

Welcome

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for joining us for this short all-faith service of memorial. It is my privilege as President of NCI to open this service with a few words of introduction.

We are a close College community that seeks to not just be true to our mission, to change lives through education, but also to support one another.

Never has this been more important than in this year of a global pandemic.

Today we remember everyone, both staff and students, who has lost someone in the past year.

Today's service is led by the Chair of our Governing Body, Fr. Leonard Moloney SJ, and he will be joined by both staff and student participants.

We hope that you will find this a moment of reflection and comfort, as we prepare for the end of year.

Gina Ga

Gina Quin, NCI President

Fr Leonard Moloney SJ (Chair of NCI Governing Body) with an appropriate passage from Scripture

The Gospel of John: The appearance to Mary of Magdala (John 20:11-18)

But Mary was standing outside near the tomb, weeping. Then, as she wept, she stooped to look in side, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet.

They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." As she said this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not realise that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

She turned round then and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbuni!" (which means "Master"). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to the brothers, and tell them: 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" So Mary of Magdala told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord", and that he had said these things to her.

Dajana Sinik (President, NCI Students Union) Extract from Poem "When Death Comes" by Mary Oliver

And therefore I look upon everything as a brotherhood and a sisterhood, and I look upon time as no more than an idea, and I consider eternity as another possibility,

and I think of each life as a flower, as common as a field daisy, and as singular,

and each name a comfortable music in the mouth, tending, as all music does, toward silence,

and each body a lion of courage, and something precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say all my life I was a bride married to amazement. I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder if I have made of my life something particular, and real.

I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened, or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world



Kevin Donovan (Entertainments Officer, NCI Students Union)

Extract from Poem: "For Grief" by John O'Donohue

When you lose someone you love, Your life becomes strange, The ground beneath you becomes fragile, Your thoughts make your eyes unsure; And some dead echo drags your voice down Where words have no confidence Your heart has grown heavy with loss; And though this loss has wounded others too, No one knows what has been taken from you When the silence of absence deepens.

Gradually, you will learn acquaintance With the invisible form of your departed; And when the work of grief is done, The wound of loss will heal And you will have learned To wean your eyes From that gap in the air And be able to enter the hearth In your soul where your loved one Has awaited your return All the time.

Musical piece



Reflection: "When a loved one leaves" by Fr Antonin Sertillanges OP

When a loved one leaves us, our family doesn't disappear, it is transformed. A part of it enters the invisible. We can believe that death is an absence, while it is a secret presence We can believe that it creates an infinite distance, while it eliminates all distance by bringing to the spirit what was in the flesh. The more loved ones that have left home, the more heavenly ties for those left behind. Heaven is no longer populated only with angels, unknown saints and a mysterious God, it is becoming familiar. It is part of our family home, and its upper level, one could say and, from top to bottom, memories, help, and prayers are answered to each other.

Minal Bagga (International Peer Mentor & NCI Student)

Bhagavad Gita: "You Are Not The Body"

"For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time. He has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. He is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain."

Concluding remarks by Fr Leonard Moloney SJ



In remembrance of all those who have gone

Caroline Onike Enoch Thomas Akoka Rebecca Ezisi Daragh Boylan Emmanuel Kwuluje (Snr) Androulla & Mali Constantinidou James Lavin Amelia Rodrigues Zuwei Yang Bhavana Lalsingh Bora Gerard Leonard Kamlesh Mehta Olga & Jeremiah Withers Ronnie Cosgrave Noel O'Brien Dr John Lynch Iris O'Brien Kathleen Gibney Mary Gibney Gemma Mulrooney Maya Pathak Seán Brady Molly Harney Ann Marie Matthews Donal & Bernie Giblin Breandán Ó Madagáin Dr Ajay Sharma Iwona Steciak