

send these prayer requests to us at amcgovern@mercybythesea.org.
Mercy by the Sea staff will gather in prayer to start furlough and we will include your concerns and losses in that prayer. When the doors reopen in the New Year, we will again gather and pray with and for you.

Closing Prayer:

On the day when the weight deadens
on your shoulders and you stumble,
may the clay dance to balance you.



And when your eyes freeze behind
the grey window and the ghost of loss
gets into you, may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green and azure blue,
come to awaken in you a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so, may a slow wind work these words
of love around you, an invisible cloak
to mind your life

From *Beannacht* by John O'Donohue

November 1, 2020



We gather across miles for our Celtic Prayer Circle on Samhain, this time of All Saints, and All Souls. Samhain marked the end of the Celtic year and the beginning of the new one. Meaning "Summer's End," Samhain is a celebration of the end of the harvest and the start of the coldest half of the year – the dark half of the year, a quiet fallow time.

This season reminds us to turn inward – calling us to renewal, which is often found within the deepest and darkest of places. It is there we must go if we seek the light of rebirth. In the silence of darkness comes the whisperings of new beginnings.

Samhain is a festival of remembrance of ancestors and all who have gone before us. It is considered a liminal time, when the veil between this world and the otherworld is at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through.

We will remember and honor our beloved dead and be present to the ways the sacred wants to be revealed to us. Let us open our hearts to connect beyond the veil and to welcome in the many unseen presences who are here to support and guide us.

Create an Ancestral Altar:

Pictures of ancestors;
Heirlooms that belonged to ancestors like jewelry,
dishes or items of clothing;
A candle for each person being honored/remembered;

A glass of wine symbolizing an offering to them;
Flowers and gathered nature elements to honor the turning season;
Seasonal fruit to thank Mama Earth for her harvest this year;
Perhaps a letter of gratitude/something handmade to honor
your connection to your loved ones.

Samhain Fire - Candle Lighting

Blessed be you Holy Flame for taking the fire of love
into the heart of darkness.

Ancestors Chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BibL36xu1p0>

Strength of the Ancestors

From *Prayer Seeds* by Joyce Rupp

In the spirit of indigenous people who believe in their unity with the ancestors, and who often call these spirits forth into the gatherings, let us call forth into our midst the presence, the memory, and the strength of those who influenced and shaped our beliefs and values.

Spirit of our ancestors, this day we join in acknowledging the blessedness of the many who inspired us and shaped our faith.

We turn in memory and appreciation toward those ancestors in our family of origin who influenced and encouraged us to live as our best selves.

We remember, too, those ancestors who left this world with hurts unresolved. We open our deep self to you and pray that any woundedness we've inherited will be healed through your grace and our love-filled hearts.

We bring to mind others beyond family who enriched our lives and led us further on our journey of personal transformation. We honor all those who sacrificed and suffered in order for peace and justice to be furthered on our planet.

We give thanks and rejoice for the countless, unnamed persons whose lives left a lasting mark of kindness and compassion. May the remembrance of each of these blessed ones inspire and increase our personal commitment to leave a trace of goodness wherever we go.

When we depart this sphere of life, may our inner strength have contributed to individual and world peace. We pause to pray for our country at this time.

Song - *Breaths* by Sweet Honey in the Rock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwLgxyVjwk4>

Reflection: Will you make space to enter the holy darkness? The pandemic has been a time of many losses, what do you need to grieve? How will you honor this time when the veil is thin, is there an ancestor you will remember during this month? Is there someone you might call upon for wisdom and guidance?

Connecting our Prayer: We would like to invite you to be present in a very concrete way over the next few weeks while *Mercy by the Sea* will be in its own "fallow time" of furlough.

Please consider submitting a prayer request, perhaps a loss that you have experienced during the pandemic or an ongoing concern that you have held in the recesses of your heart during the past seven months. You may