

NN R.I.P. (Common)

First all on behalf of the parish of St Vincent's I'd like to convey condolences to NN family and indeed all who have come here today to pay their last respects and pray for him/her.

Jesus says: 'blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted'. He himself wept at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus. I think two of the most moving words in Scripture are "Jesus wept". And the Jews then said "see how much he loved him'.

Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve".

That's why we're not mourning in a defeatist sense because as Christians we believe that death is not the end of our existence but the beginning of a new and fuller life with God. The Resurrection of Jesus is proof of that. The Lord promised His faithful followers a reserved place in the in the life to come. Before his passion he said: *"I'm going now to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me so that where I am you may be too"*. He has returned for NN as he will indeed for all of us. All he asks of us is that we be ready to meet Him.

I'm sure NN was ready for the Lord's loving embrace. St Paul tells us love has a ring of eternity about it. Love is our origin, love is our constant calling in life and love is our fulfilment in Heaven.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE PERSON

St Paul says: "Do mourn for your departed loved ones but not as people bereft of hope". We know that the sun rises in the East. The word 'Easter' is derived from it. Just like the rising Sun dispels the darkness of the night, so also the Son of God

rising from the dead dispels the darkness of sin and death and paves the way for us to enter into Life Eternal which is the reward of the just.

The Paradise which our First parents forfeited in the Garden of Eden is regained in Christ. On Calvary Jesus said to the man crucified with Him, 'this day you will be with me in paradise'. We pray NN will have already heard those same words and pray all of us will when the curtain falls on our lives.

May his / her soul and the souls of the Faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace?