

*Pregnancy & Infant Loss
Remembrance Ceremony
15th October 2023*



There is no *footprint*
so small that it does
not leave an *imprint*
on the world.



We wish to acknowledge the tremendous work of all the voluntary organisations that help in any way to enhance the care we provide to the bereaved families.

Welcome and Introduction



We wish to extend a heartfelt welcome to all of you today on this International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

This evening, we recognise, acknowledge and remember all pregnancy losses whenever and however it happened. Whilst our baby's journeys were so brief, they were also very meaningful. We are often unsure how to talk about loss. We often don't know what to say, sometimes words fail us and sometimes there are no words.

This evening at 7pm candles will be lit all around the world to commemorate these precious babies and create a continuous wave of light.

We have come together this evening to join this wave of light and our candles will remain lighting overnight here in the hospital.

The staff working in the Maternity Unit wishes to acknowledge this special day. We hope that you will find comfort and healing in this evening's ceremony through readings, music, singing and the lighting of candles.

This year we have the Remembrance book and after the ceremony you will have the opportunity to look at it and if you would like to add your babies name, there are forms for you to complete.

Song
The Cloud's Veil

*Chorus: Even though the rain hides the stars,
Even though the mist swirls the hills,
Even when the dark clouds veil the sky,
You are by my side.
Even when the sun shall fall in sleep,
Even when at dawn the sky shall weep,
Even in the night when storms shall rise,
You are by my side. You are by my side.*

*Bright the stars at night that mirror heaven's way to you.
Bright the stars in light where dwell the saints in love and truth.*

Chorus

*Deep the feast of life where saints shall gather in deep peace.
Deep in heaven's light where sorrows pass beyond death's sleep.*

Chorus

*Blest are they who sing the fellowship of saints in light.
Blest is heaven's King. All saints adore the Lord, Most High.*

Chorus

By Liam Lawton



I wanted you so

I wanted to hold you, to feel your touch
I already loved you so very much.
In my mind, I had plans, dreams and hopes
But when you left I didn't cope

I wanted to kiss your sweet lips, cheeks, hands and toes,
I wanted so many things for you.
I wanted to carry you asleep to your bed
And stroke the soft hair on your head.

I wanted to nurse you at my breast
And feel your body so close, so blest.
I wanted to watch you grow and play,
But I never will because you went away.

My heart was broken, feelings let bare
Because my darling, you were no longer there.
Even though I had you for just a short time,
Whenever I think of you the tears still fall.

When you left my heart broke in two
A gap that could only be filled by you.
The thing I want you to know
Is I wanted you, I wanted you so.



My Little Sister

I have a little sister, who no one can see.

My sister lives high in the sky and watches over me.

I know that she is always there in lots of little ways.

Once, when I played on the beach, she chased me in the waves.

I write her letters on balloons and watch them float up high.

I know she reads them, she responds with rainbows in the sky.

Sometimes she will make it rain so I can jump in puddles.

And she left behind a teddy bear who gives me special cuddles.

She likes to run beside me, I can feel her in the breeze.

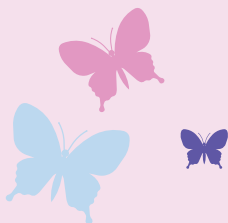
She's good at climbing sunbeams and I'm good at climbing trees.

My sister's good at counting games, we count the stars at night.

As I say the numbers, "One, Two, Three!", she'll make sure they shine
bright.

When daytime ends and bedtime comes, she'll send good dreams to me.

I love my little sister lots and she, I know, loves me.



By After Evelyn

Candle Lighting Ceremony

A candle representing each month will be brought forward and lit to remember all the babies that died in that month.

We invite you to come forward with your own candle to light in remembrance of your baby.

As I look down upon you
Like a butterfly in flight
Please light a candle for me
And join the Wave of Light

As a million candles flicker
In homes across the lands
I wish that I could be with you
Gently holding your loving hands

I know it's hard to understand
Why I had to go
And for you, each second minute and hour
Goes by so very slow

So as the clock strikes seven
I hope that you will know
That I will be thinking of you
As you remember me in your candles glow.



Song: Remember Me

Remember me, though I have to say goodbye,
Remember me, don't let it make you cry.
For even if I'm far away, I hold you in my heart,
I sing a secret song to you each night we are apart.

Remember me, though I have to travel far,
Remember me each time you hear a sad guitar.
Know that I'm with you the only way that I can be,
Until you're in my arms again, remember me.

By Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez



Song: Somewhere only we know

I walked across an empty land
I knew the pathway like the back of my hand
I felt the earth beneath my feet
Sat by the river and it made me complete

Chorus

Oh, simple thing, where have you gone?
I'm getting old, and I need something to rely on
So, tell me when you're gonna let me in
I'm getting tired, and I need somewhere to begin
I came across a fallen tree
I felt the branches of it looking at me
Is this the place we used to love?
Is this the place that I've been dreaming of?

