

### **How to gain Indulgences**

There are 2 kinds of indulgences, plenary (full remission of sins), and partial (partial remission of sins). To gain a plenary indulgence, you must fulfill all of the following conditions:

From 12 o' clock noon on 1<sup>st</sup> November until midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 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 on any day from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November. 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November.

As we pray for our dead during this Mass it is good remember that **the Mass is the greatest prayer for the dead**. St. Malachy didn't get on with his sister, lost contact with her and didn't see her any more before she died. After she died, he heard a voice one night telling him that his sister was hungry, she hadn't eaten for thirty days. He remembered it was thirty days since he had offered Mass for her. He began to offer Mass for her again, saw her coming up to the door of the church, but she couldn't enter and was wearing a black garment. He continued to say Mass for her and the next time she was dressed in a lighter garment and the final time he saw her she was dressed entirely in white surrounded by blessed spirits. This incident in the life of St. Malachy shows us the importance of praying for the dead.

Prayer: Lord God, whose days are without end and whose mercies are beyond counting, keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown. Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice, that we may serve you in union with the whole Church, sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love. And when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into your kingdom, where you live for ever and ever. Amen.

### **PARISH OF DUNGIVEN**

#### **November The Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory**

##### **Suffrage For The Dead**

##### **Faith in the Resurrection of the Dead**

248. "It is in regard to death that man's condition is most shrouded in doubt"(348). However, faith in Christ changes that doubt into the certainty of life without end. Christ has told us that he came from the Father "so that whosoever believes in him might not die but have eternal life" (John 3, 16). Again he says, "it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life; and I shall raise him up on the last day" (349).

Based on the Word of God, the Christian firmly believes and hopes that "just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives for ever, so after death the righteous will live for ever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day" (350).

249. 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" (351) 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" (352). 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" (353).

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. John 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" (354).

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"(355).