

POLSON, John Eric 'Jack' Died peacefully early Thursday morning, 6th June, 2019. Cherished husband of Anne, loving father of Liz and Geoff, fabulous father-in-law of Paul and Joanne, adored pa of Claire, Edward, Finn and Alex. The lawns in Heaven will be forever kept pristine! We knew the time was coming when we would have to say goodbye, our hearts are filled with sadness, but memories will never die.

Burial: 11 am 14<sup>th</sup> June<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Gisborne

## At the Graveside or Crematorium

### PREPARATION

*25 The minister greets those who have gathered.*

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

We gather today to lay to rest the body of our dear brother John Eric Polson, known and loved as *Jack*.

As we do so, we return to God a child of his own making and redeeming; a treasured husband of Anne; a loved father to Liz and Geoff, fabulous father in law to Paul and Joanne, and doting grandfather of Claire, Edward, Finn and Alex. As we do so, we also acknowledge Joanne's journey to Ireland, and pray for her safety and care as we gather here in Gisborne today.

In the tranquillity of this place, we allow God to sustain us as we surround Jack's family with love, and we pray that the Lord Jesus, through the gifting of the Holy Spirit will give to all his loved ones the comfort as promised in the Sermon on the Mount.

Now, we turn to scripture as we prepare ourselves for the committal.

*One or more of these or other appropriate sentences from Scripture may be read.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1.3-4

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4.14

A reading from the prophet Micah, chapter 6.

With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?  
Here ends the reading.

Today, as we gather, I would briefly like to reflect on that reading in terms of Jack's life. For me, I was not fortunate enough to have known him. In talking with Liz, on behalf of the family, I did ask her to prepare a few words before Geoff speaks, as to the qualities of her father.

As I listened, the reading from the Bible that became clear to me was from the prophet Micah. In context, the whole book is rather one of correction: it does admonish Israel for not following or living out their responsibilities as people of God. To contrast the call to follow God, through Micah, God gives us the example that he requires of all of us in living our lives out, fulfilling the potential of the perfect creation given to us as life.

As I listened, I heard the story of a wonderful husband and father who was a community minded man who lived out his beliefs, letting his actions speak loudly. His strong work ethic and respect garnered from his friends speak highly of the qualities of Jack's life.

Whilst I was not able to know this in Jack's life, I reflected on what I heard, and the reading seemed to be most appropriate.

We are not always required to be mindful and committed to the rituals and demands of human institutions, but in our lives but rather, we are asked to live a life that exemplifies the principles of justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with what God has given us.

Shortly, we will hear from Geoff, but I ask you to consider your relationship with Jack, in whatever capacity that may have been. Did he act justly and fairly? Did he show love of kindness in not only what he believed but in his actions towards others? Was he a person who humbly lived his life making a difference using the skills and values that he believed to be God-given?

These should all be rhetorical questions, but in what I heard, I think there may be an answer of yes to those questions. We all, due to our human nature, sometimes get things a little wrong, but today is about thanking God for all the good received from Jack and forgiving any indiscretion. We commit him in the name of the Lord Jesus, and pray that he is truly now at peace.

And as we leave here today, may we take inspiration from the words of the prophet and seek to do the same in our lives: do justice, love kindness and be humble as we continue our journey with God.

May Jack rest in peace and rise in glory.

I would now like to invite Geoff to speak on behalf of the family.

EULOGY      Geoff Polson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life  
and has given to our brother Jack  
his span of years and gifts of character.  
God our Father, we thank you now for all his life,  
for every memory of love and joy,  
for every good deed done by him.  
and every sorrow shared with us.  
We thank you for his life and for his death,  
we thank you for the rest in Christ he now enjoys,  
we thank you for giving him to us,  
we thank you for the glory we shall share together.  
Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,  
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,  
surround the family of Jack with your love,  
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,  
but have confidence in your goodness  
and strength to meet the days to come.  
Sustain and comfort Anne, together with Liz and Paul; Geoff and Joanne,  
and Jack's grandchildren, Claire, Edward, Finn and Alex in their grief.  
Turn their mourning into dancing;  
encourage them in the days ahead.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We thank you, creator God,  
for the gifts of love, care, healing and community.  
Today, as we farewell Jack,  
we acknowledge with love and gratitude all the care given to Jack  
by the Cyril Jewell House.  
Bless the staff and supporters in all that they do,  
enrich them as they continue to shine through your love for all people  
and gift to them comfort in their sense of duty and loss.  
This we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

#### THE COMMITTAL

*26 The following may be said.*

In the midst of life we are in death.  
We blossom like a flower, and wither.  
We pass like a shadow, and do not stay.  
From whom may we seek for help,  
    but from you, Lord God,  
    though you are justly grieved on account of our sins?  
Holy and loving Saviour,  
deliver us from the bitterness of eternal death.  
Keep us, at our last hour, lest we fall from you.

*27 Facing the coffin, and at a burial while earth is cast upon it, the minister says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
you have given us a sure and certain hope  
of the resurrection to eternal life.  
In your keeping are all who have departed in Christ.  
We here commit the body of our dear *brother* Jack

*to be buried in the ground,  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;*

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,  
and who shall change our mortal body  
that it may be like his glorious body.

*The congregation may join with the minister*

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

*At a burial, family members or friends may be invited to assist in casting earth upon the body, here or at the end of the service.*

*The minister may continue*

**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,  
for they rest from their labours.**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*28 The minister may say*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,  
**Our Father which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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. Amen.**

*29 The minister says one or more of these prayers.*

God of all consolation,  
in your unending love and mercy for us  
you turn the darkness of death  
into the dawn of new life.  
Be our refuge and strength in sorrow.  
As your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by dying for us conquered death,  
and by rising again restored us to life,  
so may we go forward in faith to meet him,  
and after our life on earth

be united with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ  
where every tear will be wiped away.  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*30 The minister says one or more of the following.*

Now to him who is able to keep us from falling,  
and to make you stand without blemish  
in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,  
to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
be glory, majesty, power and authority,  
before all time and now and for ever. **Amen.**

Jude 24–25

*The minister may say*

Go depart in peace in the name of Christ. **Amen.**