**All Hallows Celebration - Entering the dark days of winter**

**The theme is about entering the dark days of winter but also facing up to our fear of what may lurk in the dark**

**Fear of the monsters and the dead is part of the all Hallows eve traditions and our fairy stories and horror tales.**

**we cannot dismiss these fears but need to look at them and acknowledge them but we need to remember that fear can become itself the enemy that holds us back**

**We need to not be afraid. Remember Jesus told the disciples “perfect love drove out fear”**

**We are called to love others even those whom we fear**

**But we must also trust in the love of God as we go into the darkness.**

**When facing a challenge or danger the Celtic Church used a prayer called a CAIM or encircling prayer**

**OVER/**

**You can Draw an invisible circle around yourself with your right index finger by extending your arm towards the ground and turning clockwise with the sun. As you do this, become aware that you are safe and encompassed by the love of God: that you are encircled, enfolded and protected.**

**St Patrick’s breastplate is such a prayer attribute to 6th Century saint. Idea not only of God surrounding us but God even inhabiting the stranger transforming them from threat to friend.**

**God’s love not only protects us but it embraces the darkness to befriend and transform it.**