

Mary McGibney



Introduction

At St James we would like to express our sincere condolences to Mary's family and friends. Many of us remember Mary as an esteemed and loved member of our church and will miss her. We hope that these words are a comfort to all who mourn for her, whether they can take their leave in person, or are prevented from doing so in these difficult times.

The Service

Gathering/ Call

The Bible says: blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they are resting from their labours and their works will follow them. We have gathered here in this sad hour to take our leave of Mary Maria McMeechan Lawrie Davidson McGibney, to remember her life with sadness and with gratitude and to commend her to God's grace. We remember Mary with gratitude because we knew in her a person who was loved and esteemed by many, a person who was and still is precious to you, we remember her with sadness because a loved and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend is no longer with us, has gone to a place where we cannot follow, because we must entrust her to God's loving care, who promised through Jesus Christ that he will be with her and with us to the end of time.

Prayer

Loving God,

You have promised to be our comfort and our strength, our rock and our fortress every day of our lives, whether they bring joy or grief. You have promised to be a light in our darkness. Let your light shine on us now as we grieve for Mary and as we remember her with smiles of gratitude for all that she was to us who have come to take our leave of her.

We give you thanks for a life well lived, a life full of hard work and responsibility, a life dedicated to being there for others, be that for Mary's family and friends, be that for her neighbours and community or the patients she met at her work as an auxiliary nurse

We thank you for happy and loving childhood memories and light hearted moments filled with dancing, music and friendship, for holidays in Troon and the close bond with her siblings, for the troubles she took to raise her children the love and joy Mary gave and received from all her family.

We give you thanks for your promise that as your son has risen from the dead you will raise us all to eternal life. In this sad hour

let us all be comforted by your assurance that you will take us all to yourself, let us live in the hope that Mary has now found peace with you, a peace that the world cannot give.

Loving God,

You know that times of grief and loss can be hard to bear for us, that every person we love and lose leaves a gap that we cannot fill. May we be able to seek and find comfort in your presence and in each other and may we be assured that you keep us all in your loving hand.

Loving God, we know that you have loved us before we were born and that your son has given his life as a ransom for many. We entrust Mary and ourselves to your loving care in this time of sadness and grief.

And we pray all this through Jesus Christ, the first to have risen from the dead. AMEN

Music: The Lord is my shepherd

Readings

Psalm 46, 1-7

- God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

1 Corinthians 15, 51-55

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

Eulogy

5. Eulogy

It is never easy to say good bye, to let go of someone we loved and cherished all our lives and it is more difficult now, in these challenging times when not all who would like to pay their respects are able to do so. And yet there is a place for gratitude, gratitude for a long and fulfilled life, gratitude for love given and received, gratitude for the memories of smiles and happy moments and above all gratitude for the hope of eternal life. And so I would like to share with you my firm hope and belief that Mary is raised from the dead as the Bible promises through the apostle Paul: For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. And in this hope let us now take the time remember who Mary was to each of us, remember Mary's life, a life of love and duty, let us honour the happy memories, let us honour this time of grief and then let us commend her to God's grace. And yet, it is hard for all who loved Mary that she is now beyond our reach and so let us also take the time to share the sorrow we feel for a person who was special to us, let us remember her and honour her and we do so in the words of her son James.

.....A family tribute celebrating Mums life.....

Some of us may know a line or two or all of the following Nursery Rhyme

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of woe,
Thursday's child has far to go,
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child works hard for a living,
**And the child that is born on the Sabbath day
Is bonny and blithe, and good and gay."**

When Mum was born on 21 MAY 1918, it was a Tuesday so according to the rhyme she was full of grace. I'm sure this was why she enjoyed ballroom dancing with our Dad strutting their stuff. A winning combination... and "STRICTLY" eat your heart out.

Calculation shows that from 21 May 1918 to 25 Sept 2020 gives a figure of 102 YEARS, 4 MONTHS AND 4 DAYS. Quite unbelievable and what a fantastic achievement.

Born into a world in crisis and leaving it in the same condition, some things never change, but we can be certain of one thing, and that is life expectancy was never imagined at 100 years back then and if so only in very rare and exceptional circumstances.

I wonder if in achieving this remarkable longevity Mum seems to have been watched over by her Lucky Stars or the Number 3 or maybe a combination of both. She had THREE siblings, THREE children, THREE female and THREE male grandchildren and as the cherry on her cake THREE female great grandchildren.

