

# Funeral Liturgy

**The Following Booklet provides a selection of Readings, Prayers and Reflections.**



## **THE FUNERAL RITES OF THE CHURCH**

The death of a Christian is not the end of life, but rather a transformation in an onward journey towards eternal life with God. We believe that this call to eternal life begins for all Christians in the waters of baptism. Nevertheless, for those family and friends who are bereaved there is sadness in parting, and death when it comes, even when it has been expected, such as after a long illness, always leaves a sense of loss and shock. The Catholic Church has over many centuries developed a rich tradition in its liturgy for funerals. The liturgy seeks to balance the need to console those who are mourning the hope in Christ who is our “life and our resurrection”. The Catholic funeral rites commend the deceased to the mercy of God, as we give thanks to God for the life of a Christian we pray that God may forgive whatever sins the deceased may have committed through human weakness.

*God wanted to save us by plunging to the bottom of the abyss of death himself so that every one even the one who has fallen so low that they can no longer see the sky may find and take hold of the hand of God. Pope Benedict XVI*

Many of the **symbols** used during the funeral liturgy reflect the sacrament of Baptism – it is through Baptism that our loved one has already shared Christ’s death and resurrection. At the Funeral Mass we offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God, we are strengthened by our belief in the resurrection and find strength and consolation through our faith in God.

**The Reception of the Deceased** at the entrance to the church is a reminder that the church is the home of all Christians. At Baptism, we were received at the same door and the sprinkling of holy water at this time reminds us of the person's Baptism and initiation into the community of faith.

**The Placing of the Pall** on the casket serves to remind us of the white garment received at Baptism.

**The Paschal Candle** reminds us of Christ, the Light of the World, His victory over sin and death and of our share in that victory by virtue of our baptism. The Paschal candle reminds us of the Easter vigil, the night when we await the Lord's resurrection and when new light for the living and the dead is kindled.

**Incense** is used during the final commendation at the Funeral Mass as a sign of honour to the body of the deceased, which through baptism became the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is also a sign of our prayers for the deceased rising to our Lord and as a symbol of farewell.

**The Cross** that is usually placed in or on the casket is a reminder that we, as Christians, were marked with the cross in baptism and through Jesus' suffering on the cross, we are brought to his resurrection.

**White Vestments**, the colour used through the Easter season of the Church are worn by the presiding priest as an expression of Christian joy.

**The Readings, Prayers and Psalms** proclaim to us the promise of eternal life, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom and support the witness of Christian life. Family members also have the choice of choosing the readings and the psalm appropriate for their loved one. During the Funeral Mass a total of three readings are recommended. Family or friends of the deceased are welcome to proclaim the first two readings while the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel.

**The Presentation of the Gifts** is the ritual in which bread, wine and water are brought to the altar. Family members or friends of the deceased are invited to serve as gift bearers and in so doing serve as a reminder to all present of our commitment to become what we will soon share – the Body and Blood of Christ.

**The Final Commendation** at the end of Mass expresses our farewell and shows honour to one of its members, a temple of the Holy Spirit, before the body is buried. At this time the celebrant incenses the deceased, as together we entrust our loved one to our Lord and profess that we will share the resurrection with our loved one on the last day.

**The Rite of Committal** is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member. It marks the physical separation of the deceased from the mourners. It may be celebrated at the grave, at a cemetery chapel, or a crematorium. Through this simple rite the Church assists us as we complete our care of the deceased and lay the body to rest. This rite also expresses our continued link as the Community of Saints.

Your Priest is available to assist and guide you in the selection of scripture readings. All selections should be approved by the Priest. The final pages in this booklet provides a selection of Reflections and the Rosary in both English and Irish.

## **CHECKLIST FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

- First Reading (Pages 4 – 6)**
- Psalm (Pages 7 -8)**
- Second Reading (Pages 9-11)**
- Gospel Acclamation (Page 12)**
- Prayers of the Faithful (Page 12-15)**
- Procession of the Eucharistic Gift (Bread and Wine)**
- Music**

## READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

You may wish to choose any one of the following eight readings from the Old Testament.

