

NIGHT ⊕ LIGHT

What is the Night of Light?

The Night of Light is an international initiative to reclaim Hallowe'en for the Church. It is running in many, many countries in the world from England to India, from Africa to New Zealand and Hungary to the United States, with uncountable numbers of people involved. Celebrations have taken place in small chapels and cathedrals in parish churches and monasteries in Schools, homes and on the streets. The inspiration for it was received by Damian Stayne the founder of the Catholic community, Cor et Lumen Christi. The Night of Light has the endorsement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Why the Night of Light?

What immediately comes to mind when you think of Hallowe'en? Probably, like most people, it is the images of witches and ghosts and so on, which belong to the dark world of the occult and magic - images of darkness and death.

In fact Halloween ('All Hallows Eve'), the evening of the 31st October, is 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. Jesus is the 'Light of the World'. The saints lived by that light, and became a beacon in their own generation. We too are called by Jesus to live out this vocation - to be the 'Light of the world' today.

Let Christians reclaim Halloween for God so that it is transformed from a night of darkness into a great Christian festival once again. In this way, 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.

They will think of a Night of Light.

So what are the key elements of the Night of Light?

- **A Vigil Mass for the Feast of All Saints** (including a collection in the Mass for a charity serving the poor such as CAFOD as abortion and poverty are such a darkness in our world today).
- **All night Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament** - to join the saints in heaven in the worship of Jesus Christ the True Light.
- **Treats and fun for the children** in celebration of All Saints and the Light of Christ. Perhaps the lighting of a candle at supper and sweets and fun events in families or schools, e.g. a bonfire or dressing up as saints.
- **Placing a light in your window** (safely!), and a picture of the Risen Christ as a sign to passers-by that yours is a Christian household and Christ is your light.
- In addition, some may like to **wear a white item of clothing** as a symbol of their allegiance to Christ our light.

Many will participate in all elements of the Night of Light but any involvement is greatly encouraged.