

**AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE
FOR ALL AFFECTED
BY CANCER**



**SUNDAY 15th May 2022 at 3.00pm
Belfast Cathedral –
The Cathedral Church of St Anne**



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

I would like to welcome everyone to this Inaugural Pause for Hope service in Belfast.

The aim of Pause for Hope is to bring together in prayer everyone affected in any way by cancer or in its management - patients, carers, families, doctors, nurses, those who have responsibility for providing and managing resources and, of course, our scientists searching for the cure.

Over the years Pause for Hope has spread out from Liverpool across the country and regular services are now held in towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales with a first service here now for Northern Ireland. Its progress has been remarkable, but this should not be surprising since it seems to fulfil a need that people have when confronted with cancer in their lives.

Please pray for our work and be generous in the collection since funds are vital to the continued development of this important initiative. Thank you.

Professor Ray Donnelly MBE FRCS

Founder Pause for Hope

A note about the Lighting of Candles and the Intention Cards

Later in this service, you will be invited to come forward to bring your Intention Card, which you were given as you entered St Anne's, and the candle you were given. When invited, please take your candle to the Quire Steps at the front of the Nave and give it to one of the volunteers. There your candle will be lit and placed on one of the candle stands or tables. Please also place your Intention Card in the basket near to the candles.

The candles will stay lit throughout the service.

Please remember to wear a face covering while moving through the cathedral. You are welcome to remove your face covering while in your seat.

Before the Service begins, the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast and the Lord Lieutenant of the Borough of Belfast will be accompanied to their seats.

All stand as the Procession enters the Cathedral.

During the procession the "Sing for Life Choir" (Cancer Focus NI) will sing:
Fields of Gold by Gordon Sumner

The procession is led by Mrs Gillian McGaughey of the Cathedral Staff, followed by the Revd Norman Harrison (Moderator of the South Belfast Presbytery), Fr Eugene O'Hagan, Fr Martin O'Hagan & Fr David Delargy (The Priests), Bishop Michael Router (Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh), Michael Brooks, (Pause for Hope NI organizer) and Bishop Trevor Williams also of Belfast Cathedral.

HYMN

All stand if you are able and join in singing with The Priests

Christ Be Beside Me

**Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.**

**Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.**

**Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.**

*James Quinn, adapt. from St. Patrick's Breastplate, 8th cent.
Another version of St. Patrick's Breastplate*

All sit.

THE WELCOME

Bishop Trevor Williams and Michael Brooks

PRAYER (Rev Maryjo Corcoran, Director Clinical Pastoral Education NI.)

God of life and love; compassion and mercy,
Companion through every shade of life's journey,
You inspired a Psalm writer centuries ago to declare
If I go up to the heavens, you are there
If I make my bed in the depths, you are there
If I rise on the wings of the dawn
Or settle on the far side of the sea
Even there your hand will guide me
Your right hand will hold me fast.

And so, we seek your presence in the midst of our journeys,
Diverse and different yet interwoven through the impact of cancer.

You are there – when the news is disappointing, the prognosis hard and the choices difficult.

You are there – in the healing, hope and relief of therapy, cure and “all clear”.

You are there – when the symptoms are painful and the treatment hard to bear.

You are there – in the love, care and commitment of those who share this journey with us.

You are there – in the possibilities and hope we discover through common adversity.

You are there – in the memories, love and longings that never desert us.

Be there we pray

In the homes and family life of those who live with cancer.

Be there we pray

In the research laboratories of those who strive to find cures.

Be there we pray

In the treatment rooms, wards and hospices where comfort, hope and healing are found.

Be there we pray

Wherever our common humanity is invested in providing love and care, support and therapy and sharing each other's burdens.

Be there we pray

In the hopes and fears, the possibilities and realities, the research and expertise, the dedication and commitment, the accepting and the overcoming that bring us together today.

Guide us, comfort us, inspire us and hold us fast we pray.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Before the lighting starts Gillian McGaughey says:

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, gracious and merciful,
You deal gently with us when we wander from your love
and call those in darkness into the light of your presence.
Through the path of suffering Jesus learned obedience;
with us as a brother he faced testing without sin;
on a hill of darkness he carried judgement for the world.
He is strong to save all who draw near through him.
Through the eternal Spirit he awakens us to serve you.
Friend of sinners, Healer of the nations,
Blessed are you, Sovereign God, who scatters the darkness.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

During the lighting of candles in memory of a loved one or for your own special intention,

**The Priests will sing
Amazing Grace.**

The Master of Ceremonies will take a light from the Paschal Candle and light a taper held by a volunteer who will then pass the light to the volunteers standing at the Quire Steps.

