

FIRST READING

From the book of Wisdom 4:7–15

Untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

Read by Anthony James Barton

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this is man's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.
He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.
He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or
treachery seduce his soul;
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;
it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,
and protection, his holy ones.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 62

O God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you
Like a dry and waterless land.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary,
To see your strength and your glory,
For the love of you is better than life;

So I will bless you all my life;
In your name I will lift up my hands
And my mouth shall praise you with joy.

You have been my help, my soul clings to you;
In the shadow of your wings I shelter,
And your right hand shall hold me fast.

SECOND READING

From the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 4:14–5:1

Visible things last only for a time, but the invisible are eternal.

Read by Karis Sophia Barton

We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us.

You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God. That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them.

And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

GOSPEL

From the holy Gospel according to John 14:1–6

There are many rooms in my Father's house.

Read by Canon Paschal Ryan

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.'

EULOGY FOR JAMES BARTON

Read by Anthony James Barton

To our beloved dad who was anything short of being a 'quiet' man. He was, as many of you may have come to know 'a true one off', 'a character'! A man who until his last day never stopped creating. An old-school entrepreneur, who had more ideas and more goals to achieve before a long battle with illness stopped him in his tracks.

He was born James Barton but preferred to be known as 'Dick Barton'. He loved the name! He loved the history of it. We guess like the BBC radio and TV character, he thought of himself as some sort of special agent, an adventurer. He was a dreamer in that way, but more importantly he was an achiever.

'Dick' was born in Glasgow in 1950, sandwiched between a younger brother and older sister. From humble beginnings, he quickly had dreams of making a name for himself and started his working life for the Marchetti Bros Ice Cream Vans. He built up a profitable route and renamed his van 'Barton Brothers' even though he was the only brother running it. It helped fend off unruly competition and this smart angled type of move was indicative of Dick staying ahead of the game. Never one to sit comfortably, he took up being a disc jockey and completed an electrical apprenticeship, before going on to his next adventure in hairdressing, where he was trained in London by the legendary stylist Trevor Sorbie.

During this time he married Liz and had two children named Anthony and Karis. With Liz by his side, they went on to open twenty-one hairdressing salons across Scotland. They also amassed over one hundred rental properties and were the first to introduce sunbeds to Glasgow. They branched out further, owning three nightclubs and employing an impressive five hundred people at the height of their success. The most famous nightclub they launched was Tin Pan Alley in 1986, which was more than just a club, it was the largest establishment in Scotland and paved the way for a new generation of dance music that became the fabric of the Glasgow party scene. As of today, it has cemented itself as a club of folklore!

In 1996 Dick, Liz and the kids moved to Marbella, Spain. What had always been a holiday retreat for years was now to become home. Immersed in a new language and a new way of life they expanded into the art world. What had always been a passion project, was now to become their new business. For the next decade, along with a framing department, they amassed a wonderful art collection that helped fill the walls of so many homes in Spain and beyond. Later in life, Dick went on to have another son named Sascha and began his journey writing novels. He moved back to the UK, where he settled in his favourite place on King's Road in Chelsea. Never one to sit still, Dick took up courses in psychology and TV presenting.

Dick was a very generous, yet demanding man. That need to achieve never stopped. He could be a joker at times, but his addictive personality meant that whatever ideas he had in mind, he would be determined to see them through. When he focused on something he wouldn't let it go, regardless of how ill he became. He never gave up on his goals which is something we all admired in him.

The last three years of his life were devoted to his family. He was incredibly proud of his children's successes and was overjoyed at becoming a Grandfather. His days and nights were filled with phone calls, texts and videos and there were some wonderful family gatherings. He never stopped being demanding. You could send him a beautiful video of his grandson Otis and ten minutes later he would be demanding another one. How we all wish that we would be able to receive one more text, one more call, one more chance to hear about his day or what adventure he was up to next.

In his final week, although very ill, he was happily surrounded by all his family. He knew we were all there holding his hand and spurring him on. Sadly, it was one battle that he couldn't beat. Dick lived this life how he wanted to live it and by God he lived it to the full. He was as his friends proclaimed 'Some Man', a 'one off'; a 'Legend'. Ian Fleming was Dick's favourite writer and the master behind the James Bond films, which he loved most of all. Fleming famously once said, "Never say 'no' to adventures. Always say 'yes' otherwise you'll lead a very dull life."

Rest in Peace, Dad.

MUSIC

Organ By Ian Coleman and solo singer

+ J.S.Bach - Air +

+ F.Schubert - Ave Maria +

+ G. Faure - Pie Jesu +

+ G. Faure - In Paradisum +