

***“To encounter the sacred is to be alive at the deepest centre of human existence.”***

After a restful midterm leaving October behind, we move into our Remembrance Services this week to mark the Catholic tradition of remembering the dead during the month of November. We have placed two remembrance trees in our school; one in the foyer area where both students and staff can place the names of their loved ones and one in our prayer room where students have another opportunity as part of their class prayer service.

By participating in such services, rituals and moments to remember, we are very much reminded that we belong to a community that reaches beyond the grave and which reminds us that:



***Lover never ends (1Cor 13:8).***

This is a community that invites to know that in times of sadness we are never alone, that we are linked to one another through a bond of solidarity and love. The month of November begins with the two days of remembering which give us a chance to recall this – All Saints Day and All Souls Day. These are days of great hope because they invite us to think about how blessed we have been in the family members and friends who have gone before us. They have given us so much and taught us so much; these are treasures that are not lost with the passage of time.

These days also allow us to feel the pain of our loss, something we must do if we are to grieve properly. We are reminded in the Gospel that Jesus asks us to not be afraid to bring our burdens to him:

***‘Do not let your hearts be troubled’ John 14:1***

He knows our pain and wants us to find our peace in him.

These days encourage us not only to pray for our departed friends but also to pray to them, knowing that through our faith we are linked by a love that

never ends. This time also reminds us of how we in our school community might support and encourage one another at times of suffering and loss. We are not only a community of teaching and learning, we are also a community of care and compassion.

These prayer services and reflections take place for each Religion class within each year group which means that every student will have the opportunity to stop, reflect and remember their loved ones or perhaps anything they wish to pray for and remember at this time.

Our staff also had an opportunity on Thursday last to reflect and remember and in particular to our young pastmen who have died recently. At this poignant reflection, we as a staff prayed for their families coping with this sudden grief, especially the Nugent family who are mourning the loss of their son Adam, older brother to Ben and Bobby currently still at school. We also gave thanks for the strong sense of community we have here at the College among our colleagues. It is now our hope and prayer for the strength to show support to the friends of the departed as time moves on.



As you may have already noticed from recent social media posts (pics attached), our beautiful prayer room which is nestled away in the quietness of the second floor has had recent interior adjustments to make it a more comforting, reflective and welcoming space.

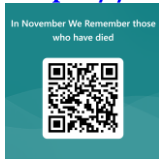
It is probably safe to say both students and staff are enjoying the time to reflect in such a special and unique space. I look forward to facilitating the remaining services of reflection over the next 3-4 weeks. I will leave you with a few descriptive words that the students have given me to describe their experience of this reflective time:

*Holy, Profound, Unique, Reflective, Rejuvenated, Spiritual, Sacred, Peaceful . . .*

And so hence my opening line to this bulletin piece . . .

If you wish for your loved ones name to be remembered in our special book of Remembrance, please scan the following QR code or link which will take you to the place to input the names.

<https://forms.office.com/e/UFVb57JQ3m?origin=lprLink>



All the names in our Remembrance book will then be remembered throughout our Masses celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

Until next week,  
God bless  
Anne-Marie