



Irish Spiritans



DES PLACES
EDUCATIONAL
ASSOCIATION

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

This can be used as a memorial service for someone who has died within or close to the school community. It can be used within the context of a Eucharistic Celebration.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Friends, we gather here in the protective shelter of God's healing love. We are free to express our grief, release our anger, face our emptiness and know that God cares. We gather to comfort one another in our shared loss. We commend N. to God's care and keeping as we try to have hope in Christ's resurrection.





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PENITENTIAL RITE

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

You bring healing and comfort to the broken-hearted. Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

You give hope and confidence to all who despair. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate and loving God, you love us with an everlasting love and can turn the shadow of death into the light and hope of a new day. We gather to commend N. into your gracious hands. We turn to you with broken but believing hearts. We trust in your great promises to us through Jesus, who died that we might live, and who rose from the dead that we might never die, but live always in the joy and peace of your kingdom forever and ever. Amen.





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FIRST READING

Lamentations 3:17—24

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL

John 14:1—7





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PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT

Source of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously with all who mourn so that casting their cares on you they may know the consolation of your love.

1. We pray for N. who has died. Bring him/her to that place where there is eternal life and peace in God's presence. Lord hear us.
2. Bless all who mourn for N. and are heart-broken by his passing. Use their memories as instruments of God's healing grace. Lord hear us.
3. Watch over all the members of this school community, which has been greatly saddened by the death of N. Give us the hope that comes from our Christian faith. Lord hear us.
4. Grant us the grace to help and comfort those who find themselves desolate and lead us with them in the paths of hope. Lord hear us.
5. Give us the grace to care for one another to forgive, anything that needs forgiving, to share all that needs sharing and to live in the peace of God. Lord hear us.





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CELEBRANT

Lord Jesus, help us remember that there is a world beyond our sight, but not beyond our love. It is a world where lost things are found and broken things are mended, a world where all we have willed of good exists forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECTION

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 sunlight on the ripened grain
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning 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 here, I do not die.
or





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I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found my place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I savoured much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch





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Perhaps my time seems all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me.
God wanted me now, he set me free.

Linda Jo Jackson

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered, make us deeply sensitive to the shortness and uncertainty of human life. Lighten the darkness that comes from the death of N. Touch all our hearts with your love that the springs of compassion may flow and give us hope in new life through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Adapted from 'More liturgies for Post-Primary schools', Brendan Quinlivan

