

Thanksgiving for the life of

Richard Neil Armitage

20th December 1958 - 29th December 2025



Requiem Mass
ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH
Saturday 31st January
11.00 am

ENTRANCE MUSIC: AMAZING GRACE

John Newton

GREETING THE PEOPLE

All make the sign of the cross as the Priest says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

HYMN

All: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my Strength and Shield.
Be thou still my Strength and Shield.

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, Songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.**

English Translation by Peter Williams

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest: My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.

Pause

You were sent to heal the contrite:
Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy

Priest: You plead for us at the right hand of the Father:
Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life

All: Amen

Priest: Let us pray:

O God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of your servant Richard, whom you have called out of this world; and because he put his hope and trust in you, command that he be carried safely home to heaven and come to enjoy your eternal reward.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

All: Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

Reader: On that day: on this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever; And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; We have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

PSALM

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**

Reader: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**

Reader: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**

Reader: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 15:51-57

A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Behold! I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all
sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in
the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the
trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised
imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable body must put on the
imperishable, and this mortal body must put on
immortality. When the perishable puts on the
imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality,
then shall come to pass the saying that is written:
'Death is swallowed up in victory'. O death, where
is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The
sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the
Law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE STAND

All: Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says
the Lord, take your heritage, the kingdom
prepared for you since the foundation of the
world**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

Priest: A reading from the holy **Gospel according to St. John**

All: Glory to you, Lord

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples. 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it was not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him: 'I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me'.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PLEASE SIT

EULOGY: *William Armitage & Jim Armitage*

Joe Spencer will read a poem –

'I Thank thee God that I have lived' – Elizabeth Craven

HOMILY:

PLEASE STAND

INTERCESSIONS

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

Reader: For our brother, washed by the waters of baptism and anointed with holy oil, that he may be led into the company of the saints.
Lord, hear us

All: **Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home in heaven.
Lord, hear us

All: **Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: For the family and friends of our brother Richard, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus
Lord, hear us

All: **Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.
Lord, hear us

All: **Lord, graciously hear us**

OFFERTORY

All: You shall cross the barren desert,
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

*Be not afraid.
I go before you always;
Come follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters in the sea,
you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.
Chorus

Blessed are your poor,
for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you!
Chorus

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever

After the Priest washes his hands he then addresses the congregation:

PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest: As we humbly present to you these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, for the salvation of your servant Richard, we beseech your mercy, that he, who did not doubt your Son to be a loving Saviour, may find him a merciful Judge. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever

All: Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And with your spirit**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them up to the Lord**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: **It is right and just**

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven we sing the hymn of your glory as without end we acclaim:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

When the Priest invites the Congregation:

Priest: The mystery of faith

All: **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your
Cross and Resurrection you have set us free**

When the Priest says;

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever

All: **Amen**

COMMUNION RITE

PLEASE STAND

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine
teaching, we dare to say:

All: **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.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the

help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever

THE RITE OF PEACE

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you peace, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever

All: Amen

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always

All: And with your spirit

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace

AGNUS DEI

Priest: Lamb of God

**All: you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace**

HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE KNEEL

The priest raises the host slightly

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb

All: Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed

COMMUNION HYMN

All: I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No-one can come to me
unless the father draw him.

*And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.*

The Bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever,
you shall live for ever.

Chorus

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you.

Chorus

**I am the Resurrection, I am the Life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die
you shall live for ever.**

Chorus

**Yes, Lord I believe
that you are the Christ,
the son of God
who have come into the world.**

Chorus

Suzanne Toolan R.S.M.

POST COMMUNION

PLEASE STAND

Priest: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that your servant Richard,
for whom we have celebrated this paschal
Sacrament, may pass over to a dwelling place of
light and peace.
Through Christ our Lord

All: Amen

FINAL COMMENDATION

SONG OF FAREWELL

**I know that my Redeemer lives,
and on that final day of days,
his voice shall bid me rise again:
unending joy, unceasing praise!**

**This hope I cherish in my heart:
to stand on earth, my flesh restored,
and, not a stranger but a friend,
behold my Saviour and my Lord**

RECESSIONAL MUSIC: JERUSALEM

H. Parry

***Richard's family thank you for your prayers and support
at this time***

***The Mass will be followed by refreshments in The Barn
to which you are invited.***

Donations, if desired, in Richard's memory to:

Help For Heroes or RNLI

it <https://richardarmitage.muchloved.com>

HD Tribes

130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, BN14 8HU

I THANK THEE GOD THAT I HAVE LIVED – Elizabeth Craven

I thank thee God, that I have lived
In this great world and known its many joys;
The song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay
And cooling breezes in the secret dusk,
The flaming sunsets at the close of day,
Hills and lovely, heather-covered moors,
Music at night, and moonlight on the sea,
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore
And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy:
The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,
The love of kin and fellowship of friends
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.
I thank thee too, that there has come to me
A little sorrow and sometimes defeat,
A little heartache and the loneliness
That comes with parting and the words, "Good-bye";
Dawn breaking after dreary hours of pain
When I discovered that night's gloom must yield
And morning light break through to me again.
Because of these and other blessings poured
Unmasked upon my wondering head,
Because I know that there is yet to come
An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all, because thine only Son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me,
I thank thee, God, that I have lived.





Acknowledgements

Do not be afraid

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I am the Bread of Life

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