### **1. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom. (3:1-9)**

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 men see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;  
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.  
God has put them to the test  
and proved them to be worthy with him;  
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,  
and accepted them as a holocaust.  
When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;  
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.  
they shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and  
the Lord will be their king forever.  
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.  
**This is the Word of the Lord!**

### **2. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)**

The virtuous person, though he die before his time, will find rest.  
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,  
nor number of years the measure of life;  
understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.  
He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;  
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.  
He has been carried off so that evil may not wrap his understanding  
or treachery seduce his soul;  
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;  
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,  
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.  
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;  
it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,  
and protection, his holy ones.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **3. A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus**

Let us praise the illustrious,  
our ancestors in their successive generations.  
Here is a list of the generous  
whose good works have not been forgotten.  
In their descendents there remains  
a rich inheritance born of them.  
Their descendents stand by their covenants and  
thanks to them, so do their children's children.  
Their offspring will last forever,  
their glory will not fade.  
Their bodies have been buried in peace,  
and their names live on for all generations.  
The peoples will proclaim their wisdom,  
the assembly will celebrate their praise.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **4. A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah:**

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name, you are mine.  
Should you pass through the sea, I will be with you;  
Or through the rivers, they will not swallow you up.  
Should you walk through fire, you will not be scorched and the flames will not burn you.  
For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
**This is the Word of the Lord.**

### **5. A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)**

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 forever.  
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.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **6. A reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:17-26)**

My soul is shut out from peace;  
I have forgotten happiness.  
And now I say, my strength is gone,  
that hope which came from the Lord.'  
Brooding on my anguish and affliction is gall and wormwood.  
My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me.  
This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope:

The favours of the Lord are not all past,  
His kindness is not all exhausted;  
every morning they are renewed;  
great is his faithfulness.  
'My portion is the Lord' says my soul  
'and so I will hope in him.'  
The Lord is good to those who trust him,  
to the soul that searches for him.  
It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.  
**This is the Word of the Lord.**

### **7. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes: (3:1-7,11)**

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 root up what is planted;  
A time to break down and a time to build up;  
A time to weep and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn and a time to dance;  
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 discard;  
A time to tear, and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
God has made everything suitable for its time.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **8. A reading from the Prophet Daniel, (12:1-3)**

I Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:  
'There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since the nations came into  
existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are  
found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake,  
some to everlasting life. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of Heaven, and those  
who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'  
**This is the Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

*The Psalm is a response to the Word of God which is proclaimed in the First Reading. Therefore, the Responsorial Psalm should be drawn from the Psalms in the Bible and Lectionary. The singing of Hymns of general use is not suitable at this point. The following are some suggestions; the Choir Director/Cantor/Organist may have many more.*

1. The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23)
2. My Soul is longing for your peace
3. On Eagles Wings (Psalm 91)
4. Like the deer that yearns for running streams
5. To you O Lord (Psalm 25)
6. I have searched in the silence (Psalm 17)
7. Joy was in my heart (Psalm 122)
8. For you are my God
9. The Lord will heal the broken heart (Psalm 34)
10. 'Se an Tiarna m' Aoire (Ps 23)

Most of the above have modern settings which are available in several publications and the melodies of which are easy for congregational use.

*From Psalm 26*

### **R.) The Lord is my light and my help.**

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
For this I, long,  
To live in the house of the Lord.  
All the days of my life,  
To savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
To behold his temple (R.)

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
Have mercy and answer.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
Hide not your face. (R.)

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

*From Psalm 22*

**R: 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)

*From Psalm 102*

**R The Lord is Compassion and love**  
The Lord is compassion and love.  
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
Nor repay us according to our faults. (R)

As a father has compassion on his sons,  
The Lord has pity on those who fear him;  
For he knows of what we are made, and  
He remembers that we are dust. (R)

As for man, his days are like grass;  
He flowers like the flower of the field;  
The wind blows and he is gone  
And his place never sees him again. (R)

But the love of the Lord is everlasting  
Upon those who hold him in fear;  
His justice reaches out to children's children  
When they keep his covenant in truth. (R)



## READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

You may choose any one of the following readings from the New Testament

### 9. A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

“The truth I have now come to realise”, he said, “is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody or any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

“It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ- but Jesus Christ is Lord of all. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.

“Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses- we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead- and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name”.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

### 10. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

You have been taught that 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. 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 more power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

### 11. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

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 that he might be both Lord of the dead and 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 God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**12. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8:35, 37-39)**

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food and clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**13. A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (5:1,6-10)**

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

We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight, - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord.

