

## DEVOTIONS AND CUSTOMS - NOVEMBER MASSES

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November is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls. Praying for those who have died is an ancient custom in the Church. It is also a long-established custom that all parish Masses during November are offered for those who have died.

November Mass envelopes are available on the table at the back and in the side porch of the Church for those who wish to have their deceased relatives and friends included in the November Masses.

The envelopes may be placed in the basket that remains at the front of the altar during November. The offerings that are made for November Masses are combined to determine the number of Masses to be offered.

Because there are more Masses than can be celebrated at St Mary's, November Mass offerings are also sent to priests working in the Missions who will offer Masses for the deceased members of our parish community.

In recent years many of the November Mass offerings given by parishioners have been sent to the Bishop of Iquitos, Peru. Fr John Andersen, a Sydney priest, has been working in Iquitos for more than 25 years. Our offerings are distributed to the local priests working in poorer parish communities. In return for our assistance those priests pray for our deceased family and friends in their Masses.

*Paul Crowley*

Published in St Mary's Parish Concord Bulletin