

ANNIE O'CONNOR

3rd November 1978 – 12th June 2020



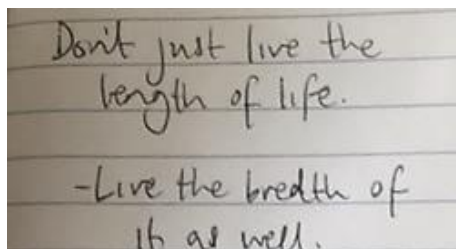
with her youngest nephew Ambrose



The Goldfinch (painted by Annie's friend Sarah) was regarded as a symbol of Resurrection by Renaissance artists

Annie had an amazing zest for life, always full of joy and laughter. She was a person of deep faith who always looked out for the stranger, offering a warm welcome and unconditional love. She was a compassionate and gentle listener. In her too short life she achieved more than many achieve in a long lifetime.

We, her family, have been comforted by the hundreds of cards and messages we have received from those who loved her, and the knowledge that her spirit lives on.



a quote written by Annie in her notebook

GREETING

The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead be with you - ***and with your spirit***

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

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

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Dear friends in Christ, in the name of Jesus and of his Church we gather to pray for Annie that God may bring her to everlasting peace and rest. We share the pain of loss, but the promise of eternal life gives us hope. Let us comfort one another as we turn to God in prayer

OPENING PRAYER

O God, glory of believers and life of the just, by the death and resurrection of your Son, we are redeemed: have mercy on your servant Annie, and make her worthy to share the joys of paradise, for she believed in the resurrection of the dead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name.

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

PSALM 84 PILGRIMAGE SONG

The response is: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul desires and longs to enter the courts of the Lord; my heart and my body rejoice in the living God. ***Response***

Happy are those who dwell in your house and can praise you all day long.

Response

Happy are those who find their strength in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. ***Response***

O Lord God of hosts, happy are those who put their trust in you.

Response

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate the people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me.'

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?'

The King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

The gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

A moment of silence follows

PRAYER OVER THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

All praise to you, Lord of all creation. Praise to you, holy and living God. We praise and bless you for your mercy, We praise and bless you for your kindness.

ALL : Blessed is the Lord our God

You sanctify the homes of the living and make holy the places of the dead. You alone open the gates of righteousness and lead us to the dwellings of the saints.

ALL : Blessed is the Lord our God

Almighty and ever living God, remember the mercy with which you graced your servant Annie in this life. Receive her, we pray, into the mansions of the saints. As we bless her resting place, look also with favour on those who mourn and comfort them in their loss. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE GRAVE

O God by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest bless this grave, and send your holy angel to watch over it. As we bury here the body of our sister deliver her soul from every bond of sin, that she may rejoice in you with your saints for ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

LITANY OF FAREWELL

Saints of God, come to her aid. Hasten to meet her angels of the Lord

Receive her soul and present her to God the most high

May Christ who called you take you to himself; may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham

Receive her soul and present her to God the most high

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her

Receive her soul and present her to God the most high

SIGN OF FAREWELL

Holy Water is offered to those present who wish to sprinkle the coffin

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION AND THE COMMITTAL

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ we commend to almighty God our sister Annie and we commit her body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace.

SHARING

POEM chosen and read by Annie's twin brother Joe

As kids, we lived together

We fought, we laughed, we cried.

*We did not always show the love,
that we both had inside.*

*We shared our dreams and plans,
and some secrets too.*

All the memories we share,

Is what bonds me now to you.

*We grew to find we have a love
that is very strong today.*

*It's a love shared by our family,
that will never fade away.*

*You are my sister not by choice,
but by the nature of our birth*

*I could not have chosen a better twin
you were the best on the earth.*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Listen, O God, to the prayers of your Church on behalf of the faithful departed, and grant to the soul of your servant Annie, whose funeral we have celebrated today, the inheritance promised to all your saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

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 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 love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ console you and gently wipe every tear from your eyes. **Amen**

SONG: I arise today

*I arise today through the strength of heaven
Light of sun, radiance of moon
Splendour of fire, speed of lightning
Swiftness of wind, depth of the sea
Stability of earth, firmness of rock*

*I arise today through God's strength to pilot me
God's eye to look before me
God's wisdom to guide me
God's way to lie before me
God's shield to protect me*

*From all who shall wish me ill
Afar and a-near
Alone and in a multitude
Against every cruel, merciless power
That may oppose my body and soul*

*Christ with me, Christ before me
Christ behind me, Christ in me
Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ on my right, Christ on my left
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down
Christ when I arise, Christ to shield me
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me*

I arise today

(Based on St Patrick's Breastplate)

*Many thanks to Fr. Paddy Walsh for leading us in today's service and his
love and friendship to Annie over all the years*



with children from the orphanage in Kenya

A BLESSING FOR THE ROAD

At a new road you looked ahead, smiling,
Your sandals strapped fast against adventure.
From here, your hair left blowing in a breeze
Unwanted unless you were walking into it.
Your smile, the same from picture to person
Now only imagined, but real and true
And somewhere new, where you bless those
Who share the joy of walking with you.

Matt (Annie's brother)