

## **All Souls**

*2 November*

Loving Father,  
We pray for all those we love  
Who are no longer with us, who are now  
In your merciful embrace. We pray for their eternal rest,  
As the Church has done for hundreds of years.  
We pray for those who are left behind,  
Who feel the pain of loss, the sharp pangs  
Of memory of time spent together.  
We pray that we will be attentive  
To those who mourn, who may need some help from us,  
A loving word, a kind gesture.  
Jesus in his earthly life knew the pain  
Of losing a dear one: his father,  
his friend and mentor, John the Baptist,  
his friend Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead  
but one day would die again.

Death is the part of life we struggle with.  
In our society, it's not talked about much,  
It's almost denied, since for many people  
There is only this life, so the end of life  
Is a disaster, a great loss, but that is not the faith  
Of the Church: Jesus died and rose again, he conquered death.  
Our friends and loved ones who have died  
Have not disappeared; they live in the radiance of God,  
Forgiven, loved, looked after.  
This is our comfort, they are in better hands than ours.

*Raymond Friel*