



PARISH FUNERAL GUIDE

Scripture Readings – Prayer of the Faithful
Music & Hymns – Words of Appreciation

God will be your everlasting light

(Isaiah 60:19)

South Dublin Deanery

Partnership of Parishes:

Rathfarnham

Churchtown

Ballyroan

Marley Grange

Ballyboden

Knocklyon

Templeogue

Terenure

Willington

Greenhills

Kimmage Manor

PEACE AT LAST

May the Lord support us all the day long,
till the shades lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then in His mercy, may He give us
a safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last.

St. John Henry Newman

Print & Design: Mark Daniel, CRM Design & Print, Unit 6 Bridgecourt Office Park,
Walkinstown, Dublin 12. Tel: (01) 429 0007

Layout & Photography: Fr. John Bracken

Scripture From *The Jerusalem Bible* © by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.

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Introduction

As a parish community we extend our deep sympathy to you on this sad occasion. We will pray with you and for you as you mourn the loss of your loved one. The Priest, Deacon and members of the Parish Funeral Ministry Team will give you every possible support at this difficult time. The team will assist in helping you to organise a Christian funeral with the help of the comforting rituals that the church has to offer the bereaved.

The Christian funeral liturgy carries a message of comfort and hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom. We would like it to reflect your faith and invite you to become involved with the priest/deacon and the funeral ministers in the preparation of the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – LITURGY OF THE WORD

In this booklet there is a selection of scripture readings and prayers of the faithful. God's word provides the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes. Members of your family or friends may like to read during the Mass. If not, the celebrant or the funeral ministers will organise this for you.

If you are printing a Funeral booklet please ensure that the Scripture Readings are the same translation as found in this book.

Order of Readings / Prayers at a Funeral Mass / Service

Symbols of Life (optional)

1. 1st Reading Old Testament (pages 6-8)
2. Responsorial Psalm *Usually Sung* (page 9)
3. 2nd Reading New Testament (pages 10-14)
4. Gospel – *Read by Priest/Deacon* (pages 15-17)
5. Homily – *Short reflection given by Priest/Deacon*
6. Prayer of the Faithful – *Intercessions – 5 maximum* (page 18-19)
7. Optional Words of Appreciation (3-5 minutes)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL: You may, if you wish, compose some Prayers of the Faithful or select some from the list in this book on pages 18 & 19.

APPROPRIATE LIFE SYMBOLS: Representing the life of your loved one may be presented at the beginning of the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service.

GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE: We invite members of your family to present the Offertory Gifts at the Funeral Mass.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION: Some short words may be given to speak about the deceased and the way in which their life was God's gift to the world and to express thanks to a wide circle of the community who showed their Christian love and care during the final illness and since the death.

HYMN / MUSIC CHOICES: Suitable hymns and liturgical music can bring comfort and enhance our prayer. On pages 20 & 21, you will find a list of liturgical music.

FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM: Members of our Parish team will be present to support your family and accompany those involved with the Funeral Mass/Liturgy. Members of the Team may be involved in leading some of the prayers at the family home or the funeral home, in the church or at the graveside or crematorium.



Funeral Service without Mass

OPENING RITES

Entrance Hymn – Placing of Christian Symbols (Cross, Bible, Pall)

Optional – (Life Symbols/Family Words of Appreciation)

Opening Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading – (*Old Testament – pages 6-8*)

Responsorial Psalm – *Usually Sung*

2nd Reading – (*New Testament – pages 10-14*)

Gospel Acclamation – *Usually Sung*

Gospel (*Read by Priest/Deacon*)

The Homily (*Short reflection given by Priest/Deacon*)

Prayer of the Faithful (*See pages 18-19*)

The Lord's Prayer – Our Father

Suitable Poem/Reflection

Words of Appreciation / Eulogy (*optional*)

FINAL COMMENDATION TO THE LORD

Final Prayers of Farewell

Recessional Hymn and Procession

The Funeral Service may be led by a Priest, Deacon
or a trained and commissioned lay leader from the Parish Funeral Team.

The Funeral Mass

OPENING RITES

Entrance Hymn – Placing of Christian Symbols (Cross, Bible, Pall)
Optional – (Life Symbols/Family Words of Appreciation)
Opening Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading – (*Old Testament – pages 6-8*)
Responsorial Psalm – *Usually Sung*
2nd Reading – (*New Testament – pages 10-14*)
Gospel Acclamation – *Usually Sung*
Gospel (*Read by Priest/Deacon*)
The Homily (*Short reflection given by Priest/Deacon*)
Prayer of the Faithful (*See pages 18-19*)

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Gifts: Bread & Wine
Prayer over the Gifts – Preface
Eucharistic Prayer & Acclamations
Sanctus – *Holy Holy ...*
Mystery of Faith – Amen

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer – Our Father
Communion Hymn(s)
Post Communion Prayer and Blessing
Words of Appreciation / Eulogy (*optional*)

FINAL COMMENDATION TO THE LORD

Final Prayers of Farewell
Recessional Hymn and Procession

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING 1

Isaiah 25: 6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord will destroy death for ever.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: see, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2

Isaiah 60: 19-20

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

God will be your everlasting light.

