

Perhaps you would like to dress up as one of the Saints or Holy Angels!



CARDIFF ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE  
& FAMILY LIFE TEAM PRESENTS:

# NIGHT OF LIGHT



## A Celebration for All Hallows Eve

Annually on October 31<sup>st</sup>

- Activities and ideas for celebrating  
the glory of God in His Angels &  
Holy Saints

A Christian Hallowe'en  
Family Fun Event

- Something for all ages!



Play games that  
reflect on the lives  
of saints

Why not prepare  
some of your favourite  
party foods as this is a  
celebration!

Or order your favourite  
takeaway

When you think of Hallowe'en, probably, like most people, the images that spring to mind are those of witches and ghosts and so on, which belong to the dark world of the occult and magic - images of darkness and death.



The Night of Light is all about celebrating Halloween as All Hallows' Eve, the vigil (beginning) of the feast of All Saints - the feast in which we celebrate the glory of God in His saints; The victory of light over darkness in the lives of God's holy ones in heaven.

In this way, we are reclaiming Hallowe'en for God, so that it is transformed from a night of darkness into a great Christian festival once again. Hopefully then, in years to come, when people are asked what immediately springs to mind when they think of Halloween, they will think of Jesus Christ and the glory of God in His saints.

**If your children want to go to or have a Halloween party why not throw your own "Night of Light" party, either at home or in your parish, where children (and adults?) come dressed up as one of the Saints.**

**The following ideas and suggestions are intended to help you in holding your own event.**

Our faith is made up of men and women who lived remarkable lives and some died heroic, if not gruesome deaths. This would be a great opportunity to learn about some of them and get creative in making an outfit that represented the way they lived and died e.g:

- ✝ St Thomas More could carry his head under his arm,
- ✝ St Lawrence could carry a toasting fork.
- ✝ St Margaret Clitheroe could have a door made out of card
- ✝ St Francis could carry some animal soft toys
- ✝ St Veronica could carry a shawl (tea towel) with the face of Jesus on it...

Children could also do a bit of research and find out about the Saint they are representing and give a short account. With a little bit of research and a lot of ingenuity, Halloween can be transformed into a truly fun Christian celebration.

- This could be developed into a "trick or treat" style game. Guess correctly you receive a sweet; guess wrongly you pay a forfeit!



# Jesus: 'The Light of the World!'



In the story of the transfiguration gospel, we hear how Jesus' "face shone like the sun, and his clothes become as white as the light" Matthew 17: 1-13. Jesus' body is filled with his light. In baptism we become part of Jesus' literal body, and so we too are filled with his light.

You can use the transfiguration and Night of Light pumpkin to teach the concept of Jesus as being the 'Light of the World'. Start by looking at the different forms of light (sun, torch, candle etc), and how light interacts with the world e.g. essential for seeing, a guide in the dark, promotes growth etc. When the children are then introduced to the concept of Jesus as 'Light of the World', they can begin to see that this points to how Jesus is like light, and how His light is essential to guide us in the world. However, the children have a choice to follow his light.

The angels and saints follow His light: the angels in heaven and the saints during their lives here on earth. The saints lived by that light, and became a beacon in their own generation.

**However, we have a choice to follow his light.**

We too are called by Jesus to live out this vocation - to be the 'Light of the world' today.

Think of as many forms of light as you can and use them or drawings & pictures of them as decorations for your Night of Light event; e.g. garlands of stars, pumpkin or paper lanterns, disco lights, candles.

## Suggested Activities

### 1. Collage Candles

**You will need:** old colour magazines (or any scraps of coloured paper), glue sticks (or pots of glue and spreaders), newspaper, card, a candle and matches.

**Instructions:** First of all, an adult lights a candle and asks the children to describe the colours of the flame.

Draw the outline of a candle with flame shape on a piece of card. Ask the children to produce a 2D collage of the candle and flame by ripping up the necessary colours from old magazines etc. and gluing them into position on some card (you could use card from old cereal boxes). Lastly, cut around the candle shape and display.

**IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE GREAT CARE WITH CANDLES.**

Do Not light a candle without an adult present.

Do Not put matches near your face or play with them.

