
**BLESSING OF THE
HEADSTONE**

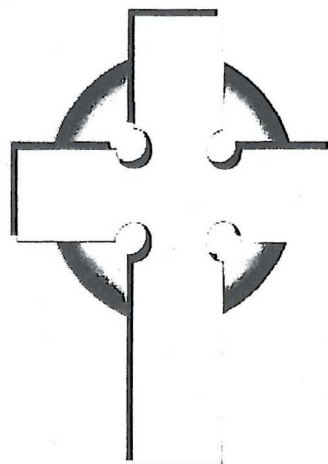
of

Frans Buyssens

Died February 1915

Henri Burghys

Died June 1915



28th November 2016
Northwich Town Cemetery

Hymn

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Lord who changes not, abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour.
What but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with you at hand to bless,
though ills have weight, and tears their bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.

Hold now your Word before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte

Opening Prayer

Lord, You have made your people a pilgrim church, to be welcomed by you into its eternal home. Bless our gathering in this cemetery as we remember Frans and Henri who are at rest in you. May this place, prepared in the sure hope of the resurrection, never cease to remind us of the life that we are to share in Christ, who will transform our earthly bodies to be like his in glory, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

John 14: 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should not have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

Prayers of Intercession

As a community of believers we now pray not only for Michael and ourselves, but for the Church and for the world in which we live.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Prayer of Blessing

God our Father, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, bless this Memorial Stone with which we mark the resting place of Frans and Henri. May they have everlasting life and rejoice in You with your saints forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Speakers

Monsieur John Meeus ~ Honorary Consul for Belgium
Town Mayor ~ Mr Kevin Rimmer
Mr Tim Grady ~ Chester University
Mr Alan Lowe

Eternal Life

Today or tomorrow, when we stand by the graves, or when our hearts must seek distant graves, where perhaps not even a cross stands over them any longer; when we pray, "Lord, grant them eternal rest, and may perpetual light shine upon them..."

They, in their turn, hidden in the peace of the eternal God, utter the prayer of their love for us: "Lord, grant eternal rest to them whom we love as never before – in your love. Grant it to them who still walk the hard road of pilgrimage. We, although silent, are now closer to them than ever before, closer than when we were sojourning and struggling along with them on earth."

Karl Rahner

