local faith community as a faith formation space	65.00%	23.00%	12.00%	0.00%
1	5	Youth co-ordinators and youth advisory committees	53.00%	31.00%	15.00%	1.00%
1	6	Pathways of intentional discipleship for youth and young adults	52.00%	31.00%	16.00%	0.00%
1	7	National digital strategy for youth-focused online content	51.00%	30.00%	17.00%	1.00%
1	8	Engaging with Irish society in discerning the common good	63.00%	22.00%	14.00%	1.00%
2	1	Ministry of listening, welcoming, and belonging in dioceses / parishes	39.00%	35.00%	21.00%	6.00%
2	2	National commission for faith-based social infrastructure and abiding	15.00%	31.00%	34.00%	20.00%
2	3	Pathways of belonging for young people through pilgrimages and gatherings	55.00%	33.00%	9.00%	3.00%
2	4	Ministry with the Travelling People	26.00%	31.00%	33.00%	11.00%
2	5	Women visible and valued in liturgy, public prayer, and discourse	38.00%	23.00%	22.00%	16.00%
2	6	National office for women (mainstreaming women's inclusion)	12.00%	6.00%	27.00%	56.00%
3	1	Healing as a priority in the future work of the synodal process	67.00%	22.00%	10.00%	1.00%
3	2	A commission for healing	37.00%	27.00%	25.00%	12.00%
3	3	Places of encounter	32.00%	25.00%	36.00%	8.00%
3	4	The pastoral care of women at the margins	28.00%	24.00%	37.00%	11.00%
4	1	Communities of accompaniment, discipleship and belonging	53.00%	32.00%	11.00%	3.00%
4	2	Review of catechetical provision and sacramental preparation	69.00%	15.00%	14.00%	1.00%
4	3	Nurturing the domestic church: home-based faith tools	44.00%	32.00%	19.00%	4.00%
4	4	Mentorship and accompaniment of married couples	32.00%	30.00%	29.00%	10.00%
4	5	Family ministry team	28.00%	35.00%	28.00%	9.00%
4	6	Pastoral accompaniment of people who experience brokenness in relationships	38.00%	32.00%	26.00%	4.00%
4	7	Women and the domestic church	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	19.00%
5	1	A permanent national ecclesial council	35.00%	16.00%	31.00%	18.00%
5	2	Formation for co-responsible ministry in a synodal Church	57.00%	28.00%	11.00%	4.00%
5	3	The ministry of Catechist, both instituted and commissioned	56.00%	35.00%	7.00%	1.00%
5	4	National framework for co-responsibility and synodal ministry	44.00%	28.00%	20.00%	8.00%
5	5	Recognition of lay ministry and co-responsible leadership for lay men and women	49.00%	27.00%	19.00%	4.00%
5	6	Piloting co-responsible models for mission and pastoral leadership	38.00%	33.00%	21.00%	8.00%
5	7	National office for life-long adult faith formation	58.00%	25.00%	14.00%	3.00%
5	8	A national review in light of paragraph 60 of the "Final Document"	41.00%	17.00%	22.00%	20.00%
5	9	On-going exploration of women's ministry, including the diaconate	42.00%	12.00%	19.00%	27.00%
5	10	National formation and training pathway for youth and young adult ministry	52.00%	32.00%	14.00%	3.00%

*	HR	I highly recommend
	R	I recommend
	RFD	Requires further discernment
	NR	I do not recommend

The Rosary

The Rosary continues to be prayed in the Lake church every night for the month of October Monday-Saturday 8:30pm, Sunday 8pm! "All Are Welcome in this Place" in particular we invite parents to bring their children along to experience praying the Rosary! Fr. Peyton once said "the family that prays together. stays together.

Tourlestrane church maintenance

Due to necessary repair work in Tourlestrane church, it will close on Monday 19th October until the work is complete. An extra Mass will be celebrated in Kilmactigue church on the weekend.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Invitations for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party were posted out during the week. Can we remind everyone to send back their reply on or before next Friday 30th Oct please. Also. if there is anybody that didn't get an invitation and would like to attend the party in Banada Hall on Sunday November 22nd, please contact Margaret Fallon on 087-6410128. Thank you.

Banada Abbey Bingo

Banada Abbey Bingo this Tuesday at 8.00pm. Books can now be purchased online up to 6.00pm on Tuesday. New Jackpot Game for €2,000 now on 48 calls or less. Prize-fund of €10,500 on offer.

Move it or Lose it

Move it or Lose it Exercise Classes in Charlestown. Over 55 and looking for low-impact, moderate exercise classes? Move it or Lose it classes take place every Friday at 1.30pm in CBD Recreational Centre, Charlestown. Starting on Friday, 13th November. Please contact Laura on 083 083 032 9953 for more information. Cost €10.00 pay as you go. For men and women. First class is FREE.

My wife Maura and I visited Lourdes, France, on 30 August 2026. While waiting for the baths to open, we spent the entire day with a group of Irish women who were also on pilgrimage. They were kind, faith-filled, and quickly became friends with Maura. They wanted to stay in touch and shared their email addresses. Those addresses and their full surnames were lost when we packed for the airport.

Maura is fighting stage 4 ovarian cancer. After chemotherapy, she cannot recall exactly where they live. She would dearly like to find these ladies again—for friendship and for the religious support they offered one another that day.

Who we are looking for

Maureen, Angela, and Rose — Friends who travelled together. We do not remember where in Ireland they live in.

Florentina — travelling on her own and from the Dublin area.

How you can help

If you recognize these first names, these photographs, a Lourdes group from late August /early September 2026, or anyone who might know them, please forward this letter—or simply pass our contact details along. Permission is gladly given to share this with parish newsletters, pilgrimage organizers, and local community groups. We are not sure whether they traveled with a pilgrimage or alone.

Our contact information

Curt and Maura Bucey
Email: Cbucey2@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 832-483-3338
United States

Kilmactigue Parish Defibrillator Group

CPR / AED Training Autumn Schedule 2026. Training will take place in the Hillary Room, on: Sunday 1st Nov. 12 noon. Instructors will be in touch with those previously trained. If you have not trained before and would like to do so, please contact 087 473 4896.

Fundraising

We are currently replacing all the outdoor cabinets in which the Defibs are placed because of issues with dampness & temperature control. Because of this, like before, we will be

reaching out to the parish community in the new year to form a fundraising committee & help with raising funds to continue this vital programme in our parish. An account of spending since the last fundraiser along with a list of all those trained in CPR AED in our parish will be available towards the end of year. Looking forward to seeing ye all at our training in the coming weeks.

Baby bonding course with Tubbercurry **FRC** starting this November 3rd from 10am-11am. Suitable for parents, carers and babies from 28+ weeks of pregnancy to 8 months. €15 for the 6 week block. Contact 0719186926 for more information and bookings.

The Inner Confidence personal development course with a coaching and wellbeing specialist will take place this November in Tubbercurry **FRC**. Build greater self-trust, confidence and emotional resilience. This is a four week programme starting Monday 2nd November & costs €20. Places limited and bookings to 0719186926.

St Vincent De Paul

The new phone number for the local conference is 0870014236.

Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

The Parish Safeguarding handbook is available on
http://achonrydiocese.org/safeguardinghandbook/

Banada Abbey Hall Autumn Activities

Monday 6pm Insight drama school.
7pm Ladies exercise with Mairead
8pm Men's exercise class
Hall monthly meeting at 9 pm on Hilary room new members welcome

Tuesday 7pm Yoga with Laura
8pm Bingo

Thursday 6pm Pilates and mindfulness for children with Sarah
7pm Pilates with Sarah
8pm Bowls

Bereavement

The Bereavement Course presented by Monica Morley, Director of the Knock Shrine Family Centre and Broadcaster at Midwest Radio is due to commence Tuesday 3rd November at 8pm here at The Newman Institute. The cost of the course is €60 and will run for the 4 Tuesday nights in November. To book a place please phone 096 72066 or email reception@newman.ie
The Monthly Bereavement Support Group Meetings will commence on 15th October at 8pm and will meet every second Wednesday of each month from October 2026 to May 2027 inclusive.

From Longing to Living

From Longing to Living (Your Song) – Taking your brave first steps" A morning workshop reflecting on making your dreams a reality. Saturday, November 7th, 10am - 2pm, Croi Nua, Galway. €40 + eventbrite booking fee. Advance booking required on eventbrite.ie. Any questions? Contact Maria at 085-8357566, mariakingguidance@gmail.com .

