

*Remembrance of our
Beloved Departed*



We proclaim that the fire of those
who have gone before us
has never left this earth.

We are heartened by the truth
that their sacred fire has become
an eternal light that leads us on,
a fire continually blessing us, encouraging us,
affirming us to live our life to the fullest
for our own benefit as well
as for the good of all life.

(John Schwiebert)

“Letting go means different things to different people, but one thing it does not mean is skipping over pain and sorrow. The losses we experience, alongside our love and joy, give us a rich, many-layered life that we could not have otherwise.

Centrepiece



Gathering-Music/Hymn

Reflection: Remembering

*Everyone loves to be remembered.
But if we want to be remembered
We have a duty also to remember.*



*Memory is a powerful thing.
Rightly used it is a form of immortality.
It keeps the past alive.
Those we remember never die.
They continue to walk and talk with us.
Their influence is still felt among us.*

*There is nothing stronger or more helpful
Than a good remembrance.*

*Sisters and loved ones, we want you to know
That we haven't forgotten you.
We remember you.
And your memory most definitely
Brings life to us today.
May it also assure us of life for you,
That eternal life Christ came on earth to give us.*

Pause

Psalm 90:

Eternal and Immortal One, you have been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, before you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are the Alpha and the Omega.

When our days on Earth are ended, you welcome us home to your Heart,
To the City of Light, where time is eternal and days are not numbered.

You gather those who love you as friends returning from a long journey, giving rest to their souls. You anoint them with the balm of understanding, healing wounds of the past.

For our days on Earth are a mystery, a searching for you,
A yearning for the great Mystery to make itself known.
The years pass and soon the Harvest is at hand,
A time to reap the fruit of one's life.
Who has lived with integrity?
Who will reflect the Light?
Who can bear the radiant beams of Love?

Who have revered the Counsellor and opened their hearts to the Spirit of Truth? Teach us, O Beloved, to honour each day that we may have a heart of wisdom.

Awaken us, O Holy One! Too long we have been asleep! Have mercy on your people! Help us to wait in silence, listening for your gentle voice; Strengthen us with courage to face the fears within.
O, that we might be converted in our hearts and walk together in peace and harmony.

Let your love be known to the nations,
Your glory to your children's children.
Let the grace and gentleness of the Holy Spirit be upon us,
Guiding our feet upon paths of Love Consciousness.

Increase the light within us
O Beloved, hear our prayer.

(Psalms for Praying – An invitation to wholeness. Nan C. Merrill)

Reading: The steadfast love of our God never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness. God is good to those who wait.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the promises of our God. *(Lamentations 3:24)*

Pause for reflection and sharing

Litany of Remembrance *(short pause after each remembrance prayer)*

Let us remember all those who revealed God's tender love and mercy to us in their own unique ways through the years...

Those who lived their lives with extraordinary zeal...

Those whose vision challenged our thinking and who have spoken prophetically, even when we found it hard to hear them...

Those who have rendered hidden service quietly...

Those whose hearts have burned with a sense of justice...

Those who have built on the traditions of the past as a way to a new future...

Those whose beauty has shone in cooking, art, music, decoration, poetry, dance...

Those who enlarged our capacity to explore and understand God's ways...

Those whose prayerful discernment has encouraged us, to live our life to the fullest for our own benefit and for the good of all life...

**The names of the Sisters who died during the year are read
and remembered**

**Loved ones who died during the year are named
and remembered**

Help us O God, to see your face in the dark times.

Response: You are the resurrection and the life.

Help us O God, to hear your voice in the silent times.

Response: You are the resurrection and the life.

Help us O God, to feel your heart in the dark times.

Response: You are the resurrection and the life.

When life is empty and we have to walk alone

Response: Be close to us O God until the morning comes.

When part of us dies in the long goodbye,

Response: Be close to us O God until the morning comes.

*(“In the secret of my heart” Moments of stillness in the heart of Christ,
by Anna Burke RSM)*

Prayers of the gathered community.....



The Gifts of Death

Without the death of stars, there would be no planets and no life.
Without the death of creatures, there would be no evolution.
Without the death of elders, there would be no room for children.
Without the death of foetal cells, we would all be spheres.
Without the death of neurons, wisdom and creativity would not blossom.
Without the death of cells in woody plants, there would be no trees.
Without the death of forests by Ice Age advance,
there would be no northern lakes.
Without the death of mountains, there would be no sand or soil.
Without the death of plants and animals, there would be no food.
Without the death of old ways of thinking,
there would be no room for the new.
Without death, there would be no ancestors.
Without death, time would not be precious.

ALL: What, then, are the gifts of death?

The gifts of death are Mars and Mercury, Saturn and Earth.
The gifts of death are the atoms of stardust within our bodies.
The gifts of death are the splendours of shape and form and colour.
The gifts of death are diversity, the immense journey of life.
The gifts of death are woodlands and soils, ponds and lakes.
The gifts of death are food: the sustenance of life.
The gifts of death are seeing, hearing, feeling - deeply feeling.
The gifts of death are wisdom, creativity and the flow of cultural change.
The gifts of death are the urgency to act,
the desire to fully be and become.
The gifts of death are joy and sorrow, laughter and tears.

ALL: The gifts of death are lives that are fully and exuberantly lived and then graciously and gratefully given up, for now and forevermore. Amen *(Connie Barlow)*

Reflection time

Optional sharing

Closing Prayer

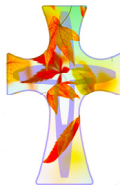
Eternal God, today we gather to our hearts those who have died and have influenced our lives with love and goodness. Their lives continue to affect who we are and what we do. Like the sacred fire that has become an eternal light leading us on, a fire continually blessing us, encouraging us, affirming us to live our life to the fullest for our own benefit as well as for the good of all life - so has the goodness of these people resonated in our lives. Thank you, God of the ages, for all the people we remember and for the bond we have with them. Support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, loving God in your mercy, give us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.



Every Breath is a Resurrection

It's not magic; it isn't a trick.
Every breath is a resurrection.
And when we hear the poem
which is the world, when our eyes
gaze at the beloved's body,
we're reborn in all the sacred parts
of our own bodies: the heart
contracts, the brain
releases its shower of sparks and the
tear embarks on its pilgrimage
down the cheek to meet
the smiling mouth.

Gregory Orr



*Mercy Congregational Leadership Team
Rachamim, 13/14 Moyle Park, Convent Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Ireland.*