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what we deserve for the things we did in the body, good and bad.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**14. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians (3:20-21)**

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 wretched 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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**15. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians (3:8,10-14)**

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. All I want is to know is Christ and the power of his Resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you, I am far from thinking I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**16. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)**

We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like 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. 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 into 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 we will comfort one another.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**17. A Reading from the letter of St. John (4: 9-11)**

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God but God's loves for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**18. A Reading from the first letter of St. Peter (1:3-9)**

Blessed be the God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth by raising up Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared for you has been revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**19. A Reading from the first letter of St. John (3:1-2)**

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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Gospel Acclamation should be sung as it anticipates one of the important parts of the Eucharistic celebration. The verses can be taken from the Gospel to be read at the Mass or alternatively one of the following can be used:

- 1. I am the Resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me will never die.*
- 2. Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened; and I will give you rest, says the Lord*
- 3. I am the way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*
- 4. It is my Father's will, says the Lord. That whoever believes in the Son shall have eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

Please remember that the word "Alleluia" is not said or sung during the Season of Lent. Alternative Acclamations can include "Praise to you Lord Jesus!"

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

You may like to choose 5 or 6 or more prayers from the list below. Feel free to use these to suit circumstances.

The Priest begins with an Opening invitation to prayer and the reader(s) read(s) the chosen prayers. The priest then concludes the prayers with a closing prayer.

**Celebrant:** We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so it will be for those who died believing in him. God will bring them with him. With confidence, then, we offer our prayers.

### **Prayer No 1 - General Intentions: (Choose one)**

1. For Christians all over the world that the event of Christ's Death and Resurrection may touch them and all of us here in a real and graced way. **Lord, hear us.**
2. Let us pray for (N) our Holy Father (N) our Bishop and all those who proclaim the consolation of Christ's death and resurrection to families and communities in sorrow. Increase their faith and make them bearers of lasting and meaningful hope. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For the Church: that we may grow in our faith in Jesus' power over death. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For all our political and civil leaders: that they may be faithful to their promises and commitments. **Lord, hear us.**

### **Prayer No 2- For the Sick: (Choose One)**

5. We pray for those in advanced years; that they, like N, may accept long life with grace and courage, and that society may grant to the elderly a special place and reverence. **Lord, hear us.**
6. We pray for those who bear the anxious and uncertain burden of serious illness, and for those who share their suffering, for carers at home and in hospital; that all may know the gentle and caring touch of Christ. **Lord, hear us.**

7. We pray for the sick - especially the burden of serious illness, and for those who share their sufferings, caring for the sick at home and in hospital; that all may know the strength of Christ's presence with him in their time of need. **Lord, hear us.**

8. We pray for those who have life threatening illnesses; that medical research will find ways to combat disease and its unwelcome effects on families. **Lord, hear us.**

**Prayer No 3- For those who Care for the Sick (Choose One)**

9. Let us pray in thanksgiving for those who tended to N in his/her illness; (Doctors, nurses, medical staff, carers, home help personnel); Lord we thank you for the gifts you have bestowed on these members of our community and we ask you to bless them N. **Lord, hear us.**

10. Let us pray for all those who minister to the dying; that they may care with gentle hearts and hands and be examples to us all of God's unending love. **Lord, hear us.**

**Prayer No 4- For those who mourn: (Choose One)**

11. Let us pray for all who mourn our sister/our brother N's death. Lord we ask you to comfort them in sorrow. Fill the emptiness in their hearts with the presence of your everlasting love; bless them and wipe away every tear. **Lord, hear us.**

12. We pray for all who mourn N; that they may be assured of Christ's closeness to them in their sorrow and find strength and comfort through their faith in the eternal life granted to us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Saviour. **Lord, hear us.**

13. Let us pray for those who cannot be here today, especially Ns..... We present to the Lord their grieving, their loss, their mourning and their desire to be here. **Lord, hear us.**

**Prayer No 5- For our own needs:**

14. Let us in silence make our own personal prayers and petitions (pause for 30 seconds) Lord, hear us.

15. Let us pray that the emptiness of our lives may gradually be filled with the love we know from others and from Christ and from the hope which his Resurrection gives to the whole Church, we pray. Lord, hear us.

