

## November – Liturgy of Remembrance

Preparations: At the entrance, each person receives a small candle. The paschal candle is placed in front of altar, with a taper so it can be lit.

### **Leader: Words of Welcome**

From the words of Isaiah this evening....“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” Welcome everyone..... once again we gather to pray in November to remember all our loved ones who have died, we gather here to pray this evening that they are no experiencing the fullness of life promised by Jesus.

### **Opening Hymn:**

Leader :

In the name of the Father ....The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead  
be with you all.

R: And also with you.

Leader:

My friends in Christ, we come together to remember and to pray for our loved ones who have gone before us. As we gather we bring to mind the well-known phrase: ‘Those who die in grace, go no further from us than God. And God is very near.’....we take a moment to enter into that thought and reflect on the closeness of God to ourselves and our Loved ones.....

### **Reflection On the death of the beloved John O Donohue**

Though we need to weep your loss,  
you dwell in that safe place in our hearts,  
Where no storm or might or pain can reach you.  
Your love was like the dawn, brightening over our lives  
Awakening beneath the dark. A further adventure of colour.  
The sound of your voice found for us a new music that brightened everything.  
Whatever you enfolded in your gaze quickened in the joy of its being;  
You placed smiles like flowers on the altar of the heart.  
Your mind always sparkled with wonder at things.  
Though your days here were brief, your spirit was live, awake, complete.  
We look towards each other no longer, from the old distance of our names;  
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath, as close to us as we are to ourselves.  
Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,  
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,  
Smiling back at us from within everything to which we bring our best refinement.  
Let us not look for you only in memory, where we would grow lonely without you.  
You would want us to find you in presence, Beside us when beauty brightens,  
When kindness glows and music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth, Darkest winter has turned to spring;  
May this dark grief flower with hope in every heart that loves you.  
May you continue to inspire us: to enter each day with a generous heart.  
To serve the call of courage and love until we see your beautiful face again  
In that land where there is no more separation,  
where all tears will be wiped from our mind,  
And where we will never lose you again.

### **Moment of Quiet**

#### **Leader:**

We believe that the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Our Christian faith tells us that Christ has conquered death, and that when we gather in his name; Christ is present with us. And so confident of his presence with us, we light our Paschal candle. (one parishioner lights Pascal candle using taper, and remains there for next part of service.)

#### **Leader:**

Christ light of the world, be with us as we mourn, as we remember and as we pray for each other and for our loved ones. Tonight, we remember those who have died, especially those who have passed away this year. We invite you now to bring to mind those you wish to ask God to bless. Remember their face, their friendship and the difference they made in your life. In honour of their lives, we invite you to come forward now, to light a candle from the Paschal candle and to say their names aloud as you place that in front of the altar.

### **(Quiet music is played as people approach)**

*After candles lit*

#### **Leader:**

Almighty God, from whom all light comes, look with compassion on us who stand in darkness and the shadow of death. Grant our loved ones peace, and mercy. May your all powerful light guide them safely to that kingdom where death no longer casts a shadow. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us listen to the words of Jesus. We welcome the Gospel in song

### **Alleluia**

### **Gospel Reading**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said; 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but you will have the light of life. The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you

walk in darkness, you do not know where you are going. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. I have come not to judge the world, but to save the world.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

### **Intercessions**

1. We pray for all who mourn. May those who mourn know the healing presence of Christ in the midst of their heartache this day. May we, as the Christian community, support all those who grieve. Let us pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer
2. We pray for those who have died May all those who have died know the mercy and love of God who created them. In Baptism we are given the pledge of eternal life. May all the baptised now be welcomed into the company of the saints and enjoy eternal peace. Let us pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer
3. We pray for the whole Church. May all the baptised know their value in our faith community and know the light of Christ in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer

### **As one family we pray together 'Our Father ...'**

#### **Reader: Closing Reflection:**

You can shed tears that they have gone,  
or you can smile because they have lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back,  
or you can open your eyes and see all they have left .  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,  
or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,  
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.  
You can remember her only that they have gone,  
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind,  
be empty and turn your back.  
Or you can do what they'd want:  
smile, open your eyes, love and go on

#### **Concluding prayer**

May Jesus, from whom rivers of life flow, fill our hearts and our lives with joy in the days ahead and we may go in peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit, Amen

#### **Closing Hymn**