

*“He heals the
broken hearted
&
binds up
their wounds.”*

Psalm 147:3



Mass of Remembrance 2016

*“Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only
putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.”*

Post Communion Prayer

Priest: Let us pray,
God of mercy, Look kindly on all those we remember here this evening. Give them the fullness of your peace and joy. We give thanks for the gift of their lives, whether long or short, now caught up in your eternal love. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus who is our risen Lord now and forever.

All: Amen.

Final Blessing

Priest: May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.

All: Amen.

Priest: May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark. When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.

All: Amen

Priest: May you always remember when the shadows fall that you do not walk alone.

All: Amen

Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Opening Hymn

Words of Welcome

Ritual of Remembrance

Lighting of Remembrance Candle for all the Deceased

We now light a candle to remember our loved ones: from this candle we hold in our hearts all those who have died.

We hold in our hearts all those who grieve the loss of loved ones, friends, colleagues.

We hold in our hearts all those whose lives have been torn by grief.

We invoke the spirit of compassion.

In mystery we are born, in mystery we live and in mystery we die. If we remember and are remembered, life endures, meaning reigns and hope deserves.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest: Lord, you are our light and our help. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy

Priest: You are the stronghold of our lives, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Priest: You hear our voices, when we call, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Opening Prayer

We come together this evening to remember:

To remember with love and affection those who have died whom we hold close to our hearts. To remember with gratitude those who made a difference in our lives and with whom we shared so

much.

To remember with sadness those who died tragically and suddenly for whatever reason and in our remembrance we give thanks to God for memory itself through which we can cherish special moments and celebrate times past. We also recall the sorrow of parting, of words left unsaid and of wounds not healed. We entrust all of these memories to the heart of love, Jesus Christ, our saviour and our friend. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

(3:1- 9)

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
No torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die.

Their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like the end of everything; but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as people see it, their hope was rich with immortality.

Slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be.

God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him.

He has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.

They shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth.

Those who are faithful will live with him in love.

Post Communion Reflection

Reflection Death

The great and sad mistake of some, even good people, is to believe that those who die have left us.

They do not leave us.

They remain with us.

Where are they?

Are they in the shade?

Oh, no!

It is we who are in the shade.

They are close beside us, though veiled from our mortal sight, more present than ever.

We do not see them because a cloud obscures them from our sight, but they see us.

Their eyes reflecting God's glory and brightness, are fixed on our tear-filled eyes.

What a wonderful consolation!

Our dead are invisible, but they are not absent.

I have often wondered how best to comfort those who mourn.

Here is the answer:

It is our faith in this real and uninterrupted presence of our loved ones who have died.

It is the clear, penetrating conviction that in death our loved ones are not distant or even absent, but alive and close beside us.

They are happy and transfigured and, in this glorious transformation, they have lost nothing of their tenderness of heart or their concern for us.

On the contrary, their love for us has grown a hundredfold.

Pierre Bienvenu Noalles

Offertory Hymn

*As we bring the gifts of bread and wine, we present also the gifts of memory,
of love and affection, of nurture and support, we have received from those gone
before us.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Priest: Look favourably on our offerings, O Lord, so that your departed servants may be taken up into glory with your Son, in whose great mystery of love we are all united.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen

For grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm (Sung)

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

(8:31- 35. 37 – 39)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us-he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Please stand to greet the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much

That he gave his only Son

Everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Alleluia

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

(6:37 – 40)

Jesus said to the crowd:

'All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me.

Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Jesus said, Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me. We can take great hope from knowing that God's greatest desire is that we will all come to experience the wonder of His eternal Kingdom. Let us now pray that our deceased loved ones are now experiencing that wonder and love.

1.For all who have died, particularly those who were dear to us in life. We pray they are now experiencing true belonging, love and joy in their eternal home. **Lord hear us.**

2.For all our loved ones who died during the past year. We thank God for all we shared with them in life, for the joys, sorrows and lasting memories that have enriched our lives. We pray they are

now at peace in their eternal home.

Lord hear us.

3. We pray for the bereaved; we remember those whose grief is still very raw and painful; those struggling to accept the death of their loved one and all who struggle to meet each day with positivity and hope. May the Lord lay His healing hand upon them and fill them with peace and joy. **Lord hear us.**

4. For all who are preparing to die; we remember in particular those who are suffering and who are finding it difficult to endure. We pray that they will be surrounded with care and attention and that they will feel the reassuring presence of the Lord with them. **Lord hear us.**

5. For those souls who are forgotten, unloved and uncared for. We pray especially for those who have no one to pray for them . May our prayer rise up to the Lord for them now and may they hasten their journey into the eternal Kingdom. **Lord hear us.**

Celebrant:

*God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy
You turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.
Show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence.
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life. May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord*

All: Amen