

Introduction to the Funeral of The Rev'd Dr John Hughes

Like all of you, I have continued to find it hard to come to terms with John's death. We were in no way ready for him to be taken from us. We have lost a fine priest and passionate pastor, as Dean of Jesus and as confessor and guide. The Church has lost a lifetime's contribution of fruitful, rigorous and wise public theology. We miss a wonderful human being and friend. We miss that welcoming and sometimes mischievous gap-toothed smile. We pray with and for Janet and Hywell as they grieve the loss of their child.

More than anything, we come to give thanks for a beautiful child of God who through his baptism was made part of the Body of Christ, and for whom we pray now that God will complete his perfect will for him in the company of all the saints and faithful departed. We have confidence that we are doing it the right way because we are following John's own instructions to the letter. It is one reminder, as we celebrate this Mass, how close John is to us in God.

Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely and Visitor of the College