**ALWAYS LIGHT CANDLES** at a safe distance, away from a draft and Not in a confined space.

## 2. Pumpkin Lanterns

Candles/ pumpkins/ lanterns can be placed in windows to show that this is a Christian household who are celebrating the light of Jesus in the lives of His Saints and are also remembering their own loved ones who have passed away; these in turn can be focal points for prayers for loved ones, praying for them in order to assist them on reaching their heavenly home.

The difference being that our pumpkins are carved with smiley happy faces or Christian symbols not scary things.

**You will need:** pumpkins, adult helpers, knives (health & safety point - to be used with adult help), spoons, nightlights, matches, newspapers.

**Instructions:** Spread out the newspaper, place the pumpkin on top and cut the top off. Hollow out the pumpkin (this could be done in small groups with an adult helper each if a large group of children). Cut a smile, two eyes and a cross on the 'forehead' to create a happy face. Put the night-light inside, and light the candle. The candle signifies the light of Christ.



The activities and games suggested here are to get you started; you may find other saint themed activities to use also. It would be great to hear about your events, so please get in touch at [flc@rcadc.org](mailto:flc@rcadc.org)

## 3. Iced Biscuits

**You will need:** plain biscuits, coloured icing (bought tubes of/ made with icing sugar, water and food colouring to a sticky pouring consistency), or other sweet decorations.

**Instructions:** Decorate biscuits with happy faces, stars, or candles. Enjoy!!!

## 4. Firework Pictures

**You will need:** Coloured chalks or colouring pencils, black or dark blue wax crayon, white card, and a lollipop or cocktail stick.

**Instructions:** Colour all over the card with different coloured chalks or pencils. Older children could arrange the colours in stripes, circles etc, but making sure that the whole card is covered.

Now colour over the top with black/dark blue wax crayon, making sure that you cover all the first layer of bright colours.

Carefully use the lollipop or cocktail stick to scrape away some of the black crayon in a swirly motion to reveal the colours below, to represent fireworks in a night sky (link to light not Guy Fawkes!!).

**Alternatively,** you can simply use bright coloured pencils, wax crayons, or chalks to colour firework pictures onto black paper/card.

## 5. Star mobile

**You will need:** wire coat hangers, gold/silver or yellow ribbon/wool/thread, yellow card, star templates, scissors, pencils, hole punch.

**Instructions:** Draw around star template on yellow card 6 times (template could be made out of old cereal box). Cut out stars. Use the hole punch to put a hole at the top of each star. Write on the stars something that Jesus brings us e.g. love, light, joy, peace on both sides. Cut 6 lengths of ribbon or thread and tie the end of each to a star. Tie the remaining end to the bottom of the coat hanger spaced out to equally distribute the weight. Hang up!

## 6. Candles

There are 2 ways of making candles interesting to children that we have found.

### a) Night lights

**You will need:** a night light each, a lump of clay each, a tool for marking the clay e.g. pencil or blunt cocktail stick, paints, brushes.

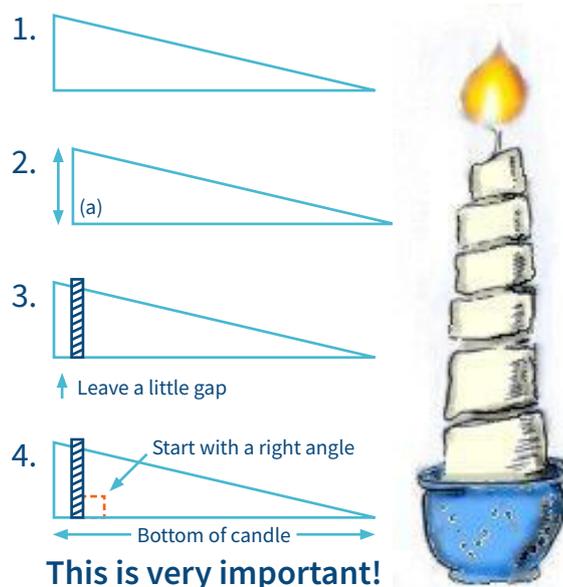
**Instructions:** Stick your thumb into the clay and squeeze the outside to make a thumb pot. Fit the night light into the space inside the pot so it fits snugly. Use the tool to mark decorations into the outside (don't forget to put your name on the base). When dry, paint the pot bright colours.

### b) Rolled Wax Candles

**You will need:** wax sheets cut into triangular strips (you can purchase sheets of wax at some art suppliers, or online), length of suitable string to make wicks, matches, candle holders.

**Instructions (to be followed by children):**

1. Take a long triangle shape of wax.  
(Make sure it is warm).
2. Cut a wick/string the length of (a) with a little bit to spare at the end.
3. Press it onto the end like this:
4. Gently roll the wax around the wick, all the time lining up the bottom line.
5. When you have rolled up your candle, you may need to push the bottom gently, so that it stands straight.
6. Place in a candle holder!



'The church has always been in the business of taking symbols from other traditions and giving them a Christian meaning - including those trees which mysteriously turn up inside people's houses in December! Many years ago, St Boniface cut down a druid's oak and replaced it with an evergreen!'

Fr Gareth Leyshon

# Games

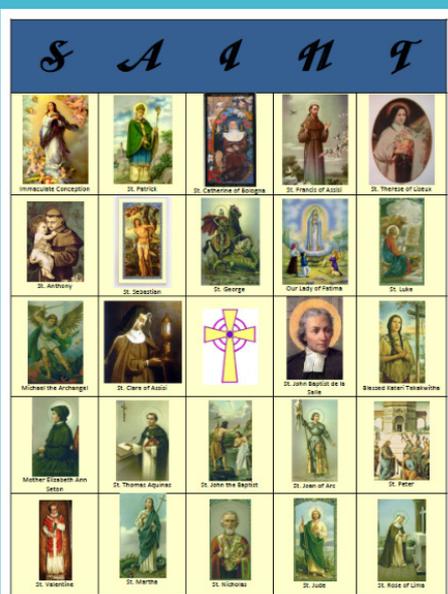
## 1) Apple Bobbing

- Put some apples in a bowl of water (enough for one each)
- place the bowl on the floor or table (one where it doesn't matter if it gets wet)
- take it in turn to get an apple out of the water using only your mouth! NO HANDS allowed!



## 2) Donuts on a rope

- String some ring donuts onto a string or rope (enough for one each)
- Tie the rope between two high points, e.g. door post and curtain rail, so that the donuts hang at about head height for little people... bigger people can kneel.
- Take it in turns to eat your donut off the rope without using your hands as demonstrated here by Fr Gareth.



## 3) Play Saints Bingo

Visit our website, [www.rcadc.org/mfl/](http://www.rcadc.org/mfl/), to download this resource – you will need a colour printer Or a printed copy can be requested by emailing [flc@rcadc.org](mailto:flc@rcadc.org)

This is a fun way to learn more about the saints as well as seeing who knows the most.

#### 4) Saints Quiz

Write a quiz to test your family's knowledge of the saints against each other or download the quiz available from our website

[www.rcadc.org/mfl/](http://www.rcadc.org/mfl/)

#### 5) Blind Bartimaeus

Two people sit opposite each other blindfolded, with a bowl of broken biscuits between them. The object of the game is to try and feed each other with a spoon. Simple fun but it causes great hilarity for the people watching.



#### 6) “A tray full of Saints”

On a tray place a dozen or more objects that symbolize familiar Saints. For example:

Key - St. Peter;

Flower - St. Therese;

Rose - St. Rose of Lima;

Dog - St. Dominic;

Bird - St. Francis;

Cross - St. Helena;

Eagle - St. John the Evangelist;

Shell - St. James;

Kitchen utensils - St. Martha;

Half paper coat - St. Martin of Tours;

Picture of Sacred Heart - St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Etc.

Go slowly from one person to another giving them time to memorize what is on the tray. Then pass out pen and paper and have them list what they remember, and what Saint they think they symbolize.

### *Prayerful Celebration;*

You may want to include:

- ✝ the celebration of Holy Mass
  - this could be in person or via livestreaming
- ✝ Adoration of the Holy Eucharist
  - this could be in person or via livestreaming
- ✝ Prayers to the Holy Saints
  - Prayers are available to download online including [here](#)
- ✝ Prayers for our deceased loved ones
  - These prayers would be made more special if everyone writes these either collectively or individually beforehand

## **Acknowledgement**

The NIGHT ⊕ LIGHT is an initiative of the Cor et Lumen Christi Community

**[www.nightoflight.org](http://www.nightoflight.org)**