

The Most Holy Trinity Church
Dockhead

Funeral Mass

Maria Martha Wansbrough (McTernan)



Monday 18th January 2021
10.00 am

Entrance Music

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise (2).

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop they still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

J.G Whittier (1807-92)

Welcome
Canon Alan McLean

Prayer

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful. It is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Psalm

Response: The Lord is compassion and love (Repeat)

Gospel
John 11:21 -43

Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Homily
Canon Alan

Prayers of the Faithful

Eucharistic Prayer

Our Father

Communion

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: your best, your heavenly friend,
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Katherina von Schlegel,
tr. Jane L. Borthwick (1813-1897)*

Tribute

by Jordan Morgan (DFE Trustee)

Commendation and Blessing

Sung: May the choirs of angels come to greet you,
may they speed you to paradise.
May the Lord enfold you in His mercy,
may you find eternal life.

Final Blessing

Nunc Dimittis Bach Easter Oratorio

“Martha, Thank you. You were one of the few people I met in my life that genuinely believed in me. Not only did you see my potential, but you nurtured me to tap into it. I am so glad I got to know true greatness. I am so glad I got to know you Martha. You were and still are a true heroine, who lived for something and did something legendary.”

Joy Millani

“I regarded her not only as a boss, but as a true friend, one of the few people in life that can be relied upon in every situation, a person whose empathy always overshadowed her own wellbeing. I know in my heart that we will all work tirelessly to continue her legacy.

Anton, DFF Team

She was a wonderful woman, an inspiration to vulnerable young people who couldn't identify a voice to express themselves. She had the resilience to break obstacles and the tenacity to show young people there are opportunities out there that must be grasped with both hands. Martha and her team have truly transformed so many lives for the better.

Leke, DFF Ambassador

I came to admire Martha enormously, discovering a dynamic person driven by a deep sense of justice. Everyone at DFF felt valued and included by her as she was instinctively collegial yet conscientiously democratic. She is the force that has made good things happen for so many disadvantaged young people, thanks to a laser-like conviction and integrity that cut through nonsense and drove straight to the heart of issues.

Felix DFF Team

I thought for the first time, to be working for someone who had passion, integrity and the ambition to make a real difference – this was no vanity project or a token gesture but an ongoing and innovative work in progress to change lives for young people who had not had the advantages many take for granted

Rachel, DFF Team

I never called Martha 'Martha', so I will need to address her as Marfie. She called me Barbie, which nobody else has ever called me. So we had our names for each other. Marfie told me many times the story of my birth - which was at home, in a new house our family had just moved into. She was nearly four years old when I was born and from the very moment I emerged, she took care of me. I haven't known a world without her protective embrace. Of course, over fifty-five years, there have naturally been periods where I was able to take care of her, but throughout all of it, I have lived with the sense and the awareness of a guardian angel. I've always known how lucky I was, not least because I realize how unusual this bond is. Thankfully, my husband has always had the capacity to recognize its absolute essence in my life, and my sons have forged their own connections with her. Her loss is incalculable for us all, but as reflected by the legacy of her work and the glorious collection of people she worked with and for, Marfie will live on in my life and my family's: her indomitable spirit will remain with us forever. As a favorite poet, Naomi Shihab Nye, says: People do not pass away. They die and then they stay.

Barbara, Sister

As part of her global fight against injustice, Martha has been supporting The German Electronic Kindergarten in Rafah in the Gaza Strip for many years. A donation in memory of Martha would be welcome.

Visit gofundme.com/f/children-in-rafah-deserve-to-be-children-too



“Few are blessed to have such a soulmate, an equal, who shares one’s passion and drive, and Martha was this person, especially, with her love of life and justice for the downtrodden”. These words written by our mutual friend, Dr Ahmed Yousef, resonated deeply within me, as I feel truly blessed to have shared my life with such a remarkable, and yet totally unpretentious person as Martha. Since her death, I have received hundreds of messages not only from the Drive Forward community, who had a special place in her heart, but from mutual friends in different parts of the world. Everyone spoke of Martha as an inspiration, someone who truly engaged and had a genuine interest in the lives of others. Martha was a true inspiration; her ability to love unconditionally enabled me to effect change in my own life and to discover a new depth and purpose that would otherwise have lain dormant. Martha, you will remain deep in my heart forever.

Oliver

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