November 2026

Outline

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2027 is *Invites: Opening hearts and minds to life in Christ*. In this November Moment pack, there is a variety of resources to choose from – music, scripture readings, prayers and activities. The pack includes a worksheet and a suggested prayer service or ritual, or you can design a custom-made prayer service or ritual using some of these elements in whatever order suits your class or school situation.



The November Moment may have elements of sadness, but there can also be moments of joy and especially hope when we remember our loved ones who have died, and pray that they live with God in heaven.

Introductory Prayer

Dear God,
We are understandably sad when loved ones die.
The greater the love, the greater the sadness.
But we believe as Christians that this is not the end.
We trust that you will look after our loved ones who have died.
We have hope that we can join them again in the kingdom of heaven,
And that though they are gone from our sight for now, we can still help them through our prayers.

(Original prayer. More prayers are available in the *YOUCAT Youth Prayer Book*.)

Links to the Junior Cycle Statements of Learning

1.6 – Religious rituals and sacred spaces
1.8 – The role of prayer
1.12 – Religious beliefs and practices
2.2 – Big questions, including questions about death and what happens when we die
2.9 – Exploring questions of meaning and purpose
2.10 – Reflection on personal beliefs and experiences
3.1 – Living out values
3.2 – Moral decision-making and values
3.9 – Responding to the needs of others

Links to the Junior Cycle Key Skills

Being Literate
Managing Myself
Staying Well
Managing Information and Thinking
Being Numerate
Being Creative
Working with Others
Communicating

Links to Senior Cycle non-Exam RE – Made for More Curriculum

Module 1 – The Quest for Meaning
- Unit 1 – The Question of God
- Unit 2 – Why Am I Here?

Module 2 – Christianity
- Unit 2 – Jesus, Who Is He?
- Unit 3 – Personal Relationship with God

Links to Made for More Key Assignments

- Key Assignment 5 — Module 1
- Key Assignment 8 — Module 2
- Key Assignment 10 — Module 2
- Key Assignment 15 — Module 3

Activities

1. In the classroom, create a remembrance wall/board. Invite the students to write the names of people who have died in the last year on a Post-it note and put it on the wall/board, perhaps in a ceremonial way as part of a prayer service. This can include loved ones, if appropriate.

2. Place a **bare tree branch in a bucket of sand**. Give students one or more **leaf-shaped cut-outs**. On each leaf, they can write the name of someone who has died whom they would like to remember and pray for. The leaves can then be attached to the branch to create a **Tree of Remembrance**, which can be used as a focal point during a November prayer service, or students could write on the leaves the **qualities, values or lessons** they have received from someone who has inspired them. Attach the leaves to a tree display with the heading:

   'Their lives continue through us'.

3. Students choose one small act of kindness they could do in memory of someone who has died. The class could create a '**Called to Holiness**' challenge based on these actions.

4. Students write a short personal prayer for someone who has died. These prayers could be collected and used during a class prayer service.

5. Students write the name of someone who has died and complete the sentence: **'I am thankful for this person because …'** The responses can be displayed as a **Wall of Gratitude**.

6. Invite students to bring in a clean stone, large enough to write on. They write the name of someone they remember and one quality they admired in that person. Display the stones around a cross or candle.

7. Each student creates a page remembering someone who has died. They can include their name, a memory, a quality they admired and a short prayer. The pages can be brought together to create a **Class Book of Remembrance** for November.

Music

All songs below are available for streaming on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, etc., or for purchase as individual tracks on iTunes or 7Digital (https://ie.7digital.com/).

'Holiness' – Sarah Hart
'When the Saints Go Marching In' – Bruce Springsteen
'Ready to Go' – Randy Stonehill
'When the Roll is Called Up Yonder' – Rosemary Siemens
'Holy Is His Name' – John Michael Talbot
'I'll Fly Away' – Alison Krauss

Ripples of the Divine by Marie Dunne CHF, an album of instrumental music, may also be suitable for use.

Worksheet

A worksheet is included on p. 5, which aims to establish the reasons why, in November, we remember. Students could fill in the worksheet before the other activities to get them reflecting on the relevant themes and make the subsequent exercises more meaningful.

Ritual

A suggested prayer service/ritual is included on p. 6.

Suggested Scripture Readings

Scripture quotes taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*.

1 Peter 1:15-16
'… as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written "You shall be holy, for I am holy."'

Hebrews 12:14
'Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.'

Reading Comprehension

Remembering in November

November is an important month in the Catholic Church. It is a time when we remember and pray for people who have died. We remember family members, friends, neighbours and others who have been important in our lives.

On **1 November**, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of All Saints**. On this day, Catholics remember all the saints – not only those whose names are known, but all those who are with God in heaven.