5 Step Support Service

Are you affected by the misuse of alcohol or other drugs by another individual ?
5 Step Support can help you; it is a free , non-judgemental, one - one service.
Putting your needs and wellbeing first , helping you manage often stressful , difficult and emotional issues
If you would like further information or an appointment, please contact
071 9150578 / 085 875 9319 or email sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.com
You don't have to be addicted to suffer from addiction!

Our policy regarding children in our parish churches?

If your kids are loud, please still come to church.

If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.

If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.

If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.

If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.

If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or has to make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.

If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church

If you feel like you spent the entire mass managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.

If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church

If you're worried about, if you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.

Because children do not learn how to be part of the church by staying home until they can sit quietly.

They learn by being here.

They learn the singing by hearing us sing.

They learn the prayers by hearing us pray.

They learn to worship by watching us worship.

They learn that church is home because we make room for them here.

The wiggles, whispers, dropped crayons, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the church.

They are evidence that the church is alive.

So bring the babies, bring the toddlers, bring the big kids, come late, sit at the back, sit in the front, step out where you need to. and come right back in.

Just come.

Children are not simply the future of the church, they are part of the church right now. If we don't make room for the next generation in the church, we risk becoming a generation that leaves behind empty churches. The children in our pews today are the church leaders, worshippers, and servants of tomorrow.

And in our parish churches, there is a place for everyone.

Faith & Fun Clubs

Supporting Children (8 - 11 years) grow in faith and friendship: New and emerging Faith & Fun Clubs in the Achonry and Elphin Dioceses now enrolling for 2026/2027 school year. For more info please visit: https://achonryelphin.ie/fafc/

Words of Hymns

The lyrics of many of the hymns sung by the choirs in our churches are available on our website. Look under the "prayers" banner headline and do join in the singing. We are all meant to participate in the Mass. We should not be spectators..

New Diocesan Website

The new Diocesan website of Achonry and Elphin is now alive at www.achonryelphin.ie

Parish Website

The website for the Parish is https://www.kilmactigueparish.com/ .

Keeping Children Safe

The Diocese of Achonry is fully committed to keeping children safe. Information is available about diocesan child safeguarding on the website . Anyone with issues or concerns around the safety of children should telephone the confidential diocesan helpline . Designated Liaison persons Ms Anne Leonard 087 6474136 or Sr Pat Casey 086 7303076. Concerns and complaints may also be passed on directly to TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) and/or An Garda Siochana

The Catholic Steps

Introducing **The Catholic Steps (www.catholicsteps.com)** — a free online fellowship for Catholics who are working through a twelve-step program rooted in the sacraments. The site offers a structured workspace where members work through all twelve steps with reflection questions drawn from Scripture and Catholic tradition. Each member is paired with a sponsor — a fellow Catholic who has completed the steps — who guides them privately through the process. Members can also connect with a daily prayer wall and access resources. It is open to any Catholic who recognises an attachment — whether to a substance, a behaviour, or a pattern of thought — that is keeping them from God. It offers a structured, sacramentally grounded path for parishioners who need more than a weekly meeting but are not yet ready for formal counselling.

Accord Ballaghadereen

Accord Ballaghadereen offer a confidential counselling service where couples can explore family relationships. Accord counsellors can help if relationships are under stress. For online counselling please visit www.accord.ie. Alternatively, to book a face to face counselling session, please call Accord Ballaghaderreen on 0879972503.

Mother and Baby

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme launched in March 2024 following the Government agreed actions arising from the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes and certain related matters. The Payment scheme provides financial payments, and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland. Eligibility criteria can be found online, and applications can be made via an online portal (website below) or by post
Visit: www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/
Contact Helpline: 01 522 9922 (call to request application pack)
All applications are handled with care, dignity and full confidentiality.

RADIO MARIA

Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting - Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – do join our growing faith family! Here's how you can listen:

1. Via Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210
2. Download our FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"
3. Streaming on our WEBSITE - www.radiomaria.ie
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5. Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).
6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area.

