# **Books** (and more) to help you explore the culture of death and dying

Our recommendations this year come from contributors including **Dying Matters** supporters, hospice professionals and academics.



# **Every Time I Find The Meaning Of Life, They Change It**

by Daniel Klein

"This book was gifted to me by a friend after a bereavement. It's been my constant recommendation already." The words of Reinhold Niebuhr set the tone for a wryly humorous look at philosophical pronouncements on the most important question we can face.

Aongola, Dying Matters supporter



#### The Soul of Rumi

by Coleman Barks, Jalal Al-Din Rumi

Famous poet Rumi's reflections on death, the afterlife and the soul's journey; exploring death not as an end but a reunion with Divine. Rumi's poetry grows out of the rich soil of Sufism, and speaks to people of all religions and spiritual paths.

#### **Prof Dr Syed Qamar Abbas**,

Medical Director at St Clare Hospice



# Living with the Dead

by Professor Laura King

The dead are everywhere in family life. From a greatgrandmother's recipe, and an old photo of a family on a beach, to a much-told story of fleeing a home, families are made by their pasts. This book charts the way families create afterlives for their ancestors, asking who and what gets to be remembered, and why.

Chris, Dying Matters Supporter



### A Gift for the Bereaved Parent

by Zamir Hussain

The loss of a child is painful for any parent; at these times people often turn to their faith. Exploring this need from the Islamic perspective, this book gives permission to be human whilst offering comfort, healing and gentle encouragement through the grief.

Tara Mahmood, South Asian Support Worker at Forget Me Not Children's Hospice





# **Podcast: On the Marie Curie Couch**

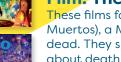
with Dr Amir Khan

"If you go to a Muslim graveyard, it's actually a really positive place, and there are lots of families there. It's not quiet at any point in the day." Dr Amir Khan talks about the Muslim cultural customs that happen when a loved



& Research Lead at LOROS Hospice

Dr Zoebia Islam, Consultant in Palliative Medicine



## Film: The Book of Life, & Coco

These films focus on the Day of the Dead (Dia De Los Muertos), a Mexican holiday reuniting the living and dead. They spark conversations about talking openly about death, remembering others through shared stories; and becoming more at ease with dying.

**Dr Jane Lavery**, Associate Professor in Latin American Studies at the University of Southampton