A volunteer will bring a candle each from the Lord Lieutenant and the Deputy Lord Mayor, light their candles and place at the top of two of the candle stands. Their intention cards will be placed in a basket.

Please follow the instructions of the stewards as you take your candle to the Quire steps. There give your candle to a volunteer who will light it and place it on one of the candle stands. Please then place your Intention Cards in a basket near the candles.

Please take care with the lighted candles, and make your way back to your seat via the side aisles.

The candles will stay lit throughout the service.

PRAYER OVER THE CANDLES

*After the candles have been lit **all will recite together** (led by Fr Eugene O'Hagan, Chancellor of the Diocese of Down and Connor). Please stand if you are able.*

**Dear God, our loving Father,
the candles we have lit represent each and every one of us
whose lives have been touched
and changed for ever by cancer.**

**Their light also reminds us of Jesus Christ
your Son who is the Light of the World
and the light in our darkness.**

**Give us, we pray,
comfort in our anxiety and fear,
courage and strength in our suffering,
patience and compassion in our caring,
consolation in our grieving;
but above all give us hope
now and always.**

**Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.**

*Please sit: **NEW TESTAMENT READING** Romans 5:1-5
Read by Anne Turner, Supporter of Pause for Hope*

Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

The word of the Lord. *R.* **Thanks be to God.**

ADDRESS

The Most Reverend Michael Router, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh

The Sing for Life choir will sing
In the Name of Music
By Victor C Johnson

BIDDING PRAYERS

Read by Daniel Dorman and Doreen Draffin

Dear Father

Let us pray for the children, their parents and families affected by cancer.

We think of children in hospital for diagnosis, tests and treatment.

We think of children who visit the clinics for treatment and assessment.

We think of children who have finished treatment and are still ill.

We think of children who have finished treatment and are well.

We pray for the brothers and sisters of children with cancer.

We pray for the parents, relatives and carers of children with cancer.

We pray for all the doctors, nurses and other professionals who look after children with cancer.

Lord in your mercy. R. Hear our prayer.

BIDDING PRAYER

Dear Father

Whose Son Jesus Christ loved to bring health and healing, may your Holy Spirit help all those who follow in his footsteps of caring love.

Today we give thanks for the work of our nurses and all who care for those with cancer. We pray that you will always give them the necessary strength and compassion to do their work with love and patience.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy. R. Hear our prayer.

BIDDING PRAYERS

Read by Grace Dorman and Ms Mary Forsythe

Dear Father

Be with all those whose lives have been touched by cancer and who need strength to face each new day with hope and courage. Their hope is for recovery and many times this is granted but sometimes this is not to be and they have to accept whatever the future brings. Please hold them all in your hands, Lord, ease their fear and bring them your healing and wholeness.

Lord in your mercy **R. Hear our prayer.**

Dear Father

We bring before you today those who have lost relatives and friends as a result of cancer especially those who have lost their only relative or friend.

Give strength to those who work with the dying and bereaved and be with those who remain. May they find comfort in your love, which constantly surrounds them.

Lord in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

***The Priests will sing
Ag Criost an Siol***

POEM

Rev Norman Harrison

Background to Poem

This poem was composed during an arts programme set up to provide support for a group of young adults who were being treated for or surviving cancer.

During one of the sessions a representative of Arts Care Northern Ireland produced a large tree of life drawing on which each of the programme participants were encouraged to write words which were meaningful to them at this time in their journey.

As a Chaplain and Arts Facilitator assisting in the programme Rev Norman Harrison shared this experience, and afterwards took a photo of the tree so he could think about the words written upon it.

He noticed that among many - the majority - of courageous and affirming words the one word which seemed glaringly absent was the word 'love'. The heart symbol had been drawn, but no one had explicitly written the word 'love'.

Rev Norman Harrison wrote the poem with a view to exploring why people may feel less loved, by their peers, by society, or even God, because their lives may appear more broken. He concluded that, while people may retreat from such words and emotions as means of self-protection, they were still searching for a language to speak about what at other times may have seemed unspeakable, and that through their creative endeavours they have discovered a way to speak and a way to hear that they are in fact most beloved.

