

A Service to Celebrate the Life

— of —

Benne Simpson

31st December 1944 - 20th October 2022



Funeral Service

Mount Jerome

Victorian Chapel

Tuesday: 25th October 2022

2.30pm

Celebrant: Padraic Cawley

Entrance Music

Mandolin music, Gerry Madden

Opening Words

Padraic Cawley

Tribute to Benne

Geoff Simpson

Our Song

Wichita Lineman sung by Glen Campbell

Reading

Extract from The Coolroe Chronicles by Edna Madden-Woods

Read by Liam Madden

Poem Reading

Blackberry Picking by Seamus Heaney

Read by Helen Cole

Family and Friends Remarks

Ed Madden

Tricia Dunn

Alun Simpson

Moment of Reflection

Locus Iste by Anton Bruckner

Closing Words and Blessing

Padraic Cawley

Closing Music

Requiem, Op.48:VIII In Paradisum by Gabriel Fauré

Music as People Leave

With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm

Me Husband's Flannel Shirt

The Alpine Milkman

Blackberry-Picking

By Seamus Heaney

for Philip Hobsbaum

Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.

At first, just one, a glossy purple clot

Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.

You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet

Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it

Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for

Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger

Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots

Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.

Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills

We trekked and picked until the cans were full,

Until the tinkling bottom had been covered

With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned

Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered

With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.

We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.

But when the bath was filled we found a fur,

A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.

The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush

The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.

I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair

That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.

Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.





Benne Simpson

The Simpson family would like to welcome guests to join us to celebrate Benne's life at The Dropping Well Bar & Restaurant, Classon's Bridge, Milltown, Dublin 6, after the service.