

Joan Anne Baines

Words in remembrance

Geoff

Sometimes in life you do not realise what you have got until it is cruelly taken away from you. This is how I feel at this moment in time, because I cannot really understand what has happened in the last four months.

Joan was a wonderful, thoughtful wife and an unbelievable Mum to my two precious daughters, who have shown their true colours nursing their Mum in this difficult time.

I have three adorable grandchildren, and have to realise Joan will not experience their development. But I will make sure, along with my daughters, that they grow up proud of Gran and with the same views of life she showed.

Your husband forever, Geoff.

Louise

If I were to write a narrative about Mum's life it would sound somewhat ordinary.

She was, however, an extraordinary person. Mum would not be someone you would call sentimental, but she showed her love and kindness through her thoughts and actions. She would always put others before herself. She was open and honest, with her straight thinking and talking. She would be the first person I would go to for advice and counsel. She was somewhat introverted but at the same time loved to talk! She was the kind of person who made others at ease.

Right up until her end Mum was courageous and showed a remarkable inner strength. It is easy to think about the extreme harshness of Mum's illness and the profound loss we are left with. However I know she would want us to think about the future. You truly do not know what is around the corner. I want to try to live in the moment and appreciate the smaller things. As Mum would have said 'savour the moment'.

I will ensure her memory lives on, especially for her grandchildren. It is heart-breaking that they have only known her for such a short time; but as a Mum myself, if I follow in her footsteps, they will certainly be enveloped in the strongest love and protection I know.

Love you forever Mum, Louise.

Clare

I have been very blessed to have a Mum who has been so kind, caring and selfless. She would have this amazing ability to view a situation or problem from a variety of angles and come up with a balanced and impartial solution. She had strong morals and values, which she instilled in Louise and me, and I hope these will continue to be evident in her grandchildren.

Mum had a passion for reading and researching. She always would surprise me with the pockets of information, knowledge and facts she would have about any topic. She loved a book, and time would have to stand still if she were on her last chapter.

When Mum found out about her illness, she told me that if this has taught her anything it is to live each day to the full and try not to worry about the small things. Mum you will dearly missed but will live on in our hearts.

Love you, Clare.

Cremation Liturgy

Introductory Rites

Fr Geoffrey Steel, parish priest of St Mary & St James, Scorton, leads the sign of the cross, and then 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
Joan died with Christ and rose with him to new life.
May she now share with Christ eternal glory.

After words of introduction, Fr Geoffrey says:

We believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death.

Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, in the silence of our hearts, let us pray for Joan, asking God to gather her to himself.

Pause for silent prayer.

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 Joan, who has gone to her rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Scripture Reading : 1 John 3:1-2

ALL SIT

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

We shall see God as God really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

My dear people,
we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future
has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like God
because we shall see God as God really is.

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 of Commendation and the Committal

ALL RISE

Fr Geoffrey says:

We have gathered here to commend Joan to God our Father and to commit her body to be cremated.

In the spirit of faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, in the silence of our hearts for Joan, let us pray.

Pause for silence.

During the committal the coffin may be removed from view.

Into your hands, Father of mercies,
we commend Joan
in the sure and certain hope
that, together with all who have died in Christ,
she will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings
which you bestowed upon Joan in this life:
they are signs to us of your goodness
and of our communion with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord,
turn towards us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servant
and help us who remain
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you and with Joan for ever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Pause for silence.

Intercessions

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayers, composed by Louise and Clare.

Dear friends, in reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies.

For Joan:

we thank God for the happy life she had;
may God reward her with peace for the good she did,
and reunite her with family and friends
who have died before her.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For Joan's family and friends:

may God fill their hearts with treasured memories
and their minds with hope, as they look to the future.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all who helped to support Joan,
and all who dedicate their lives to the care of others:
may they continue to use their knowledge and skills
to bring comfort and ease to all who are suffering.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all mothers and grandmothers:

with thanksgiving, we pray that Joan's example of motherhood
will continue through those who have witnessed it.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray also for ourselves, on our own pilgrimage through life:
may the Lord keep us faithful in his service.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our true home is in heaven; let us pray to the heavenly Father as Jesus taught his disciples.

**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 this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

Bow your heads for God's blessing.

All pray silently.

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 her, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

May the peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Go, in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.