**Prayer No 6- For the one who has died: (Choose One or Two)**

16. As we reflect on the contribution of N to his/her family, friends and the wider community let us remember him/her with affection, may we seek strive for perfection in the service of Christ, his Church and the community in general. **Lord, hear us.**

17. We pray for N who leaves us in death, that God the Father will lead N safely home and share with him/her the joys of the Kingdom - light, happiness and peace. **Lord, hear us.**

18. As we remember **N**, a good and generous person created in the image and likeness of God, may we always know and recognise and find God in every human being we meet along the way. **Lord, hear us.**

19. Let us pray in thanksgiving for the life of **N**, for all the love s/he gave and for all the many good ways through which s/he touched the lives of others. May **N** be found worthy of the gift of eternal life. **Lord, hear us.**

#### **Prayer No 7-For the deceased members of the (N) Family**

**20. God our Father, you have gathered us all into the family of your love. We pray for the deceased members of the (N) family (or (N) and (N) families).** We remember especially his/her

- deceased parents (N)
- sons and daughters (N)
- brothers and sister (N)
- others (N)

**May the light of Christ shine on them. Lord hear us.**

#### **Prayer No 8- For all the dead**

21. As we pray for **N let us remember** all the deceased, those we have loved and cherished; all the dead of this parish; those who died recently and all those with no one to remember them.

May God welcome them into the radiant light of his presence. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant: Father, we thank you for your love and support. Receive your servant N with love and kindness; strengthen us in faith and hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### *Sample Prayers of the Faithful 1*

**Celebrant: Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to God except through him. Let us pray with confidence through him who shared our earthly exile in order to bring us to our heavenly home.**

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader(s):**

N., has departed her (his) earthly home; may she (he) reach the joy and peace of God's house. **Lord, hear us.**

That Christ may have mercy on her (him), forgive her (his) sins, and bring her (him) to everlasting life. **Lord, hear us.**

For those who mourn for her (him): that they may be comforted by the hope that she (he) has gone to her (his) everlasting home. **Lord, hear us.**

For all here present: that nothing in this life may cause us to forget our eternal home. **Lord, hear us.**

For our deceased relatives and friends: that the Lord may bring them into the light of his presence. **Lord, hear us.**

*Priest:*

**Lord, may you support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen, and evening falls, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done; then in your mercy, Lord, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN**

**Prayers of the Faithful Sample 2**

*Priest:* **God is the beginning and the end of our earthly journey. He is also our unfailing companion during it. Let us place our prayers before him with confidence.**

*Response:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader(s):*

That God may welcome N., whose earthly pilgrimage is ended, into his kingdom of light and peace. **Lord, hear us.**

That the light of God's mercy may banish the darkness of his (her) sins. **Lord, hear us.**

For those who mourn for him (her): that God may fill them with hope through believing. **Lord, hear us.**

For ourselves: that we may continue our earthly journey, steadfast in faith and joyful in hope. **Lord, hear us.**

For our departed relatives and friends: that freed from every shadow of death, they may take their place in the new creation. **Lord, hear us.**

*Priest:*

**Lord, it is from you we come when we enter this world, and it is to you we go when we leave it. In your unfailing mercy, guard our coming and our going, so that nothing in life or death may separate us from you.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

### Entrance

#### **Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

#### **Morning Has Broken - Lyrics By Eleanor Farjeon**

Morning has broken,  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird;  
Praise for the singing,  
Praise for the morning,  
Praise for them springing  
Fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall,  
Sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass;  
Praise for the sweetness,  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness

Where his feet pass.  
Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play;  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day



**Abide with me.**

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 Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;  
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,  
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.  
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,  
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea—  
Come, Friend of sinners, and thus abide with me.

**Sweet Heart of Jesus.**

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Fount of love and mercy,  
Today we come thy blessings to implore;  
Oh touch our hearts so cold and so ungrateful,  
And make them Lord, thine own for evermore.

*Sweet Heart of Jesus! We implore,  
Oh, make us love thee, more and more.*

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Make us know and love thee.  
Unfold to us the treasures of thy grace.  
That so our hearts, from things of earth uplifted,  
May long alone to gaze upon thy face.

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Make us pure and gentle  
And teach us how to do thy blessed will;  
To follow close the print of thy dear footsteps,  
And when we fall, sweet heart oh, love us still.

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Bless all hearts that love thee,  
And make thine own heart ever blessed be.  
Bless us dear Lord, and bless the friends we cherish,  
And keep us true to Mary and to thee.

## **Offertory**

### **I am the Bread of Life**

I am the Bread of life,  
He who comes to Me shall not hunger,  
He who believes in Me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to Me  
Unless the Father draw him.

And I will raise him up,  
And I will raise him up,  
And I will raise him up on the last day.

