Selected Scriptural Readings for a Funeral



St. Patrick's Parish FALLOWFIELD

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1st READING

1. A reading from the book of Job (19:23-27)

In those days Job said:
"O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold."

2. A reading from the book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

The souls of the virtuous are in the hand of God, no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, And their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little,

They will receive great good,

Because God tested them

and found them worthy of himself;

Like gold in the furnace he tried them,

and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

3. A reading from the book of Wisdom (4:7-10, 13-15)

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.

For old age is not honoured for length of time, or measured by number of years;

But understanding is grey hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners was taken up.

Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; for their soul were pleasing to the Lord,
Therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.

Yet the people saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart,
That God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

4. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6a, 7-9)

He will swallow up death forever.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food. and he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God:
We have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

5. A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:22-26)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning: Great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

6. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

At that time Michael, the great prince,
The protector of your people, shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish,
Such as has never occurred
Since nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be Delivered,
Everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
In the dust of the earth shall awake,
Some to everlasting life,
And some to shame and everlasting Contempt.
Those who are wise shall shine like the Brightness of the sky,
And those who lead many to righteousness,
Like the stars forever and ever.

7. A reading from the second book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

Judas Maccabeus took up a collection, man by man, To the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, And sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honourably, Taking account of the resurrection.

For if he had not expecting
That those who had fallen would rise again,
It would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.
But if he was looking to the splendid reward
That is laid up for those fall asleep in godliness,
It was a holy and pious thought.

Therefore he made atonement for the dead, So that they might be delivered from their sin.

8. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8)

For everything there is a season,

And a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

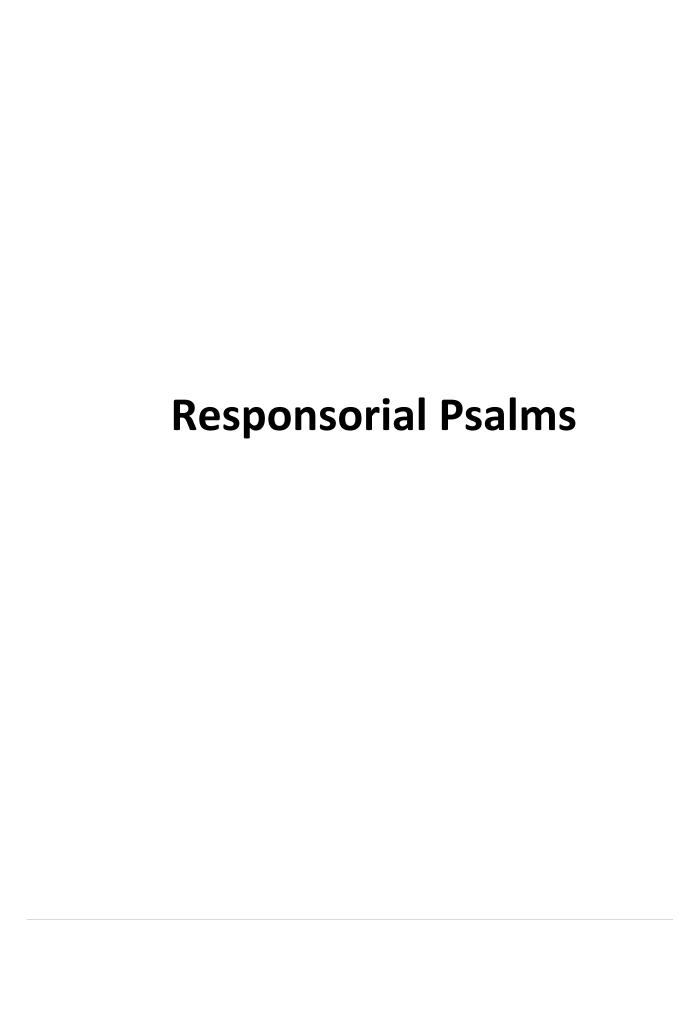
A time to love, and time to hate;

A time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

He has made everything suitable for its time.



R The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Or: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. **R**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. **R**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. **R**

R The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Or I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? **R**

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. **R**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. **R**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! R

R My soul thirsts for you, O Lord my God.

