A Letter from Canon Brian McConnell



Autumn leaves surround us at present. As we gaze at the colours in each leaf, we marvel at the wonder of creation and the Glory of God. A sombre time yes, but the colours somehow draw us into this Remembrance Season that accompanies us in our Christian Pilgrimage. Autumn helps us look forward to the Advent Season, the beginning of the Church's year when we remind ourselves of the coming of Jesus at Christmas. However, the month of November has so many riches attached to it. All Saints Day (1st Nov) is followed on the 2nd November by All Souls Day when we give thanks for the faithful departed - two days that are very important to me in our Christian Faith. Join me at All Saints in giving thanks for all who have shared and taught us the Faith. Be that parents, teachers, parish priests or friends. I rejoice with those who have shared the love of Jesus with me, who shared with me his kindness and generosity, gentleness, comforting presence and enthusiasm for life. Not forgetting His Death and Resurrection which give me forgiveness and hope for the future. He has truly accompanied me on my life's journey. Then on All Souls Day I give thanks for those whom I love but see no longer. The holy people, saints who now rest in peace. The great days of November, including Remembrance Sunday, give us the opportunity to be still and give thanks for all who have made our lives possible in this turbulent world. St John's provides the services which enable us to attend God's House and give thanks for all who have gone before us. A sombre yet important occasion. Autumn is full of opportunities for the Christian! Dwell on his love as we anticipate the Advent season when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Remember He is our hope for lasting peace. If only the world would listen. God Bless. Believe in the wonders of the Christian Faith.