Chorus

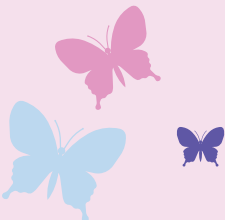


And if you have a minute, why don't we go
Talk about it somewhere only we know?
This could be the end of everything
So, why don't we go somewhere only we know?
Somewhere only we know

Chorus

And if you have a minute, why don't we go
Talk about it somewhere only we know?
This could be the end of everything
So, why don't we go? So, why don't we go?
Ooh, oh-oh Ah, oh

Chorus



Precious little One

Precious tiny little one
You'll always be to me.
So perfect, pure and innocent
Just as you were meant to be.

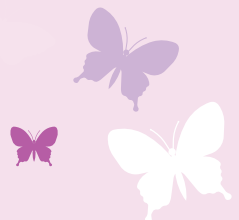
We dreamed of you and your life
And all that it would be
We waited and longed for you to come
And join our family

We never had the chance to play,
To laugh, to rock, to wiggle.
We long to hold you, touch you now
And listen to you giggle

I'll always be your mother,
He'll always be your Dad
You'll always be our child
The child that we had.

Now you're gone...but yet you're here
We sense you everywhere.
You're our sorrow and our joy,
There's love in every tear.

Just know our love goes deep and strong
We'll forget you never
The child we had, but never had
And yet, will have forever.





My Footprints

These are my footprints, so perfect and so small.

These tiny footprints never touched the ground at all.

Not one tiny footprint, for now I have my wings.

These tiny footprints were meant for other things.

You will hear my tiny footprints, in the patter of the rain.

Gentle drops like angels tears, of joy and not from pain.

You will see my tiny footprints, in each butterflies' lazy dance.

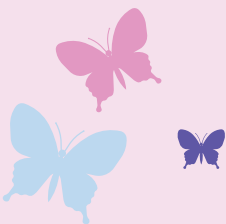
I'll let you know I'm with you, if you give me just a chance.

You will see my tiny footprints, in the rustle of the leaves.

I will whisper names into the wind, and call each one that grieves.

Most of all, these tiny footprints, are found in mummy's heart, cause

even though I'm gone now, we'll never truly part."



Song: Songbird

For you there'll be no crying

For you the sun will be shining

'Cause I feel that when I'm with you

It's alright, I know its right

And the songbirds keep singing

Like they know the score

And I love you, I love you

I love you like never before

To you, I would give the world

To you, I'd never be cold

'Cause I feel that when I'm with you

It's alright, I know its right

And the songbirds keep singing

Like they know the score

And I love you, I love you

I love you like never before

Like never before, like never before

By Eva Cassidy



In Everything You Do

I'm the rain in against the windowpane,
A feather on the ground.

I'm the presence that you sometimes feel,
When no one is around.

I'm the rainbow painting skies of grey,
The sunsets on the sea.

And butterflies on garden plants,
They make you think of me.

I'm your first thought when you wake up,
The kiss of morning's light.

I'm the star that twinkles brightest when you wish on it at night.

I'm the words of every song you hear that makes your heart feel warm.

I'm the sunbeam on your pillowcase,
The sweet, soft touch of dawn.

You see, I'm never gone,

I'm always here with you.

Forever here in all you feel and everything you do.

By After Evalyn





You are the Parents

You are the parents whose hearts broke in two,
In the minute your own babies stopped.

You are the parents who went back to a house,
Empty arms, empty room, empty cot.

You are the parents, those 1 in 4 parents,
Who people can't look in the eye.

For how do you comfort a friend who's in pain,
From the shock that their baby has died?

You are the parents who sit on the sidelines
And watch other families grow.

The sadness, it numbs you, your grief drags you down.
But you carry on, put on a show.

You are the parents whose babies won't age.
Every birthday, the candles stay burning.

"Each year will get easier", people will say,
But you know you will spend your lives yearning.

You are the parents who don't get the "firsts".
The first tooth, their first day at school.



Their first laugh, their first words, the first steps they take.

Or their first little swim in a pool.

But you are the parents whose strength only grows.

With the love for the baby you lost.

You are the parents who carry on fighting,

And living, at every cost.

You are the parents who give hope to others.

Who speak of their babies with pride.

You are the parents who carry on life,

With an angel who walks by your side.

You are their parents, you'll always be their parents.

No matter what anyone says.

Our little ones made us the people we are.

And we'll love them for all of our days

By After Evalyn



Closing Song
You Raise Me Up

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary;
When troubles come and my heart burdened be;
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence,
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;

You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;

I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;

You raise me up...to more than I can be.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;

You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;

I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;

You raise me up...to more than I can be.



There is no life – no life without its hunger;
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly;
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
And I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up...to more than I can be.

You raise me up...to more than I can be.

By Rolf Louland and Brendan Graham.





Thank you for joining us tonight and participating in remembering those no longer with us.



*The Staff of
Galway University Hospital*





Galway University Hospitals

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**