Why not drop a line to our Spiritual Director, Fr Des Farren by text on 089-4672000, by phone on 01-4123456, or come and pay us a visit at Radio Maria Ireland, St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. D22 R7W2

Dementia Support Worker

Join Our Caring Team! Dementia Support Worker (Care in the Community) Looking for meaningful, flexible work? We're seeking compassionate, honest, reliable people to support individuals living with dementia in their own homes in Co. Mayo
Locations: All throughout Co. Mayo
What You'll Do: Offer companionship and social connection. Assist with daily living activities. Support meaningful activities. Give primary carers a well-deserved break.
Flexible hours – work around ***your*** schedule! Make a real difference, one visit at a time.
Essentials: QQI Level 5 modules in **Care Skills** & **Care of the Older Person**
Desirable: Previous experience in caring / QQI Level 5 in Health Care
Interested? Get in touch today! 094 93 64900 or email careers@westernalzheimers.ie

Tusla, Meitheal.

Meitheal is a Tusla led process for children and families who may need support.

Meitheal enables families to identify what is working well and not so well in their child or young person's life and work towards changes they would like to see happen for their child or young person. For more information on Meitheal please contact 0876562844 or email

All Souls

Commemoration of the faithful departed.

Belief in the resurrection of the dead is an essential part of Christian revelation. It implies a particular understanding of the ineluctable mystery of death.

Death is the end of earthly life, but "not of our existence" (St Ambrose) since the soul is immortal. "Our lives are measured by time, in the course of which we change, grow old, and, as with all living beings on earth, death seems like the normal end of life.(CCC 1007) Seen from the perspective of the faith, "death is the end of man's earthly pilgrimage, of the time of grace and mercy which God offers him so as to work out his earthly life in keeping with the divine plan, and to decide his ultimate destiny (CCC 1013)

In one light, death can seem natural, in another it can be seen as "the wages of sin" (Rm 6.23). Authentically interpreting the meaning of Scripture (cf Jn 2:17 , 3;3 , 3:19; Wis 1:13, Rm 5:12, 6:23), the Church teaches that "death entered the world on account of man's sin" (CCC 1008)

Jesus, the Son of God. "born of a woman and subject to the Law" (Gal 4:4) underwent death which is part of the human condition; despite his anguish in the face of death (Mk 14:33-34, Heb 5:7-8), "he accepted it in an act of complete and free submission to his Father's will. The obedience of Jesus has transformed the curse of death into a blessing" (CCC 1009)

Death is the passage to the fullness of true life. The church, subverting the logic of this world, calls the christian's day of deaths his dies natalis, the day of his heavenly birth, where 'there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness {for} the world of the past has gone' (Apos 21:4). Death is the prolongation , in a new way of life as the liturgy says 'For your faithful, O Lord life has changed not ended; while our earthly dwelling is destroyed, a new and eternal dwelling is prepared for us in Heaven' (Missal Preface).

The death of a Christian is an event of grace, having, as it does, a positive value and significance in Christ and through Christ. Scripture teaches that 'Life to me, of course, life is Christ, but death would bring me something more' (Phil 1:21); here is a saying you can rely on: 'if we have died with him, then we shall live with him' (2Tm 2:11).

According to the faith of the church, 'to die in Christ' begins at Baptism. In Baptism, the Lord's disciples sacramentally die in Christ so as to live a new life. If the disciples die in the grace Christ, physical death seals that 'dying with Christ', and consummates it by incorporating them fully and definitively into Christ the Redeemer.

The Church's prayer of suffrage for the souls of the faithful departed implores eternal life not only for the disciples of Christ who have died in his peace, but for the dead whose faith is known to God (see Eucharistic prayer IV).

The just encounter God in death. He calls them to himself so as to share eternal life with them. No one, however, can be received into God's friendship and intimacy without having

been purified of the consequences of personal sin. 'The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent'

(CCC,1 031).

Hence derives the pious custom of suffrage for the souls of the faithful departed, which is an urgent supplication of God to have mercy on the souls of the dead, to purify them by the fire of His charity, and to bring to His kingdom of light and life. This suffrage is a cultic expression of faith in the communion of saints.

Indeed, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the earliest days of Christian religion, has honoured with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins'(2 Mac 12:46) she offers her suffrages for them. These consist primarily, in the celebration of the holy sacrifice of the Eucharist, and in other pious exercises, such as prayers for the dead, alms deeds, works of mercy, and the application of indulgences to the souls of the faithful departed.

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