

Prayer Service upon the Death of a Member of the School Community

Our hearts are heavy at the loss of our dear colleague/ classmate (name). We gather together during this difficult time to pray for (name) and his/her family and support one another. We come into the Lord's presence to remember and give thanks for (name)'s life. As Christians we do not believe this is the end. Jesus overcame death and rose from the death, assuring us of eternal life with God. Let us turn now to the presence of God within us and among us for comfort.

Scripture:

A Reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Music: *Only in God* by John Michael Talbot

(Available from School Ethos RE Resource Centre)

Prayers of the Faithful

We pray today, in hope and with belief, that (name), who has died, is at peace.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Lord, we are grieving now for someone we loved and cherished. Renew our confidence that you are always with us no matter what difficulties face us now or in the future.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

We pray for (name)'s family and friends. Lord, comfort them during this time of great loss and surround them with your presence and love.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

As we grieve we know that at this very time others are grieving great losses too. Teach us Lord, to be sensitive to the sufferings and grief of others. Help us to take strength from our school community, our friends and families.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

We give thanks Lord for (name)'s life. For the people he/she loved; the lives he/she touched and all of his/her special gifts, especially..(add your own comments).

Lord Hear Our Prayer

It is difficult to understand why our family and friends must die. Death is part of life and must come to us all. As Christians, however, we believe that we are children of God, loved and cared for by God and after death, return to God. (Name) was a child of God and is now returning to God.

Reflection

Letting Go

Lord God help me to let go.

Life is an endless process of letting go;

In our birth we had to let go of the security of our mother's womb and emerge into a strange world;

In adolescence we let go of the innocence of childhood;

All of us have to let go of home, parents must let go of their children and children must let go of their parents;

Throughout life as we grow and mature we must continually let go of opinions, jobs, good health and ultimately of the idea that we are in control.

And, of course, in death we must let go of those we love.

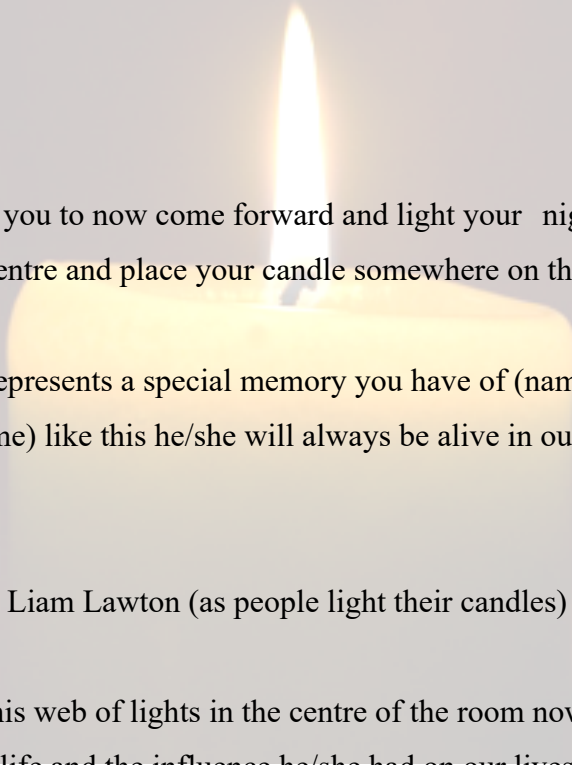
Between womb and tomb life is an endless process of letting go.

Come, Holy Spirit, help me to let go so that even when the letting go is tearful and sad it will awaken me to the mystery and wonder of life.

Life is the greatest gift we have received and we must in the end let go of this gift.

We must let go of the past to let God be the God of the future.

Moment of Silence



Leader: I invite each of you to now come forward and light your night light from the candles in the centre and place your candle somewhere on the cloth.

The light of this candle represents a special memory you have of (name). When we remember (name) like this he/she will always be alive in our hearts and minds.

Music: *The Cloud's Veil*, Liam Lawton (as people light their candles)

Leader: As we look at this web of lights in the centre of the room now we give thanks for (name)'s life and the influence he/she had on our lives.

Closing Prayer

May the choir of angels welcome you, (name), and lead you to eternal rest.

Amen