No more will the sun give you daylight, nor the moonlight shine on you, but God will be your everlasting light, your God will be your splendour. Your sun will set no more, nor your moon wane, but God will be your everlasting light and your days of mourning will be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 3

Isaiah 41: 9-10, 13-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Do not be afraid, for I am your God.

'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off. Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. For I, the Lord Your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you: Do not fear, I will help you. Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.'

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 4

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah (17:5-8).

Thus says the Lord:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord.

They are like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 5

Ezekiel 34: 11-16

A reading from the Prophet Ezekial.

For the Lord Yahweh says this; I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of them in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of them, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness.

I myself will pasture my sheep. I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord Yahweh who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandaged the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 6

Ecclesiasticus / Sirach 44: 10-15

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

Next let us praise illustrious people, or ancestors in their successive generations. The Lord has created abundance of glory and displayed his greatness from earliest times. Some wielded authority as kings and were renowned for their strength; others were intelligent advisers and uttered prophetic oracles.

Others directed people by their advice, by their understanding of the popular mind, and by the wise words of their teaching; others composed musical melodies, and set down ballads; others were rich and powerful, living peacefully in their homes.

But here a list of generous people whose good works have not been forgotten.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 7

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Everything is beautiful in its time.

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is
planted;
a time to break down, and a time to heal;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
and a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast 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 cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
God has made everything beautiful in its time.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 8

Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

They are at peace with God.

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are at peace.

If they experienced punishment as we see it, their hope was rich in immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.

God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust.

They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 9

Job 19: 1.23-27

A reading from the book of Job.

This I know: that my Redeemer lives.

Job said: 'Ah, would that these words of mine were written down, inscribed on some monument with iron chisel and engraving tool, cut into the rock for ever.

This I know: that my Redeemer lives, and he, the Last, will take his stand on earth. After my awaking, he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God. He whom I shall see will take my part: these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 10

Wisdom 4: 7-10, 12-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

A blameless life, this is ripe old age. (NRJB)

The upright, even dying before due time, will find rest.

The honour of old age comes not from length of days, is not measured by number of years; understanding – this is grey hairs, a blameless life – this is ripe old age.

Found pleasing to God, such a person has been loved; living among sinners, they are set free, Perfection soon won brought the goal of long years; such a soul was pleasing to the Lord and was plucked from the midst of evil, while those who look on cannot understand, cannot get it into their heads.

There is grace and mercy for his chosen ones and care for his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalms *(May be read or sung)*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 1

Psalm 22

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd:
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd:
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R)**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 2

Psalm 41

Response:

**My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life.**

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. **(R)**

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? **(R)**

O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell. **(R)**

And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. **(R)**

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1

Romans 6: 3-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Let us live a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 2

Romans 14: 7-12

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 3

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 13:1-13

Love does not come to an end

(If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever).

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 4

Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

We shall stay with the Lord for ever.

We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died.

At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever.

With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 5

1 John 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

We shall see him as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is that, when it is revealed, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord.



NEW TESTAMENT READING 6

1 John 4: 7-12,16

A reading from the first letter of St John.

God is love.

Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way; God sent his only son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 7

Revelation 14: 13

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Happy are those who die in the Lord!

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 8

Revelation 21: 1-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

There will be no more death.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among his people. He will make his home among them; they will be his people, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new,' he said. 'I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty.'

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 9

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 5:1.6-9

When our earthly life is over, God has an everlasting house built for us in heaven

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

Our homeland is in heaven

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:14-23

What we suffer in this life can never compare to the glory which is waiting for us. Everyone moved by the Spirit is a child of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into our lives again; it is the spirit of sons and daughters, and it makes us cry out Abba, Father!

The spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God and if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory. I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 12

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy 4:5-8

I have fought the good fight to the end, I have run the race to the finish

Be careful always to choose the right course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's work, in thoroughgoing service.

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamations *(if not sung)*

1. Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in Him has eternal life.

Alleluia!

2. Alleluia, alleluia!

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever believes in me will never die.'

Alleluia!

