

Vatican extends time to obtain full Indulgences for souls in purgatory

Plenary or full indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November for the souls of the faithful in purgatory can now be gained throughout the month of November, according to a Vatican release.

Also, those who are ill or homebound and would not be able to physically visit a church or cemetery in the prescribed timeframe still will be able to receive a plenary indulgence when meeting certain conditions. Traditionally, the faithful could receive a full indulgence each day from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8 when they visited a cemetery to pray for the departed and fulfilled other conditions, and, in particular, when they went to church or an oratory to pray Nov. 2, All Souls Day.

Those who cannot leave their homes or residence for “serious reasons,” such as COVID restrictions, also can receive a plenary indulgence after reciting specific prayers for the deceased or reflecting on a Gospel reading designated for Masses of the dead before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary or by performing a work of mercy.

In all cases, one also must fulfill the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences, which demonstrate a resolve to turn away from sin and convert to God. Those conditions include: having a spirit detached from sin; going to confession as soon as possible; receiving the Eucharist as soon as possible; praying for the pope’s intentions; and being united spiritually with all the faithful.

The Church teaches that prayer, particularly in Mass, and sacrifices may be offered on behalf of the souls in purgatory. The feast of All Souls differs from the Nov. 1 feast of All Saints precisely because it offers prayers for the eternal peace and heavenly rest of all those who died in a state of grace, but not totally purified.

St. Clare will offer Anointing at all Masses this weekend; and confessions will be available anytime for those who wish to take advantage of the sacrament.

St. Clare will celebrate an All Souls Mass at Waveland Cemetery on Monday, Nov. 2, beginning at 4 p.m. Afterwards, the Church will be open for prayer and reflection until midnight on Nov. 2.