On **2 November**, the Church celebrates **All Souls' Day**, also called the **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**. On this day, Catholics especially remember and pray for those who have died. Churches and families may have special prayers and Masses. Many people also visit cemeteries, place flowers on graves and light candles in memory of loved ones.

The tradition of remembering the dead is not simply about sadness. For Christians, it is also about **hope**. The Christian faith teaches that death is not the end. Christians believe in the Resurrection and in the promise of eternal life with God.

Remembering People Who Inspired Us
November can also be a time to think about the people who have influenced and inspired us. They may be grandparents, parents, relatives, teachers, friends or members of our local community. During Catholic Schools Week, we looked at people who led normal lives but were called to holiness. Some people are remembered by the whole Church because of the way they lived their lives.

St Carlo Acutis was a young Italian Catholic who died in 2006 at the age of 15. He loved the Eucharist, prayer and helping others. He also used technology to share his faith. His life reminds young people that holiness is possible in ordinary, everyday life.

Sr Clare Crockett was an Irish woman who became a religious sister and served people in South America. She was known for her joy, generosity and love for God and for the people she served. Her life continues to inspire many young people.

These examples remind us that being called to holiness does not mean that we have to be famous or perfect. Holiness can be lived through ordinary things – prayer, friendship, kindness, courage, forgiveness, service and love.

When we remember people who have died, we can ask ourselves:
- What did they teach me about how to live?
- What qualities did they show that I would like to develop in my own life?

November, therefore, gives us an opportunity to remember with gratitude, pray with hope and live with purpose.

November Moment
Post-Primary Worksheet

1. What is celebrated by the Catholic Church on 1 November?

2. What is celebrated on 2 November?

3. Give two ways in which people may remember those who have died.

i.

ii.

4. Why is November not seen as a time of sadness for Christians?

5. **People Who Inspire Us**
Investigate one of the following people who have inspired you by the life that they lived.


St Carlo Acutis


Sr Clare Crockett

6. **Someone Who Inspired Me**
Think of someone who has made a positive difference in your life. This could be someone living or someone who has died.

The person I would like to remember is:

November Moment
Prayer Service

Setting
Create a suitable, reflective location and atmosphere.

Opening Music
You Raise Me Up, by Brendan Graham

https://youtu.be/9bxc9hbwkkw?list=RD9bxc9hbwkkw

Prayer
Dear God,
We are understandably sad when loved ones die.
The greater the love, the greater the sadness.
But we believe as Christians that this is not the end.
We trust that you will look after our loved ones who have died.
We have hope that we can join them again in the kingdom of heaven,
And that though they are gone from our sight for now, we can still help them through our prayers.

We remember loved ones we have known who have passed away. They may have led what seemed like ordinary lives, but may also have done their best to practice genuine holiness.

We remember modern young people and saints who were particularly outstanding in their holiness: St Carlo Acutis, St Pier Giorgio Frassati, Sr Clare Crockett. Help us to be inspired by their lives.

Ritual of Remembrance
*Choose **one** of the following options:*

1. The Tree of Remembrance
Invite students to take a **leaf-shaped card**. They can write the name of someone who has died whom they would like to remember and pray for. Students come forward and attach their leaf to the **bare branch**, creating a Tree of Remembrance. As the leaves are placed on the branch, quiet instrumental music can be played.

Leader: As we place these leaves on our tree, we remember the people whose lives have touched our own. We remember them. We give thanks for them. We pray for them.

2. Memory Stones
Students are invited to take a paper or card **stone**. On the stone they write **one quality or lesson they remember from someone who has died** – perhaps kindness, courage, generosity, humour, faith or love.

Students could also use the stones that they wrote on in class time and place them around a candle. The stones can be placed around a plant, candle or cross.

Leader: A person's life can leave a lasting impression on others. The values and qualities they shared can continue through us.

3. Candle of Remembrance

Students may come forward and light a small candle from the central candle.
As they do so, they may silently remember someone who has died.

Leader: This light reminds us of God's presence and of our Christian hope.
We remember those who have died and place them in God's loving care.

Pause for reflection
Instrumental music could be played at this time or the following piece by Josh Groban

https://youtu.be/jVgblxtR3Zc?list=RD9bxc9hbwkkw

Prayer of Intercession

Leader:
1. For all those who have died and are remembered today, Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

2. For our family members and friends who have died, Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

3. For those who have inspired us through the way they lived, Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

4. For young people who are seeking to live lives of faith, courage and purpose, Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

5. For each of us, that we may recognise our own call to holiness and live it through ordinary acts of love and kindness, Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Loving God,
We thank you for the people we have remembered today.
May their lives continue to inspire us.
May we carry forward the goodness they shared with us.
Help us to live our ordinary lives with extraordinary love.
Guide us to be people of kindness, courage, forgiveness, hope and faith.
May we always remember that we too are called to holiness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Music

'In the Quiet', by Liam Lawton

https://youtu.be/dolQoM200bU?list=RDdolQoM200bU