

# Sharing Memories

*A time to remember*



*St John's Church, Longford*

*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023*

## Welcome and Fellowship

*Grief is our emotional response to loss. Many emotions, including anger, guilt, sadness, depression, loneliness, hopelessness, and numbness may be present after the death of a loved one. While grief is a universal experience and all of us will experience grief many times over the course of our lives, every grief experience is also unique. We do not grieve in the same way, and our emotions can surprise, arrive on their own, or like a wave wash over us all at the same time.*

*It is important that we give ourselves permission to feel the emotions we are feeling, which may change from day to day or even from one moment to the next.*

*This service allows us to acknowledge our loss, to express our love for the one who has died and to gather in support of one another.*

## Some Verses of Scripture

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. - *Psalm 121:1-2*

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. -  
*Matthew 5:4*

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. - *Matthew 11:28*

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” -  
*Psalm 91:1-2*

## A time of Musical Reflection

### Readings of Scripture

*Psalm 46*

*1st Thessalonians 4:13-18*

## Some Prayers

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy Word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength in our lives. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty Father, be present, we beseech thee, with those who are in sorrow, in suffering, in sickness, or in distress; and be thou their abiding stay and living support; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved, the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience, not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of thy great goodness in past years, and in the sure expectation of a joyful reunion in the heavenly places; and this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, you know our anxieties and fears. Help me cast all my cares on you, and to know that you love me. Give me peace of mind, and sure trust in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, be near me in my time of weariness and pain and sustain me by your grace. Strengthen me according to your will, and hold me in eternal life, my Lord and my God.

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## *Closing Prayer*

Christ calls us out of the darkness **into his marvellous light.**

His light shines in the darkness. **We rejoice in his glory.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting **his name is proclaimed in all the world.**

May the light of Christ comfort and sustain us **and lead us to new pastures of healing and peace.**

Blessed be God, the light of the world. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

## *The Blessing*

May the Lord fill you with light, comfort, peace and joy. May the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

