



St Francis of Assisi Parish



REFLECTION

REMEMBER THE DEAD

What is man that you care for him?.... Asked the Psalm writer. What is this new mystery surrounding humans. We are all both lowly and exalted, both small and great, both mortal and immortal, both earthly and heavenly. In Baptism we are buried with Christ and have risen with Christ, to become co-heirs with him as sons and daughters of God. So we are to be formed and moulded by Jesus that we are recognised as belonging to his one family. In a spirit of hope and out of love for him we bear and endure all things and give thanks for everything that happens to us. Meanwhile we commend our own souls and the souls of those who have reached the place of rest before us, though they walked the same road as we do. The Lord God is our creator, is also our guardian and benefactor of our souls. He fashions and transforms all things in their due season. So we ask our Lord and God to raise up all souls of the dead though we are dust and our lives are as fleeting as the flower or the grass of the field.

The noble Judas, in Maccabees 12:32-46, took up a collection from all his soldiers to be sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In this he acted in a very excellent way as he had the resurrection of the dead in mind. A splendid reward awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness. So he made an atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin. And so, we too offer Masses for the souls, engage in charitable activities for them and visit their memorial spots to honour them and above all resolve to get ourselves ready for a similar situation as they themselves.

May the month of November remind ourselves of our own journey to eternity and spend more time with the Lord in prayer and penance. May the Lord have mercy on us all and all the departed souls.

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