**Short time of prayer**

You may wish to accompany this time of prayer with an action - the lighting of a candle, bringing forward of a flower, for example.

We gather together to pray for ………… who died yesterday/this morning/at the weekend. ………… was a very well-known and liked student in our school community. S/he had many friends and acquaintances across the school who will feel deeply saddened at the loss of such a good friend.

*Any other brief comments about the student and their school life, eg. ……………… was known for their love of music and greatly enjoyed playing the flute in the school band.*

It is important that we take time to remember …………….. and reflect on the many happy times we shared with them. This is a very sad time for all of us and for ………….. family, friends and the wider community but we take comfort, as a community of faith, in the teachings of our faith about the promise of eternal life.

**Reading: *Romans 8:38-39***

*A Reading from St. Paul`s Letter to the Romans*

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights, not the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus.

*The word of the Lord* **Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers:**

*Leader*: After each statement we say together, ‘*Lord Have Mercy’*.

*Reader*: Lord Jesus, you reach out a hand to those in need of comfort and hope. *Lord have mercy.*

*Reader:*  Lord Jesus, you reach out the hand of forgiveness and healing. *Lord have mercy*

*Reader:* Lord Jesus you gave up your life to save us and rose from the dead so that we too could have eternal life. *Lord have mercy*

**Let us now join together and say:**

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace May the souls. of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.***

**Closing Prayer:** God of mercy and love, stretch out your hand to comfort those who mourn at the death of a loved one and bring all those who have died into your kingdom of joy and happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

**Leader**: *Sign of the Cross*

*There can be reflective music playing as students return to class. Staff should be ready to support those students who are too upset to return to class immediately after this short period of prayer.*