Diocèse de
Hearst-Moosonee

INTER PAR

November
1st,
2026

2 Feast Days filled with love
(1) All Saints
(2) All Souls

Remembering our loved ones who have fallen asleep is continuing to love them



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with the assistance of CoPilot

There are people who leave our lives without ever truly leaving our hearts. A voice we sometimes think we can still hear, a familiar smile, an empty place at the table, a favourite expression, a song, or even a familiar scent can suddenly bring a memory rushing back. The years pass, but some bonds remain.

Remembering our loves ones who have fallen asleep in the peace of Christ is profoundly human. It reminds us that our story did not begin with us. We are the heirs of those who came before us: our parents and grandparents, our ancestors and members of our communities. Some gave us a great deal. Others passed quietly through our lives. Yet each, in some way, left a mark.

Memory is first of all an expression of gratitude. When we remember someone who has died, we affirm that his or her life mattered. We remember what that person gave us: a value, a tradition, a word of wisdom, a faith, a skill, a way of welcoming others, or simply a presence that made our lives richer.

For Christians, however, remembering goes beyond nostalgia.

When we pray for those who have died, we express our faith in a love stronger than death. We believe that death, painful as it is, does not have the final word. Our relationship with those who have gone before us is transformed, but it is not simply destroyed. Where our hands can no longer reach them, our prayers can still entrust them to the mercy of God, while we can entrust them with our own prayers. They can intercede for us

This is why the Church gives such an important place to remembering the dead. A Mass offered for their intention, a visit to the cemetery, a candle lit in their memory, a few moments of silence before a photograph, or a simple prayer whispered in the quiet of the heart can all say the same thing: "I have not forgotten you. Your life remains precious to me. I entrust you to God."

Remembering also means making room for the whole truth of a person's life. Those who have died were not perfect, any more than we are. Some relationships brought great happiness; others left wounds or words that were never resolved. Christian remembrance does not require us to idealize the past. Rather, it invites us to place into God's hands what was beautiful and what was fragile, what was accomplished and what remained unfinished.

In our Northern communities, where families and their stories are often deeply rooted in the same places, our cemeteries can become almost like open books. Behind every name engraved on a stone lies a story, a family, joys and sorrows, struggles and achievements, and a contribution to the life of the community.

Taking time to remember is therefore also an act of passing something on. When we tell younger generations about their grandparents and ancestors, when we share their stories and preserve their photographs, we create a bridge between generations.

Perhaps this is ultimately what remembering our dead means: refusing to allow absence to erase love. We remember because we have loved. We pray because we hope. And we entrust our dead to God because we believe that, in God's love, no one is ever forgotten.

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