

# We Remember

During the month of November, we remember in a special; way ‘the great cloud of witnesses’ (Hebrew 12:1) with whom our lives are connected in the communion of saints. Throughout the world during this month people visit the places of remembrance for the deceased members of family and friends. It gives us the opportunity to give thanks for the lives of our family members, friends, and colleagues who have gone before us in faith.

Columban Siter Rebecca Conlon SSC, who currently lives and works in Pakistan, reflects on the meaning of this special time of the year.

*November is a liminal time within our liturgical calendar. The mood of this season is set as nature seemingly rests and sleeps having shed all its autumnal beauty, and the sky sports a bleak dark grey tone in the Northern Hemisphere. It captures the Celtic idea of November. as a ‘thin place’. The month of November/Samhain in the Celtic calendar is thought to have represented the Celtic New Year. All Saints, all Souls and Halloween invite us beyond our present reality into reaching out in love as we remember those who have gone before us. The liturgy of these days tells us that life is changed not ended; the ‘thin place’ becomes a place of bonding in love. Our loved ones have “only gone to God and God is very near.”*

*As we remember all who have touched our lives and who have gone before us into the banquet of eternal life, especially during the past twelve months, we give thanks for the gift of their lives and for the many ways they have influenced our lives. They continue to light our way and accompany us each day.*



*John O'Donohue talks of the meaning of All Saints  
as a time 'where time and eternity embrace.'*

***Eternal rest grant to them O Lord,  
and may perpetual light shine upon them.***

# God of Remembrance

We remember all who have travelled the road of life with us,  
and whose lives have touched us deeply.

*God of the journey hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for the gift of family members,  
and for all they passed over from their lives to ours.

*God of abundance hear us.*

We remember the many people,  
who are hearing difficult news this day.

Those who are living in dangerous or hurtful situations,  
and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

*God of strength and protection hear us.*

*Let us pause for our own private remembrance.*

**Glory to you living God,  
Creating, Blessing, Sustaining.  
Glory to you this day and forever. Amen.**