

In loving memory of

Maria Jicheva

27th June 1957 - 12th June 2015



Friday 26th June 2015 at 2.00 pm

Fulham (North Sheen) Cemetery

Mortlake Road / Lower Richmond Road

The Funeral Service will be conducted by Father Simeon.

The meaning and the importance of Funeral Service in the Orthodox tradition

God's mercy is infinite and His goodness is beyond measure. This is what the Orthodox church has always maintained, and thus believes and hopes that the loving Lord will be merciful even to the deceased. For this reason the hymnographers of the Orthodox Church have composed a most moving Funeral Service that is virtually a treasure-house of profound spiritual thoughts.

The Funeral Service of the Orthodox Church accomplishes the following:

- a) uses the occasion of death to help us develop a more profound understanding of the meaning and purpose of life;*
- b) emphasises the fact that death for the Christian is not the end, and affirms our hope in salvation and eternal life;*
- c) recognises the existence of the emotions of grief caused by the separation from a loved one, and encourages their expression.*

In the readings, prayers, and hymns of the Funeral Service a dramatic dialogue takes place between the faithful and God and the deceased and God. The Service acknowledges the reality of human existence—the frailty of life and the vanity of worldly things—and directs our minds and hearts to contemplate the incomparable value of the eternal blessings of God's kingdom.

The Service is not only an opportunity to express our love for our loved one who has fallen asleep; it is also a sacred time, a marvellous opportunity for reflection and inner meditation on our own relationship with God and on the orientation of our lives.

READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Matthew 5:3-12,

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“If”

by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Source: A Choice of Kipling's Verse (1943)

“Three Sisters”, Act IV

by Anton Chekhov

IRINA: A time will come when people will understand what it was all for, what the purpose was of all this suffering and what was hidden from us will be hidden no more. In the meantime, though, we have to live...we have to work, that's all, we have to work.

OLGA: Time will pass, and we shall depart forever. We shall be forgotten- our faces, our voices, even how many of us there were. But our sufferings will turn to joy for those who live after us. Peace and happiness will dwell on earth, and people living now will be blessed and spoken well of,

Dear Sisters Our life is not ended yet. We shall live! And the band plays so bravely, so joyfully- another moment, you feel, and we shall know why we live and why we suffer...If only we could know, if only we could know!

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13 - Jesus - ALL

The prayers of commendation and Farewell

Let us commend Maria to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

God our creator and redeemer

By your power Christ conquered death

And entered into glory.

Confident of his victory

And claiming your promises.

We entrust Maria to your mercy

In the name of Jesus our Lord

Who died and is alive

And reigns with you

Now and forever.

Amen.

All Give rest, O Christ to your servant with the saints;

Where sorrow and pain no more,

Neither sighing, but life everlasting.

READINGS FOR REFLECTION

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



The family would like to invite you to join them at Bloom cafe/restaurant for the funeral reception between 4pm - 6pm. We used to go for brunch there regularly. The address is: 399 Fulham Palace Road, Fulham, London, SW6 6TA.

Donations in memory of Maria would be much appreciated for Cancer Research UK.

Funeral Service arranged by Chelsea Funeral Directors.