In November, we remember

The month of November is a special time for remembering & praying for those who have died, especially people we have known & loved.



1st November is All Saints' Day *(in last week's children's corner, we said that a saint was someone who let God's love shine through in a beautiful way, a bit like the way a stained glass window lets the light shine through)*. On All Saints' Day, we remember all the saints, both ones we know the names of like St Peter, St Nicholas, St Patrick but also those whose goodness is only really known to God. Maybe one of the saints is a relation of yours? Or maybe you could become a saint yourself!

(picture: Elizabeth Wang)

2nd November is All Souls' Day when we remember and pray for <u>everyone</u> who has died, especially people we love. As Christians although we are very sad when someone dies because we cannot see them for now, we believe that one day we will be together again in heaven.

6th November is the Feast of All the Saints of Ireland, the most famous of whom is of course St Patrick but I'm sure you know others. Here are some:



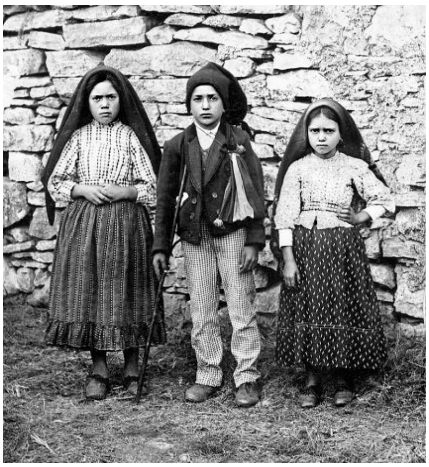
St Brigid – probably the most famous Irish female saint. We will learn more about her in February when we celebrate her feast day. (image from:The Irish Post)

St Kevin – if you have ever been to the beautiful Glendalough in Wicklow, you will have seen where St Kevin spent most of his life.

St Laurence (Lorcan) O'Toole – the special saint for Dublin.

St Brendan, often called the Navigator because he loved to travel and was very skilled in his coracle (small boat). He travelled around Ireland setting up monasteries but also sailed to Scotland, to Britain and on one very long adventure of 7 years, he travelled to Iceland, Greenland and maybe even to America in his very small boat. If he did get to America it means he would have been the first European to arrive there!

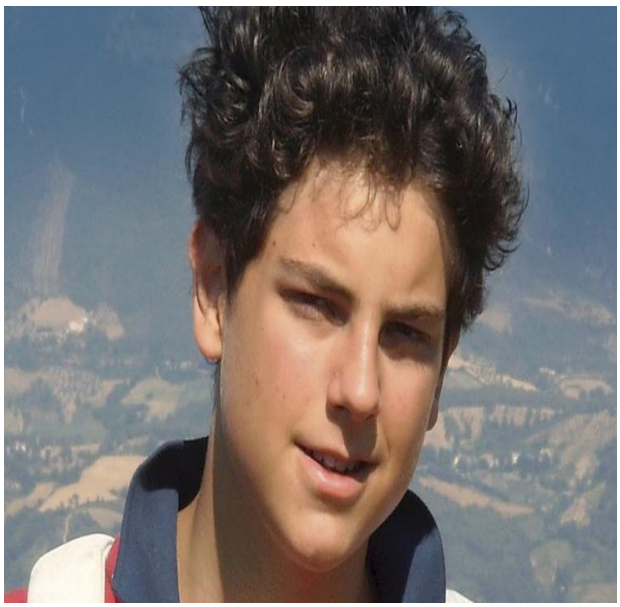
Can children be saints? YES !



The youngest people ever to be made saints by the church are 2 children aged 9 & 10, a sister and brother, called Jacinta and Francisco Marto who lived in Fatima in Portugal and often worked as shepherds. Our Lady appeared to them and their cousin Lucia many times and encouraged them to pray the rosary. Because of them and their faith, Fatima is now a very famous place where many people come to pray to Mary. Here is a photo of them. They lived at the time of the First World War.



An even younger child, whom many Irish people believe will be made a saint of the church is a little girl from Cork by the name of Ellen Organ (now known as Little Nellie of Holy God). She was only 4 and a half when she died but loved God so much that the Pope at the time gave special permission for her to make her First Communion when she was only 4. She had a bad fall as a baby which left her disabled and she was often sick and in a lot of pain but she never complained and was always happy because of her great friendship with Jesus. A lot of adults were amazed by how much she loved Jesus and by how she showed that love.



What about the Italian teenage saint, Carlo Acutis who loved computers, Pokemon, soccer and his PlayStation? He was made a saint just last year!

Carlo was born in 1991 and even when only a little boy of 3, used to ask his mum and dad to bring him into churches they passed, to pray, even though his parents did not really believe in God. He taught himself code and used his talents to create websites & make videos and animations to spread the news about God's love for us and about Jesus being really present in Holy Communion. He was a friendly boy with lots of friends including homeless people to whom he gave food & money. He died in 2006 aged only 15.