The bread that I will give  
Is My flesh for the life of the world,  
And he who eats of this bread,  
He shall live for ever,  
He shall live for ever.

Unless you eat  
Of the flesh of the Son of Man  
And drink of His blood,  
And drink of His blood,  
You shall not have life within you.

I am the Resurrection,  
I am the Life,  
He who believes in Me  
Even if he die,  
He shall live for ever.

## **Communion**

### **Make me a Channel**

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Nourished by Word and Sacrament, we seek to become Christ for one another.

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

### **As I kneel before you**

As I kneel before you,  
As I bow my head in prayer,  
Take this day, make it yours  
and fill me with your love.

Refrain:

Ave Maria,  
Gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
Benedicta tu.

All I have I give you,  
Every dream and wish are yours,  
Mother of Christ,  
Mother of mine, present them to my Lord.

As I kneel before you,  
And I see your smiling face,  
Ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
Is lost in your embrace.

### **How Great Thou Art**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

### **Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

### **Recessional**

#### **Nearer My God to Thee**

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my God, to thee;  
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be  
Nearer, my God, to thee;  
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;  
All that thou sendest me, in mercy given;  
Angels to beckon me  
Nearer, my God, to thee;  
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

## REFLECTIONS

### **If Tears Could Build a Stairway - Unknown**

If tears could build a stairway,  
and memories a lane.  
I would walk right up to Heaven  
and bring you back again.

No farewell words were spoken,  
No time to say "Goodbye".  
You were gone before I knew it,  
and only God knows why.

My heart still aches with sadness,  
and secret tears still flow.  
What it meant to love you -  
No one can ever know.

But now I know you want me  
to mourn for you no more;  
To remember all the happy times  
life still has much in store.

Since you'll never be forgotten,  
I pledge to you today~  
A hollowed place within my heart  
is where you'll always stay.

### **'The Dash' by Linda Ellis**

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on her casket from beginning to the end. He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So, think about this long and hard; Are there things you would like to change? For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged. If we could just slow down enough to consider what is true and real and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we have never loved before. If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile. Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash... Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

### **Miss Me but Let Me Go – Edgar A. Guest**

When I come to the end of the road  
and the sun has set on me,  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,  
why cry for a soul set free.  
Miss me a little--but not too long,  
and not with your head bowed low,  
Remember the love that we once shared,  
miss me--but let me go.  
For this is a journey that we all must take,  
and each must go alone.  
It's all a part of the Master's plan,  
a step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
go to the friends we know.  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,  
miss me--but let me go.

### **Do not stand at my grave and weep - Mary Elizabeth Frye**

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.

### **Letter from Heaven - Author believed to be David Romano**

When tomorrow starts without me, And I'm not there to see,  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me,  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,  
While thinking of the many things,  
We didn't get to say. I know how much you love me,  
As much as I love you, and each time that you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
For every time you think of me, I'm right here, in your heart.

## **PRAYERS**

### **Blessed John Henry Newman's Prayer for the Departed**

May He 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, and a holy rest and peace at the last.

### **Death Is Not The End - Henry Scott Holland**

Death is nothing at all, I have only slipped away into the next room. Whatever we were to each other, that we still are. Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effort. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as ever it was; there is absolutely unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of your mind, because I am out of your sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well. Nothing is past, nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as it was before, only better, infinitely happier and forever we will all be one in Christ.

## **THE ROSARY**

The purpose of the Rosary is to help keep in memory certain principal events or mysteries in the history of our salvation, and to thank and praise God for them. There are twenty mysteries reflected upon in the Rosary, and these are divided into the five JOYFUL MYSTERIES, the five LUMINOUS MYSTERIES, the five SORROWFUL MYSTERIES, and the five GLORIOUS MYSTERIES.

### The Five Joyful Mysteries; Said on Monday and Saturday

1. The Annunciation; 2. The Visitation; 3. The Nativity; 4. The Presentation & 5. The Finding in the Temple

### The Five Sorrowful Mysteries; Said on Tuesday and Friday

1. The Agony in the Garden; 2. The Scourging at the Pillar; 3. The Crowning of Thorns; 4. The Carrying of the Cross & 5. The Crucifixion

The Five Glorious Mysteries ; Said on Wednesday and Sunday (with this exception: Sundays of Christmas season - The Joyful; Sundays of Lent - Sorrowful).

1. The Resurrection; 2. The Ascension; 3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit; 4. The Assumption & 5. The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin.

