

இறையரசு மலர்



"அவர் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லத்தெல்லாம் செய்யுங்கள் யோவான்" 2:5

# DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER VELLORE

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

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**Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters**

**If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his – Rom. 6:5**

Our Holy Mother Church celebrates November 2 as All Souls Day every year. Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, acknowledges the symbiotic relationship of life and death. All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 is dedicated to the saints of the church, who are in heaven. All Souls Day on 2 is set aside for those who have died, but have yet to attain heaven.

According to Roman Catholic Faith All Saints Day is a day to remember all saints and martyrs during Christian history and All souls Day (*Commemoratio Omnium Fidelium Defunctorum*) is a day for commemoration of all the faithful departed, those baptized Christians who are believed to be in purgatory because they died with the guilt of lesser sins on their souls.



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### **Short history of All Souls Day :**

From antiquity certain days were devoted to intercession for particular groups of the dead. The history goes beyond to the time of St. Isidore of Spain who started remembering all souls in Purgatory on Monday after the Feast of Holy Spirit. This Holy practice was prevalent only among the Hermits in their Hermitage. Later it was St. Odilo, the abbot of Cluny in the 10 century who observed Nov. 2 as the day of all the departed Monks all over his Monasteries. This Holy practice was later adopted by the Western Church and till today it is observed in the Holy Catholic Church.

### **Why to pray for the dead?**

We need to pray for the departed souls for the following three reasons :

1. We pray for the deceased believing that death is not the end but the beginning of eternal life.
2. The prayers of the faithful on earth will help cleanse these souls in order to fit them for the vision of God in heaven, and the day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance.
3. Through prayer, intercessions, alms and visits to cemeteries we gain indulgences.

### **Why 3 masses on All Souls Day?**

Due to the extensive number of deaths, destroyed churches and unceasing warfare, in 1915 Pope Benedict XV granted that all priests celebrate three Masses on All Souls Day: one for a particular intention of the day, one for all the faithful departed and one for the intentions of the Holy Father.



Praying for the dead is a very traditional and good spiritual practice of our faith. The Holy Catholic Church has dedicated the whole month of November to pray for the departed souls in Purgatory. Let us therefore remember all our beloved ones and abandoned souls in Purgatory gratefully and pray for them to get God's mercy through offering Holy masses, prayers and alms and visiting their cemeteries.

As it is already announced our Clergy Annual Retreat is going to take place from **Nov. 19 Sunday evening to 25 Saturday morning at Cluny Prashant Vanam in Kalapet, Pondicherry**. I earnestly ask all our priests to attend the retreat without fail. Retreat is the time to come as one family to listen and meditate together, to pray and celebrate the Holy mass together. It is also the time to reflect our past, repent for our past sins and failures and reconcile with God and with our own brother priests. Therefore let us come with joy and eagerness to segregate ourselves for a week from all other worldly distractions and disturbances unite ourselves with the Lord and come back with hallow and glowed-up.

On Nov. 6 the new presbytery at Japthikarani parish was blessed and opened. I thank Mr. Mariaraj, the engineer, Propaganda Fide, Rome and Fr. A. Stephen, the parish priest.

I wish all the priests, religious who celebrate their Feast day, Birth day and ordination days in this month. May the good Lord bless them abundantly and our Mother Mary intercedes for them and brings them choicest blessings. Kindly remember me and the diocese in your daily prayers and Holy masses.

God bless,  
Yours in Christ Jesus,



**Very Rev. Msgr. I. John Robert,**  
Diocesan Administrator