When Gran and Granddad Davidson named her MARY MARIA McMEECHAN LAWRIE DAVIDSON and she latterly added a sixth McGIBBNEY I'm quite sure and hope that you will agree that is sufficient by any standards to cover the six days between Monday to Saturday in the rhyme only missing out on the Sabbath Day.

But I know that to we three collectively, Margaret, Elizabeth and James she will always be "bonny, good and gay" as she will always be our Mum. Our own MUMDAY.

God Bless you Mum you were the last of your generation. I'm sure you will be having a great family party catching up with Uncle John/Aunt Maude, Aunt Nan/Uncle Tom, Aunt Flora/Uncle Jimmy and of course most importantly our own Dad all waiting for you.

All our Love Mum, for your support, always being there and your unconditional love throughout your life. Thank you.

Margaret, Elizabeth and James.

Mary was blessed with good health throughout her life and during her last 14 months at the Carrick care home she was a well loved character, as immaculately dressed and cared for as she, a fashion conscious beauty throughout her life, had always been and so it may be a comfort for us all, especially when these exceptionally times rendered contact and garden visits a bit of a challenge that Mary died peacefully, the oldest inhabitant of the home, it may be a comfort to us that we can look back on happy memories and highlights of Mary's life, such as her Diamond Wedding to James, the charming boy who had just lived a few doors down when they met, an occasion honoured by the provost and in the Ayrshire post or the numerous weddings that allowed her to shine with performances and party pieces and brought her love of fun and laughter to the fore, such as the coronation party in the fields, with children running about or Mary's dedication to others as an auxiliary nurse or as a volunteer in the age concern charity shop in main street, such as her love for her large family and her heart for animals that let her spend thousands of pounds at the vet. Above all, it is my sincere hope, that I can share the comfort with you that Mary is now with God, awoken to eternal life, changed and imperishable, as we all one day will be. AMEN

Music: How great thou art

Committal

There is nothing in death or in life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Mary Maria McMeechan Lawrie Davidson McGibney is committed into the hands of God in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ who died was buried and rose again for us and is alive and reigns for evermore.

Prayer

Loving God,

We give you thanks that in Mary we were privileged to know a lady who left a mark in the life of those who knew her, who won the admiration of many through her hard work and commitment to others, who was able to give love and receive love and will live in the hearts of many. And in giving thanks for her life we pray for all who were closest to her.

We pray for Margaret, for Elizabeth and George and for James, who grew up with Mary or were welcomed into her family, who owe to her the love of a mother and mother in law, were brought up in the security and stability of a family home, who now grieve Mary's loss. Grant them the strength to grieve and when the time is right the courage to let go.

We pray for Leigh and Andrew, for Graham, Lewis and Deborah and for Lisa who miss a grandmother whose pride they were and who were proud of Mary. Grant them the comfort only you can give, the comfort of hope.

We pray for Loren, Layla and Cooper, who share their parents' pain, who will learn the story of Mary's life as they grow older and keep them in their hearts. Grant them your help and the support of their family as they grow.

We will pray for Margaret and Harry and for all Mary's many friends who were there for her through her life's journey. May they find your peace.

We pray for the frontline workers of the Carrick care home and for all key workers like them, who tirelessly care for residents like Mary and who feel the pain when they have to let go of them. Grant them the strength and the enthusiasm they need for their demanding job.

Loving God,

As we turn now from this place into the world, as we return to our daily lives of work and rest, as we return to a life that is changed because a loved one we cared for and were close to is no longer here, is beyond our reach we pray for ourselves, that our troubled hearts may find rest we ask that we find the courage to grieve and the strength to let her into our hearts, we ask that we can find comfort in you and in each other, that we will find the peace you have promised to us and to everyone.

For all this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

Benediction

And now go forth in peace and be comforted in the assurance of God's love.

And the God who is higher than all our understanding,

God the father, son and holy spirit

be with us all now and forever. AMEN

A prayer for the home

Loving God,

You know our hearts, you know our pain, you know how much we long to be with Mary's friends and family now, how much we long to say good bye to her, a lady who shaped us all in different ways.

We thank you that we had the privilege to have known her, that our lives were richer because she was part of it, however big or small that part was. We thank you that we were able to accompany Mary on a part of life's journey and we thank you for the time we can now set apart for her.

Gracious God,

You know our thoughts, you know that as a thousand years are but a day before you, so a thousand miles are just a step, you know that while we must be apart from Mary and from those close to her, that we cannot offer the comfort of a handshake or a hug, our hearts are with them and our sorrow is sincere.

Grant us all the comfort of your presence, we pray, grant us the assurance of eternal life.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN