

Indulgences for the Poor Souls

November is dedicated to the Holy Souls. From November 1 to November 8, inclusive, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to Poor Souls in Purgatory, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed, provided the usual conditions are met.

On November 2, All Souls Day, a plenary indulgence for Poor Souls will be granted to those who visit any parish church or public oratory and there recite one Our Father and one Credo.

Only one plenary indulgence may be granted each day.

The usual conditions to acquire a plenary indulgence are:

1. detachment from sin; which is a true sorrow for, and repudiation of, all one's sin, mortal and venial;
2. reception of Holy Communion on the day the indulgence is sought;
3. prayer for the intention of the Holy Father on the day the indulgence is sought (one Our Father and one Hail Mary suffice, or any other suitable prayer);
4. sacramental confession within a week of completion of the prescribed work.

If these conditions are not met, the indulgence will be partial.

Several plenary indulgences may be granted on the basis of a single sacramental confession, but only one plenary indulgence may be gained on the basis of a single Holy Communion and prayer for the pope's intentions.

Partial indulgences are granted to those who recite Lauds or Vespers of the Office of the Dead, and to those who recite the Eternal Rest Prayer provided below. A partial indulgence may be granted more than once a day.

Eternal Rest Prayer

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domini, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Requiescant in pace.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them soon.

May they rest in peace.