

A home reflection for when you cannot attend a funeral

There are times when we may find ourselves unable to attend the funeral of a friend, colleague or even a family member. Should this be the case you might like to use the following on the day of the funeral, especially at the time of the funeral to help you feel at one with others who are grieving.

Before you find a quiet place to sit you might like to gather some of the following, a photograph of the person if you have one, write down a memory, a candle to place on a table in front of you or pick a flower to place it on a table in front of you.

In the following where there is an N please replace with the name of the person who has died.

Jesus said,

“I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes will not perish but have eternal life. And this is eternal life that you know God”

There is nothing in death or life,
in the world as it is, or the world as it shall be,
nothing in all creation that can separate us
from the love of God. *Romans 8*

If you wish light a candle now

Prayer

Almighty God, in mystery you created all things;
We bear your image and you love us with an
unconditional and everlasting love.

Grant us the assurance of your loving presence with
us now.

Bear us gently in your gracious hands, and bring us in
our sorrow the comfort for which our hearts cry out;

You have promised that out of darkness light shall
shine, light which is the knowledge of your glory
witnessed in the life and ministry of Jesus.

We thank you that this light dawns upon us daily,
Encouraging our thankfulness and love for the earth
and one another.

Comfort us now with the assurance



of the life which is beyond this life,
and a reunion of those who have loved long since
and who now reside fully within your presence;
In Jesus name Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.



Think about N and your favourite memory of him/her. What will you always remember and what did their life teach you about life or God? Think about those attending the funeral.

N has moved on now and rests once more in the reality that is God, troubled no more by the challenges and frustrations of this world, and waiting, with renewed life, to greet us in our turn.

We can be sure of this because of our faith in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who experienced human life whilst sharing the stories and promise of a life more wonderful, promised to all God's children, and we are God's children. We do not, cannot know what lies ahead, or what form that new life may take, but we know God has prepared it and we can trust God.

Prayer

Loving God,
in whom sinners find mercy and saints find joy,
we thank you for **N**, and for the qualities that made him/her special to us.

We remember with grateful hearts
all that he/she gave and received during his/her
life, especially (add in your own thoughts).

To your loving care we bring those who mourn **N**,
especially (name the family and close friends)
and who have shared memories with him/her.

Through your presence with us,
whether in joy or sorrow,
bring us closer to one another and to you.
Help us to walk amid the things of this world
with our eyes wide open to your glory.
May we be sure in every sorrow
that you are still loving us,
sure in every darkness
that you are still guiding us,
sure in death
that you are giving us life for evermore.
Amen.

Say the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

The following will be said at the end of the service.

God of grace and peace,
in your son Jesus Christ,
you have given us new birth into a living hope.
Strengthen us now
to live in the power of the resurrection,
and keep us united with our loved ones,
and with all your people in heaven and on earth,
from whom in death we are not divided.
For you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

Extinguish the candle if you have one.

**Like cherry blossom in season
new opportunities arrive
and hope lives on.**

