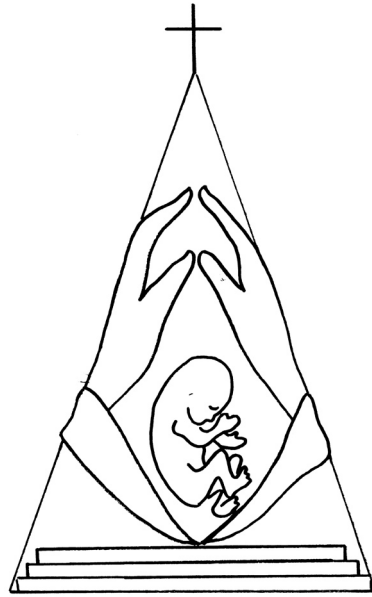


# Not out of Mind



A service of prayer and memorial for families who have at any time known the death of a baby or child at any age including miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death, infant death, failed fertility treatment and/or childlessness

## **Opening Hymn: (all stand)**

**Welcome** The celebrant will open the service with a few words.

## **Silence**

Baskets of small candles will be handed out to each family, who may take one candle for each child being remembered today. These may be labelled so that a baby's name can be written on each.

## **Bible readings**

## **Responsorial Prayer**

Lord God, you know the secrets of every heart.

Lord, have mercy

All: **Lord, have mercy**

Please forgive the hurts we may have given others by our anger

Christ have mercy

All: **Christ have mercy**

Help us to forgive ourselves as we grieve for our babies

Lord. Have mercy

All: **Lord, have mercy**

**A Mother's Prayer** (read by a member of the congregation)

**A Father's Prayer** (read by a member of the congregation)

**Psalm 139 (said or sung)**

## Poetry or Prose Reading

### **The Act of Remembrance**

The celebrant will explain what is to happen. S/he will light the large candle and then light one of the smaller candles from it, placing it upon the white cloth, in memory of any child s/he wishes to remember today. Then each person, couple or family is invited to come forward, in their own time and when they feel ready, to light their candle(s) and place it/them on the white cloth in memory of their child(ren). At the same time a little flower or bud, one for each child, may be cut from the stems in the vases, using the scissors provided, and placed in the bowl of water with the big candle. Sprigs of rosemary may be placed anywhere on the cloth among the candles by those who wish to do this.

After all the candles have been laid, a period of silence or soft music may be kept.  
**(Please stand)**

### **Anointing for the Healing of Hurts**

The celebrant will bless the oils for the healing of hurts. S/he will approach each person and anoint them on the hands while saying a short prayer. When everyone is anointed, please remain standing to say:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

(Please sit)

**A Prayer of Committal** (said by celebrant)

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Members of the congregation will now read their own prayers.

### **Final Prayer** (all)

Almighty Father, Creator of all that is good, we entrust to your eternal care the children we may not keep. We hand over to you our dreams and troubles, our hopes of parenthood. We place our lives in your hands. Gently guide us through the years ahead, and renew our lives in your service. Amen.

There will now be a period of silence for prayer and reflection.

### **Closing Remarks**

#### **Blessing**

May our renewing God,  
Birth-giver, pain-bearer and Spirit of Life  
Fill you with faith, encompass you with peace  
and be your hope,  
today and every day.  
Amen.

### **Closing Hymn**