

Burial Liturgy



Matthew John Pearson

18th February 1978 – 2nd August 2020

Mick, Tricia and Clare would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support at this sad time and for attending the service today.



Donations in memory of Matthew if so desired will be given to Cenacolo, a residential rehabilitation community.

c/o The Funeral Director, Greg Hodgkinson
Castle View, Bridge Street, Garstang PR3 1YB
Tel: 01995 601600

Graveside Service at
SS Mary & Michael's Church, Garstang
on Friday 11th September 2020 at 10.30a.m.

FUNERAL CONDUCTED BY FATHER GEOFFREY STEEL

Please remember Matthew
in your Prayers



May He Rest in Peace

Poem
chosen by Clare

I STOOD BY YOUR BED

I stood by your bed last night; I came to have a peep.
I could see that you were crying you found it hard to sleep.
I spoke to you softly as you brushed away a tear,
“It’s me, I haven’t left you, I’m well, I’m fine, I’m here.”

I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour the tea,
You were thinking of the many things and memories of me.
I was with you at the shops today; your arms were getting sore.
I longed to take your parcels, I wish I could do more.

I was with you at my grave today; you tend it with such care.
I want to re-assure you, that I’m not lying there.
I walked with you towards the house, as you fumbled for your key.
I gently put my hand on you; I smiled and said, “it’s me.”

You looked so very tired, and sank into a chair.
I tried so hard to let you know, that I was standing there.
It’s possible for me, to be so near you everyday.
To say to you with certainty, “I never went away”

You sat there very quietly, then smiled, I think you knew...
in the stillness of that evening, I was very close to you.
The day is over... I smile and watch you yawning and say
“Good-night, God bless, I’ll see you in the morning.

And when the time is right for you to cross the brief divide,
I’ll rush across to greet you and we’ll stand, side by side.
I have so many things to show you, there is so much for you to see.
Be patient, live your journey out...then come home to me.

Concluding Prayer

Fr Geoffrey leads the concluding prayer of the liturgy.

Lord God,
whose days are without end
and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.

Let your spirit guide our days on earth
in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you in union with the whole Church,
secure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.

And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live for ever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer over the People

Fr Geoffrey, with hand outstretched over the people, says:

Merciful Lord,
you know the anguish of the sorrowful,
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.
Hear your people who cry out to you in their need,
and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Matthew, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.

Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

Introductory Rites

After the sign of the cross, Fr Geoffrey greets all who have gathered.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Fr Geoffrey sprinkles the coffin with water, saying:

In the waters of baptism
Matthew died with Christ and rose with him to new life.
May he now share with Christ eternal glory.

After words of introduction, Fr Geoffrey invites all to pray in silence.

Almighty God and Father, it is our certain faith
that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery
your servant Matthew, who has gone to his rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading : Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

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 God will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those whom 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.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Fr Geoffrey may speak briefly on the scripture, and on Christian death as a sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Place of Committal

Fr Geoffrey blesses the grave.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that your servant Matthew may sleep here in peace until you awaken him to glory, for you are the resurrection and the life.

Then he will see you face to face and in your light will see light and know the splendour of God, for you live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

Committal

During the committal the coffin is lowered.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend Matthew to Almighty God, and we commit his body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him,
and be gracious to him,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him
and grant him peace.

Intercessions

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayers of intercession.

In reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies.

Lord, we entrust Matthew into your loving care.

We thank you for the gift of his life and his love for us all.

Welcome him now into your heavenly home, where he will know peace and happiness for ever.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God is full of mercy and compassion.

May he forgive Matthew any sins committed through human frailty.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For all those struggling with addiction and substance abuse; that God may be their strength and support.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For all who have reached out and supported us in times of need; that God will bless them abundantly, and help us to reach out to others with generous hearts.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For the medical and nursing staff of Royal Preston Hospital, whose care for Matthew was outstanding.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fr Geoffrey introduces the Lord's Prayer, which all recite together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, ...