

Holy Trinity School Christmas Church Service: 17th December 2021

Mrs Rodenas' Speech to Celebrate the Life of Nishat Dossa

Good morning,

Thank you for joining our Christmas service of celebration and joy as we give thanks for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As our wonderful community of Holy Trinity joins together this morning, it is the perfect opportunity to give thanks for the life of Nishat Dossa, a very dear friend to our school who touched our lives in so many uplifting ways.

We most warmly welcome Nishat's husband, Abbas, her dear children Aasiyah and Mohammed Kumail, who are former pupils of Holy Trinity School, her Mum, Razia, her sister, Zahida and her brother, Arif. Thank you so very much for sharing this occasion to express our respect, love and appreciation for Nishat and to acknowledge all that she means to the Holy Trinity community.

I first met and knew Nishat as 'Mum'. I taught Aasiyah about 10 years ago when she was in Year 2 (that makes me feel very old now, looking at the wonderful young lady you have become!) My first impression of your Mum was what a truly lovely lady she was. Always happy, positive and glowing; her face always lit with a glorious smile. One thing struck me then and will stay with me. Nishat's absolute unconditional love for her children and how proud she was of them then and continued to be in all the time I was fortunate enough to know her.

Nishat and Abbas, chose to send Aasiyah and Mohammed-Kumail to Holy Trinity because they believe in our ethos and values. They warmly appreciated the links between Islam and Christianity and the way in which our beliefs align.

Nishat worked at Holy Trinity for a time and in true harmony with our school vision, our whole relationship with her *"grew and flourished and bore much fruit"*. Nishat was a loyal and steadfast advocate for our school. She was an enthusiastic supporter of our Rights Respecting Group at the time and treasured how right it felt for her family to be part of a faith school where children really do *"Live and Learn in the Family of God."*

The family devotedly support charities and we particularly acknowledge their continuing care and generosity for our link school, Mkanakhoti, in Malawi.

Nishat was instrumental in enhancing our education of Islam and during our RE Week in the summer term she spoke to the children on-line about Islam and what it means to be a Muslim. In essence, she felt called to support every child's spiritual journey.

Nishat shone a light for Holy Trinity; a bright and glorious beacon and we will be ever thankful for all that she was and all that she did for us.

Many of you knew Nishat and we have all lived in awe of her unfailing positivity and strength, not only during her illness, but always. She selflessly helped and encouraged others right until the end of her meaningful and generous life. Nishat was a thoroughly good and spiritual person who never said a bad word about anyone. She was an extremely important part of our community and we miss her very much. I think this was highlighted when we heard the devastating news of Nishat's death in the summer holidays and within less than 12 hours, 6 members of staff were arranging how we could attend her funeral and represent our family of Holy Trinity. Many more were unfortunately unable to attend and would have been there if they could.

Aasiyah and Mohamed Kumail, the beauty of rainbows will always remind **me** of your lovely Mum. She shared her “rainbow moments” with us and could find the positive in even the darkest days. Every single time I see a rainbow I will think of your warm and beautiful Mum. She was, and is, so proud of you both.

Please join us in a prayer for Nishat and her family:

Heavenly Father,

This morning, your community of Holy Trinity unites in prayer to thank you for the birth of your son, Jesus Christ and to pray for our dear sister, Nishat and her family. Lord, we know you hear our spoken words of praise, admiration and affection for someone who will always remain dear to us in so many ways.

*We particularly ask for your hand of comfort upon Nishat’s lovely family. Nothing can ease their sorrow as they face their first Christmas without her but we know they will find relief in each other’s love and enduring support. May they know that they are all in **our** thoughts and prayers.*

Please protect Aasiyah and Mohammed-Kumail through their journeys in life, safe in the knowledge that their Mum walks beside them every step of the way.

Father, we know you hear our prayer. Thank you.

Amen

Abbas, Aasiyah, Mohammed-Kumail, Razia, Zahida and Arif, we will never forget your wife, mother, daughter and sister. She will always have a special place at the heart of this school. We wish you strength and comfort in the coming time. We hope you know we are always here for you as Nishat was always here for us...please do always come back for a Christmas Bizarre or Easter Extravaganza. Thank you so much for coming. God bless you all.