

REMEMBER TOGETHER WHEREVER YOU ARE

Prelude **Gabriel's Oboe (Ennio Morricone)**

Welcome

Song **Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled (Marty Haugen)**

All sing: Do not let your hearts be troubled, have faith in God and faith in me.
I will go forth to prepare a place for you
then I'll come back to take you with me,
that where I am, you may also be.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God Our Father, make us ever more aware of your presence, open our hearts to you, enabling us to be brave in our remembering, honest in our sorrow, and open in love and compassion to one another. Help us to put our trust in You and not overburden our minds seeking answers to all our questions but rather, the patience to mourn for those we've lost placing our trust your promise of eternal life. Enable us to remember with joy the lives of those we have loved and lost. Send us the peace of your Holy Spirit.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

Remembering Those Who Died of Covid 19

There are many burdens weighing upon us: the mourning of so many lives ended by this pandemic, especially those blessed with mature years; the frustration of not being able to honour our dead as a community as we would have wished. In these situations, when we are full of deep emotions, we can find them expressed time and again for us in the psalms. These beautiful prayers from the Old Testament were very familiar to Jesus. On the cross when he prayed: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" and "Into your hands I commend my spirit", Christ was quoting lines from the psalms.

From Psalm 18(17)

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,

when I call I am saved from my foes*.

The waves of death rose about me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
the snares of the grave entangled me;
the traps of death confronted me.

In my anguish I called to the Lord;
I cried to God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came to his ears.

You, O Lord, are my lamp,
my God who lightens my darkness.
With you I can break through any barrier,
with my God I can scale any wall.

Song

Shelter Me (Michael Joncas)

All sing:

O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you would shelter me.

Remembering those who died as a result of illness or old age

Reading **John 20: 17**

Jesus said to Mary, "Do not hold on to me,
because I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and say to them,
'I am ascending to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'"

Song

There is a Time (Liam Lawton)

Litany of Remembrance

In the rising of the sun and it's going down

Response: We remember them

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

Poem**Do not stand at my grave**

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

Instrumental- Ave Maria (Bach)**Reflection****Grief (John O'Donohue)**

Though the silent weeping of your heart lessens, you get on, more or less, with your life; a place is kept within you for the one who is gone. No other will ever be given the key to that door. As the years go on you may not remember the departed every day with your conscious mind. Yet below your surface mind, some part of you is always in their presence.

From their side, our friends in the unseen world are always secretly embracing us in their new and bright belongings. Though we may forget them, they can never forget us; their secret embrace unknowingly shelters and minds us.

The bright moment in grief is when the sore absence gradually changes into a well of presence. You become aware of the subtle companionship of the departed one. You know that when you are in trouble, you can turn to this presence beside you and draw on it for encouragement and blessing.

The departed is now no longer restricted to any one place and can be with you any place you are. It is good to know the blessings of this presence.

Song**Soon and Very Soon (Andrae Crouch)****Remembering with hope all who died**

In the Preface of the Funeral Mass, we pray that for those who have died life has changed not ended. This prayer sustains us and offers hope at a dark time. The Easter Candle that shines over the coffin reminds us of Baptism with which we begin the Christian journey and the promise and hope of Resurrection. Let us be reassured that the God of compassion will in time wipe away our tears and sadness.

Song: Remember Me (Ernesto de la Cruz)

Remember me
Though I have to say goodbye
Remember me
Don't let it make you cry
For ever if I'm far away
I hold you in my heart
I sing a secret song to you
Each night we are apart

Remember me
Though I have to travel far
Remember me
Each time you hear a sad guitar
Know that I'm with you
The only way that I can be
Until you're in my arms again
Remember me

Reading Revelation 21:4 (NRSV)

God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

Song God Shall Wipe Away All Tears (Karl Jenkins)

Blessing
May you see God's light on the path ahead
When the road you walk is dark
May you always hear,
Even in the hour of sorrow.

The gentle singing lark.
When times are hard may hardness
Never turn your heart to stone
May you always remember
When the shadows fall-
You do not walk alone

**Song: May the road rise to meet you (Lori True)
(Verses Ecclesiastes)**