BREAKING AND MAKING

DO WE FEEL IT? DO WE MISS IT?
THE WORD UNSPOKEN, BUT IMPLICIT
THE HEART SYMBOL DRAWN – UNSAID
THOUGHTS OF LOVE, THOUGH NOT EXPLICIT

DO WE THINK IT? DO WE BELIEVE IT?
CONNECTION LOST, BEHIND JAGGED LINES
SWIRLS OF EMOTION, THE ACHE OF NOW
THE COILING SNAKE, FEARFUL SIGNS

DO WE KNOW IT? DO WE SEE IT?
THE SEARCH FOR MEANING, MAKING
THE DESIRE TO PAINT IT, DANCE IT
ACHING FOR A WAY OF SPEAKING

DO WE HEAR IT? DO WE PERCEIVE IT?
OPEN THE CLOSED, FIND CURVED LINES
WAYS AROUND TO EXPLORE, TO FIND
CLEAR THE THINKING WITH CREATIVE MIND

DO WE READ IT? ECHO THE SONG OF IT?
IT'S POWERFUL, THIS THINKING OUT LOUD,
THIS MUSIC OF FREEDOM AND LIFE:
IT'S STRAIGHTFORWARD AND PROUD

DO YOU SENSE IT? ARE YOU STIRRED BY IT?
THERE IS MORE THAN BEING BRUISED TO THE BONE;
THERE IS HOPE BEYOND CURE, FAMILY OR HOME,
FRIENDS, OR EVEN ME: THERE IS PEACE – FAITH – CALM

Rev Norman Harrison

BIDDING PRAYERS read by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman
Tom Haire, and Ms Mary Forsythe

Dear Father

We bring before you today those who devote their lives to research into
the causes of cancer trying to find a cure.

Help them to do their work successfully and to share their knowledge to
the benefit of all who wish to see the ravages of this terrible disease
ended. Be with them at all times to guide and strengthen them in their
constant search for the knowledge that will finally see an end to the
suffering and heartache caused by cancer.

Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer**

Dear Father

We pray for all those in local and national government and for those who hold positions of authority in providing health care. As they allocate resources and plan services please grant them the wisdom, strength and compassion to ensure that everyone with cancer has access without delay to the best treatment and care.

May they not forget the needs of families and carers and the importance of funding research to find a cure. Bless them Lord in their work and sustain them in the responsibilities they bear.

Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

The Sing for Life choir will sing
Falling Slowly

By Glenn Hansard & Marketa Irglova

REFLECTION

Mr Michael Brooks, Northern Ireland Representative of Pause for Hope

HYMN

All stand, if able, and join in singing

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here:

Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground,

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around

He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light,

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace,

No work too hard for Him. In faith receive from Him

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David J Evans

All sit.

**The Priests sing
How Great Thou art**

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND THE READING OF THE PAUSE FOR HOPE CANCER PRAYER

*All stand, if able, and say **together**, led by Mrs Vivienne Manley*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, for ever and
ever**

**Dearest Father,
we pray that cancer ...**

**Will not cripple love
Will not shatter hope
Will not corrode faith
Will not take away peace
Will not destroy confidence
Will not kill friendship
Will not shut out memories
Will not silence courage
Will not invade the soul**

And we firmly believe that cancer...

**Cannot reduce eternal life
Cannot quench the Spirit
Cannot lessen the power of the Resurrection.**

**For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen.**

**O merciful and compassionate God, free your people from the
distress and suffering caused by cancer.
May we feel your great love for each one of us as we live with
the difficulties and sadness that cancer can bring.
We turn to you for hope and healing.
And we pray that the day will quickly come when all cancers can
be prevented or cured.
Amen**

All remain standing, if you are able.

CLOSING WORDS AND BLESSING

Bishop Trevor Williams will lead all the Clergy present

A Celtic Blessing:

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you
And the Blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please join in singing the **FINAL HYMN** with **The Priests**

Following this service there will be a retiring collection taken for Pause for Hope and to defray expenses.

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace.
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1901-53)

As the procession leaves the Cathedral

the Sing for Life choir will sing

Something Inside So Strong

By Labi Siffre

Please pray for the work of

*Macmillan Cancer Support
Marie Curie Cancer Care
The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
The Northern Ireland Hospice
Cancer Focus NI
and all local cancer hospices and charities
St Killians Candles*

*And please remember to pray for
all those affected by cancer, their loved ones and carers
and to pray that the day will quickly come when all cancers can be
prevented or cured.*

www.pauseforhope.org.uk

email: pauseforhope@gmail.com

There is a retiring collection to defray any costs.

*Please join us for refreshments at the back of the Cathedral following the service.
All welcome.*

