

## Large congregation at cemetery service in Dumbarton - Sunday, 08 November 2009



A large congregation gathered in brilliant autumn sunshine at Dumbarton Cemetery on Sunday for the annual service of prayer for their deceased family and friends who are buried there.

The parish priests from Dumbarton's three Catholic churches, Canon George Bradburn, of St Michael's in the West End, Father Thomas O'Rourke, of St Peter's in

Bellsmyre and Canon Gerry Conroy, of St Patrick's in the Town Centre, led the service.

Canon Conroy said the gathering had become an annual event on the second Sunday of November, taking place a few hours after the traditional Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph in Levensgrove Park to remember all the local people who had lost their lives in war and conflict.

He said: "We are gathered here to pray for our all brothers and sisters whose bodies lie here in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of their faults. We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of Heaven."

People from throughout the area made up the congregation of nearly 200 people who sang hymns, listened to readings and responded to psalms while standing amid the gravestones under a stunning canopy of trees ablaze with leaves which were a profusion of bright autumnal colours.

Canon Gerry Conroy said: "The parishes of Dumbarton make a point of having a prayer service in the cemetery every year to try and help keep this tradition alive.

"This year we were blessed with a beautiful day and the service was exceptionally well attended.

"Dumbarton is extremely fortunate to have such a well cared for cemetery where people can go and visit the graves of their loved ones and spend time in prayer and remembering the times they spent together."

He added: "As the clocks change and we settle into the darkness of winter more and more, it is good to remember the hope that we have in Christ so that our faith can bring some warmth to the coldness that death can bring to our heart."