O, God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. **R**

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. **R**

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips. **R**

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. **R**

R. The Lord is merciful and gracious

Or The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **R**

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. **R**

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. **R**

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. **R**

R Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord

Or I hope in the Lord, I hope in his word

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. **R**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning. **R**

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. **R**

R Hear my prayer, O Lord.

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in our faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. **R**

I remember the days of old,
I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. R

Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. **R**

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. **R**



1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

Peter began to speak:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

"You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

All the Prophets testify about him that everyone who believe in him receives forgiveness of sins through in his name."

2. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Brothers and sister:
Hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

3. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

Brothers and sister:

If, because of the one man's trespass,
death exercised dominion through that one,
much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace
and the free gift of righteousness
exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all people, so one man's at of righteousness leads to justification and life for all people.

For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

But law came in,
With the result that the trespass multiplied;
but where sin increased,
grace abounded all the more,
so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death,
so grace might also exercise dominion
through justification leading to eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

Brothers and sisters:
Do you not know
that all of us who have been baptized in Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in the newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

5. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

Brothers and sisters:

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption to sonship.

When we cry, "Abba, Father!"
It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ if in fact, we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time Are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. The word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35, 37-39)

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died,
yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor Angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-9, 10b-12)

Brothers and sisters:
We do not live to ourselves,
and we do not die to ourselves.
If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
so then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again; so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue give praise to God."
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

8. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-26)

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then, at his coming those who belong to Christ.

9. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

Brothers and sisters:
Listen, I will tell you a mystery!
We will not all die,
but we will be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised imperishable,
and we will be changed.
For this perishable body must put on imperishability,
and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10. A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart.

Even though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction Is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,

Because we look not at what can be seen But at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

11. A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens.

So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what he or she has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2nd READING

12. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (3:20-21)

Brothers and sisters:
Our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour,
the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will transform the body of our humiliation
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,
by the power that also enables him
to make all things subject to himself.

13. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-14, 18)

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus,
God will bring with him those who have died.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will also by no means precede those who have died.

For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the Archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

14. A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (2:8-13)

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David that is my Gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

The saying is sure:
If we have died with him,
we will also live with him:
if we endure,
we will also reign with him:
if we deny him,
he will also deny us:
if we are faithless,
he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

15. A reading from the first letter of John (3:1-2)

Beloved:

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

16. A reading from the first letter of John (3:14-16)

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters.

Whoever does not love abides in death.
Whoever hates a brother or sister is a murderer,
and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

17. A reading from the book of Revelation (14:13)

And I, John, heard a voice from heaven saying,
"Write this:
Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord."

"Yes," says the Spirit,
"they will rest from their labours,
for their deeds follow them."

18. A reading from the book of Revelation (20:11-21:1)

Then I, John, saw a great white throne and the one sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.

Also another book was opened, the book of life.

And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books.

And the sea gave up all the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire;

and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more.

19. A reading from the book of Revelation (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among humans. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more death; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said: "See, I am making all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.
The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be my son."



1. Matthew 5: 1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; And after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they will be filled.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
For the will receive mercy.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
And utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, For your reward is great in heaven."

2. Matthew 11: 25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus said,
"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
Because you have hidden these things from the wise and the
intelligent and have revealed them to infants;
Yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

He continued:

"All things have been handed over to me by my Father; And no one knows the Son except the Father, And no one knows the Father except the Son And anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, All you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, And I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; For I am gentle and humble in heart, And you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

3. John 6: 37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, And anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; For I have come down from heaven, Not to do my own will, But the will of him who sent me.

And this is the will of him who sent me,
That I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,
But raise it up on the last day.
This is indeed the will of my Father,
That whoever sees the Son and believes in him
May have eternal life;
And I will raise them up on the last day."

4. John 11: 21 -27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him,

"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever believes in me,

Even though they die, will live,

And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

She said to him,
"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,
The Son of God,
The one coming into the world."

5. John 14: 1 – 6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told you
That I go and prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
So that where I am, there you may be also.
And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him,
"Lord, we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except though me."