3. Alleluia, alleluia!

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven,' says the Lord; 'anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

Alleluia!

4. Alleluia, alleluia!

Those who hope in you, O Lord, shall not be disappointed!

Alleluia!

During the season of Lent 'Alleluia' is replaced by: 'Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ'.

Gospel Readings (Often chosen by the Priest or Deacon)

GOSPEL READING 1

Matthew 5: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people revile you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING 2

Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and enter into his glory?

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening,’ they said, ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING 3

John 6: 37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

Jesus said to the crowd:
'All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me.

Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING 4

John 11:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you'. 'Your brother,' Jesus said to her, 'will rise again'. Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'.

Jesus said:
'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



GOSPEL READING 5

John 12: 23-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a wheat grain dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a person serves me, that person must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING 6

John 14: 1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There are many rooms in my Father's house.

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 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



Prayer of the Faithful

One or more of the family members may read the prayers. Please choose four to six of the following, adapting them to suit your own particular family situation. Also feel free to compose some of your own.

Celebrant: Let us call upon God, the Almighty Father, who raised Christ his Son from the dead, for the salvation of the living and the dead.

Reader/s:

1. Let us pray for the whole Church, that we may be prepared for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

2. Let us pray for the family, relatives and friends who will miss N....., that they may find strength and consolation in their faith and in the love and support of this community.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

3. In baptism N..... received the light of Christ. May that light lead him/her out of the darkness of death into eternal life.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

4. For all the family, that they may feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

5. For all here present, that we may draw inspiration from the example of N..... and so strive to live out in our own lives Christ's commandment to love.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

6. Lord, grant that as we grieve for N....., we may hold his/her memory dear and live in the hope of eternal life where you will bring us together again.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

7. God of all consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light in time of darkness, and faith in time of doubt.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

8. Lord, deepen our faith and sustain us in our dark hour of grief.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

9. Let us pray for our departed relatives and friends and all who were close to us in this life. Lord, give them the reward of their goodness.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

10. Lord we thank you for the gift of life and for the special charisms that each of us has been given. May we continue to use them for your honour and glory.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

(in the case of someone who suffered long illness)

11. We pray for all who cared for N....., in particular we pray for the doctors, nurses and medical staff (name of place). Reward them for their tireless and dedicated work.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

12. Lord, as we gather here today, help us to be aware of your unconditional love for each one of us.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Celebrant:

Father, lead us from the faith by which we know you in this life, to the vision of your glory in the life to come.

We ask you this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



*The Crucifixion – Patrick Pollen
St. John the Evangelist Church, Ballinteer*



*The Resurrection – Patrick Pollen
St. John the Evangelist Church, Ballinteer*

Hymns for Funeral Liturgy

Below is a selection of Hymns that express the richness of our Christian faith in the Lord's death and resurrection and will contribute to the prayerful atmosphere of a Christian funeral. The texts of the songs chosen for the funeral rite should express Christian belief in the resurrection and be related to Scripture.

Choosing appropriate hymns for the funeral liturgy is essential to encourage active participation from the congregation. Particular attention should be given to the Entrance and Communion Hymns, as they hold special significance. The parish team, together with the experienced Singer or Organist, will provide guidance in making suitable musical choices.

In the Order of Christian Funerals we find the following words of consolation: *'Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love.'* (OCF 30) Music at funerals *'should support, console and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory.'* (OCF 31)

The music choice is always an expression of our Christian faith and reflects Gospel values. While a recessional hymn is considered the norm, an alternative piece of music, suitable for use in Church, may be considered, as the Christian funeral Mass has been completed.

HYMNS FOR A FUNERAL MASS OR LITURGICAL SERVICE

Entrance suggestions:

- Christ be beside me
- Abide with me
- Amazing Grace
- Be still my soul
- Be thou my vision
- Holy God we praise thy name
- Morning has broken
- Be not afraid
- Come to me
- Gather us together
- How great thou art
- I know that my redeemer lives
- Jesus Christ is risen today
- Nearer my God to thee
- The King of love my Shepherd is
- You are mine
- There are many rooms

Responsorial psalm suggestions:

- Mo Ghrá Thú, a Thiarna
- The Lord is my shepherd
- Sé an Tiarna m'aoire
- On Eagle's wings
- The hiding place
- Like the deer that yearns for running streams
- Be not afraid
- Yahweh, I know you are near
- Here I am lord
- Shepherd me, O God
- To you O lord, I lift up my soul
- The Lord is my light
- I will never forget you my people
- My soul is thirsting

Offertory Suggestions:

- In bread we bring you Lord
- As I kneel before you
- Take our bread
- Receive O Father in thy love
- Gifts of bread and wine
- Ag Críost an Síol
- I am the bread of life
- Lord accept the gifts we offer

