

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Let us gather as a community to celebrate the blessings that surround us



The Spirits: A Reflection on Halloween

By Father Kane

There is a fair bit of ambivalence over Halloween in the Christian church. Some Christians see it as a harmless bit of costume and candy fun. Others believe it trivializes — or worse, celebrates — a satanic holiday. You might be interested to know that some of the more fundamentalist modern pagans (Wiccans) also refuse to observe Halloween because it trivializes their beliefs.

But All Hallows' Eve, which later also became Reformation Day, is a moment to celebrate and point to the Light that shines in the darkness of the world ([John 1:4](#)).

Weekly Services

Special Service: From Gratitude to Grace

With Father Kane

November 2nd, 830am

-Sunday Mass

8-9am

-Morning Masses

Mon-Thur: 7am

Fridays: 10am

Ministries for Children

Our childrens liturgy group

meets once a week on

Saturday's from 10-11am.

Newcomers always welcome!

Confessions

Parishioners are reminded of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before All Soul's Day. Special intentions have been requested this week for the repose of the soul of Michael Byrne.

The origin of Halloween is a bit murky. But it likely has its oldest roots in the ancient pagan Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced “sah-win” or “sow-in”), when the Celts of Ireland, Britain, and northern France celebrated the end of harvest and the beginning of their new year on November 1. They believed that on the last night of the year (October 31), the spirits of the dead would haunt the living, so they would leave food and wine on their doorsteps to appease and ward off spirits. If they had to leave the house, they would wear masks to fool the ghouls. In the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV moved the “All Saints Day” feast from May 13 to November 1. If his purpose was to subsume the Celts’ Samhain festival, he certainly succeeded. In the Middle Ages, vigils were commonly held the night before high church feast days, so it was natural that one be held on the eve of All Saints Day. It came to be known as All Hallows’ Eve (hallows is Old English for saints), or as the Scots pronounced it, Hallowe’en.

Young people dressing up in costumes for fun on Halloween emerged in sixteenth-century Britain. It was called “guising.” These fun-lovers would go house-to-house singing, reciting poems, or telling jokes in exchange for “treats.” The tradition of “trick or treating” as we know it began essentially as a revival of guising among Irish and Scottish immigrants in late nineteenth-century North America and was fully embraced by American pop culture by the end of the 1940s.

Satanic or Sacred?

If there remains a connection between our trick-or-treating traditions and the old pagan Samhain superstitions, it is very weak. But what is not weak is the human fear of death. That is as strong as ever.

People have always been terrified of death, and for good reason, since it is the wages of our unholy sin paid out by a holy God ([Romans 3:23](#)). And though due to our own sinful foolishness ([Romans 1:21](#)) and satanic blinding ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)) we fail to perceive and honor God, we fallen humans still have a hardwired awareness and fear of the numinous. We know instinctually that there are spiritual realities, and we are deathly afraid of the dark, evil ones.

This actually makes Halloween a wonderful missional moment for Christians to seize. All of the historical roots of Halloween, pagan and religious, are reminders that sinners need the salvation from condemnation and the eternal life that Christ offers. He is the light that shines in this darkness in which we live, and the darkness has not overcome him ([John 1:4-5](#))! slavery” ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#))?

Talk To Us

Parish Office: 8364569

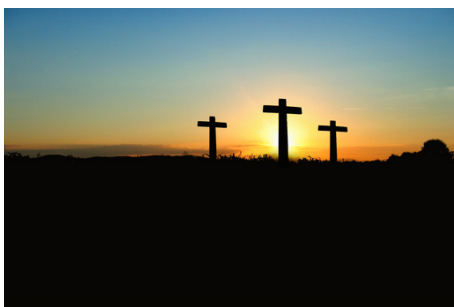
Fr. Kane: 8556743 (only for urgent matters, otherwise contact the office)

St. Brides Church

Fitzcarron Road

Kilbride

Community Announcements



Donations

As always, donations for the poor box are encouraged. Please ensure outstanding pledges are settled before year's end.



Message from The Ladies Guild

“It has been said that one should be mindful of time spent in company that might be misunderstood. We ask all to guard against scandal and keep appearances honourable in the parish.”