The Five Mysteries of Light (luminous) Said on Thursday

1. His Baptism in the Jordan; 2. His self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana; 3. His proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion; 4. His transfiguration & 5. His institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal mystery.

IN THE NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (As you say this, with your right hand touch your forehead when you say Father, touch your breastbone when you say Son, touch your left shoulder when you say Holy, and touch your right shoulder when you say Spirit.)

I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty. He shall come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

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. Amen.

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

O MY JESUS, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

O GOD, WHOSE only-begotten Son by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HAIL, HOLY QUEEN**, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!



V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O GOD, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### **THE ROSARY (in Irish)**

<b>Sign of the Cross</b>	I n-ainm an athar, agus an mhic, agus an sprid naoimh, áiméin.
<b>Apostles Creed</b>	Creidim i nDia, an tAthair Uilechumhachtach, Cruthaitheoir Nimhe agus Talún, agus i nÍosa Críost a Aonmhac san ár dTiarna, do gabhadh ón Spriod Naomh, do rugadh ó Mhuire ógh, d'fhulaig páis fé Phointeas Píolóid, do céasadh ar an gcrois, fuair bás agus d'adhlacadh, chuaigh síos go hifreann, d'aiséirigh an treas lá ó mhairbhe, chuaigh suas ar neamh, tá ina shuí ar dheasláimh Dé an tAthair Uilechumhachtach, as san tiocfaidh ag tabhairt bhreithiúntais ar bheo is ar mhairbh. Creidim sa Spriod Naomh, sa naomh-Eaglais Chaitliceach, i gComaoine na Naomh, i Maithiúnachas na bPeacaí, i nAiséirí na Colla, is sa Bheatha Shíoraí. áiméin.
<b>Our Father</b>	Ár nAthair, atá ar neamh, go naomhaítear t'ainm, go dtaga do ríocht, go ndeintear do thoil ar an dtalamh mar a deintear ar neamh. Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dhúinn inniu, agus maith dhúinn ár gcionta mar a mhaithimid do chách, agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc. áiméin.
<b>Hail Mary</b>	Sé do bheatha, a Mhuire, atá lán de ghrásta, tá an Tiarna leat. Is beannaithe thú idir na mná agus is beannaithe toradh do bhroinne, Íosa. A Naomh-Mhuire, a Mháthair Dé, guigh orainn na peacaigh, anois agus ar uair ár mbáis. áiméin.
<b>Glory Be</b>	Glóire don Athair is don Mhac is don Spriod Naomh, mar a bhí ar dtúis, mar atá fós, is mar a bheidh trí shaol na saol. áiméin.
<b>Oh My Jesus</b>	Ó a Íosa, maith dhúinn ár bpeacaí, saor sinn ó thine ifrinn, agus stiúir anam gach n-aon go flaithis Dé, go háirithe iad súd atá i bhfíorghéarghá do thrócaire. áiméin.
<b>Hail Holy Queen</b>	Go mbeannaítear duit, a Bhanríon Naofa, a Mháthair na Trócaire, go mbeannaítear duit, is tu ár mbeatha, ár mílseacht is ár ndóchas. Is ortsa a screadaimíd, clann bhocht dhíbeartha Éabha, is chugat-sa suas a chuirimid ár n-osnaithe, ag caoineadh is ag gol sa ghleann so na ndeor. Iompaigh orainn, dá bhrí sin, a Choimirce, a chaomh-uasail, do shúile

atá lán de thrua, is nuair a bheidh deireadh lenár n-íobairt ar an saol so, tabhair radharc dúinn ar thoradh do bhroinne, Íosa, a Mhaighdean Mhuire ró-thrócaireach, ró-ghrámhar, ró-mhilis. Guigh orainn a naomh-Mháthair Dé, ionas gur fiú sinn gealltanais Chríost a fháil. áiméin.

**Final Prayer**

A Athair Shíoraí, gur cheannaigh t'Aonmhac dúinn, lena bheatha, lena bhás, is lena aiséirí, aoibhneas síoraí na bhFlaitheas, tabhair dúinn, achnaímíd ort, do ghrásta, ionas ag machnamh dúinn ar na mistéiribh seo na Corónach Mhuire, go dtiocfadh linn do thoil naofa a dhéanamh agus an t-aoibhneas síoraí sin do shroisint, trí Íosa Críost ár dTiarna. áiméin.