



Diocese of Northampton

**YEAR of PRAYER
and VOCATION
2017/2018**

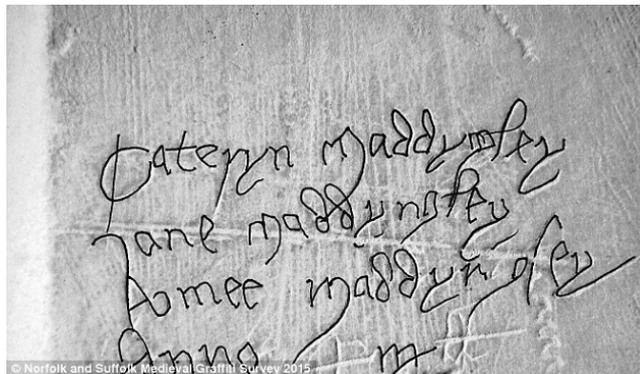


Prayer for November: Eternal Rest

**Eternal rest, grant unto them,
O Lord and let perpetual light
shine upon them. May they rest
in peace.
Amen.**

“Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin comes from the Law. Thank God, then, for giving us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. *1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

The church of All Saints and St Andrew is in the little village of Kingston, near Cambridge. Its ancient walls are painted with pictures of Jesus, Mary, the saints and judgment - all testifying to a Catholic past. One detail, barely visible to the eye, came to light recently. Three names - Cateryn, Jane and Amee Maddyngley - were found carefully scratched onto an inside wall. Inscribed in 1515, they were uncovered 500 years later in 2015. Archaeologists think that these were the names of children of poor tenant farmers. In 1515, an outbreak of plague in London spread across south east England. Children were very vulnerable and child fatalities often hastily buried in unmarked graves. These three young girls might well have been victims of the outbreak. Someone, perhaps on behalf of their parents, had lovingly scratched these names onto the church wall as a memorial



before God and to move others to pray for their souls so that their names be written in heaven.

God is love (1 Jn 4:8). Our entire life's project is to learn to love. When we follow Christ's commandments of love, love 'comes to perfection' (1 Jn 2:5) in us. For some, this project is completed in this life. For those who die in God's friendship

but who are still 'a work in progress' there is a state of purification to ready them for the vision of God. The Church calls this *Purgatory*. Catholics pray for those 'who have died and gone before us marked with the sign of faith'. We are all in communion, all one in the

Holy Spirit. And so we pray this month for all who have died. God's mercy allows our prayers to help our dear departed ones to be made completely holy for heaven. We also thank them for nurturing us in faith and helping us to live our baptismal vocation.

School Feast Days

Please pray for St Martin de Porres School, Luton whose feast day occurs in this month.

A Practical Suggestion

In November, we especially remember those who have died in faith. One day in particular is set aside. What is this day? Think of someone you love who has died and say the 'Eternal Rest' prayer for them.