**Poem read by children of Our Lady’s School**

We would like to share a poem that we have prepared for Fr Michael.

God’s Garden

God looked around the garden and saw an empty space.

He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful for he only takes the best.

He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb.

So he closed your weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone;

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

God looked around the garden, and saw an empty space.

He looked down upon the earth, and saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful for he only takes the best.

He knew that you were weary, and He knew it was time to depart,

He knew that the memories of you, would stay warm within our heart,

He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb,

So He closed your weary eyelids, and whispered "Peace be thine."

Father Michael, we thank you for being the person that you were.

Through your words and actions, you taught us much about how we can choose to live and we will take that learning forward as we grow up into adults.

We thank you for all the time you spent teaching us about God and how we grow in His image.

We remember you with love in our hearts and we will cherish all memories you helped to create with the pupils, staff and governors of Our Lady School. We pray for you today and always.