Communion Suggestions:

- Sweet sacrament divine
- Panis Angelicus
- Love is his word
- Take and eat
- Be thou my vision
- Be still my soul
- I am the bread of life
- Love is his word
- Be still for the presence of the lord
- Pie Jesu Fauré – Lloyd Webber
- Gift of finest wheat
- Here I am Lord
- I have loved you
- One bread One body
- There's a place
- There are many rooms
- Ave Maria – Gounod/Schubert
- The Beatitudes
- Céad Mile Fáilte Romhat
- Failte romhat, a rí na n-aingeal
- A Mhuire Mháthair, sé seo mo ghui

Recessional Suggestions:

- Songs of the Angels
- Nearer My God to thee
- How great thou art
- Going home
- The Lord bless you and keep you
- Lord of all hopefulness
- I'll walk with God
- *In Paradisum*
- You are mine
- Steal away to Jesus
- May the road rise to meet you
- Queen of the May (*May*)
- Hail Queen of Heaven
- Abide with me



Words of Appreciation

While it is not actually part of the Christian Funeral Rite, on some occasions an appreciation is given by a relative or a friend of the deceased.

The celebrant will, in the homily, reflect on what you have shared about your loved one and the way in which their life was God's gift to the world.

Best practice suggests the following:

- A short tribute on behalf of the family is possible but not obligatory. People should feel totally free not to have one. The Words of Appreciation should be suitable for delivery in a Church recognising the dignity and reverence of the Funeral Mass/Liturgical Service.
- Reminiscences or stories are more suited to a non-liturgical setting, the words should speak about the deceased and the way in which their life was God's gift to others. The content and time for the Words of Appreciation should be discussed with the celebrant during the planning of the Funeral.
- It should be brief, no longer than five minutes, written down and delivered by one person. It should only contain words of tribute to the deceased and of thanks to those who have helped and supported the family during this time.
- An immediate family member may not always be the best person to offer the Words of Appreciation, particularly if they are not accustomed to public speaking or overcome with grief, someone close to the family could be more suitable.
- Only one person should be assigned to speak on behalf of the family. If more than one person would like to speak please discuss this with the celebrant.

The appropriate time for these Words of Appreciation is:

- At the evening Reception of the Body at the Church.
- At the beginning of the Funeral Mass/Service.
- At the conclusion of the Funeral before the Prayers of Commendation and Farewell.
- At the Crematorium/Graveside or family gathering after the funeral.

Names of those involved in the Funeral Mass/Liturgy

First Reading Number Page

Name of Reader:

Psalm:
(May be sung)

Second Reading Number Page

Name of Reader:

(If Alleluia is not sung, read one of the Gospel Acclamations on page 14).

Gospel and Homily

Celebrant

Prayer of the Faithful

(Please choose 4 or 5 from those given in this booklet, or similar)

Offertory Procession

(Gifts of bread and wine only)

Words of Appreciation/Eulogy (3-5 minutes)

During times of grief, we understand that it may be difficult to read during the service. Please do not worry. If you let us know in advance, a member of our parish community will be available to read the Scripture Readings and the Prayer of the Faithful on your behalf.



Additional Symbols – Memory Table

(Additional Symbols are optional in any funeral liturgy. They always focus on God and celebrating the person's Christian life. The celebrant will invite you to bring them to the memory table after the words of welcome).

Item:

Presented by:

Meaning:

Item:

Presented by:

Meaning:

Item:

Presented by:

Meaning:

Item:

Presented by:

Meaning:



Building Hope

South Dublin Deanery – Archdiocese of Dublin

St. Enda's Partnership:

Rathfarnham

Churchtown

Ballyroan

Marley Grange

Ballyboden

Knocklyon

Dóchas Partnership:

Templeogue

Terenure

Willington

Greenhills

Kimmage Manor

Celebrant contact details

Name: _____

Tel No.: _____

Email: _____

The celebrant will need to know the readings you have chosen the day before the funeral.

Funeral Ministry Team – contact details

Name: _____

Tel No.: _____

Contact details
for Parish Office: _____

*Members of the Funeral Team will be present to support your family and accompany the participants on the day.
There are several Bethany Bereavement groups in our area, contact can be made through our Parish office
or see details on our website.*

SONGS OF THE ANGELS

May songs of the angels welcome you and
guide you along your way.

May the smiles of the martyrs greet your own
as darkness turns into day.

Every fear will be undone and death will be no more.

As songs of the angels bring you home before the face of God.

Songs of the Angels (©G.I.A. Bob Dufford)

