

**FUNERAL LITURGIES
OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

***'RECEIVE THEIR SOULS AND
PRESENT THEM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH'***

TEXT OF COMMENDATION FROM THE RITUAL OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

On behalf of our Faith Community, we offer sympathies and the support of loving prayers as you cope in these days of grief. These liturgical guidelines, scriptural texts and prayer templates are provided to assist with the preparations for the Funeral *Requiem* Mass or for the Funeral Service (*that is without the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which is something you may want to consider for various reasons*).

The Sacred Vigil/Wake in the family home or at a Funeral Home begins the Catholic Ritual of honouring our beloved dead. The various aspects of this keeping watch and praying, while fondly remembering and celebrating the life shared among us as family and parishioners, leads us to the Funeral Liturgy. It is encouraged that while you mourn in these sad days, you would also be involved in preparing the Funeral Liturgy with your priest. Perhaps while alive and coping with old age or terminal illness, your loved one was able to have already discussed the arrangements with yourselves and their priest. Sudden or tragic death is of course so much more difficult to cope with amid the terrible shock and loss as you make the funeral arrangements. Yet, be assured of the support of extended family, friends and of your priest and other parishioners too. May this booklet guide you in arranging the Liturgy and choosing the sacred texts from the Bible and particular Prayer of the Faithful etc. for the celebration of either the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service.

Do consider bringing your loved one to the church on the evening before the Funeral to celebrate the Reception of the Remains and to have them rest before the altar of the Risen Lord Jesus. As we their family and believing community make final preparations to offer the Funeral Rite for the repose of their soul, into the merciful loving embrace of God the giver and receiver of all our lives.

Gifts of Memory to recall your loved one's life may be brought to the Table of Memory in the sanctuary as the family gather to take their seats in the church prior to the Funeral Liturgy or as the coffin is placed before the altar. The priest will refer to these in the Introduction Rite of the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service.

The choice of Liturgical Music is also important and adds greatly to the consoling celebration of the Word and Sacrament being offered for the soul of our loved one and the comforting of us, their family, friends and parish community. The people requested to assist with providing the music should also liaise with the priest celebrant in the days before the Funeral. Recorded music is not permitted but can be played at the graveside during the Burial Ritual. Amid the grief we must be mindful of the appropriateness of the music for the sacred liturgy of the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service. Keep in mind how it might be more suitable to use it at the graveside or in the crematorium.

We humbly come before God our Father, giving back the precious gift of life shared with us, for however short or long the length of years have been.

The First Reading

Readings taken from the Old Testament (except during the Easter Season).

The reader does not say "The First Reading" but only "A reading from....."

1

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 for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's *sorrow* 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 rejoice that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord

Sliocht as leabhar Íseáia fáidh

(25:6-9)

Ullmhóidh Tiarna na Slua ar an sliabh seo le haghaidh na gciníocha go léir cóisir saille, cóisir do rogha na bhfionta, de smior na saille, de thogha agus de rogha na bhfionta; agus tógfaidh sé ar shiúl an chaille bhróin a bhí ag clúdach na gciníocha go léir, agus an eisléine a bhí ag folach na náisiún uile; cuirfidh sé an bás ar ceal go deo. Triomóidh Dia na deora de na gnúiseanna go léir; tógfaidh sé an milleán dá phobal agus den domhan uile; óir is é an Tiarna a dúirt é. Déarfar an lá sin: "Breathnaígí, is é ár nDia é, a raibh muid ag dréim le slánú uaidh; is é an Tiarna é, a raibh muid ag dréim leis. Déanaimid gairdeas agus lúcháir mar gur shlánaigh sé sinn".

Briathar Dé.

2

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

(49:8.14-16)

Thus says the Lord:

"In a time of favour I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you".

But *the people of Jerusalem* said,

"The Lord has forsaken *us*, *the* Lord has forgotten *us*".

And the Lord replied:

"Can a woman forget her child at the breast,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.
Look, I have written your name on the palm of my hand".

The Word of the Lord

3

A reading from the book of Wisdom

(3,1-6,9)

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

In the eyes of the foolish they did appear to die,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us, to be their destruction, but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;

like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

Those who trust in him will understand the truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love;

because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord

4

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

(4,7-15)

The virtuous man, though he dies before his time, will find rest.
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true 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 warp his understanding
or treachery seduce his soul;
For the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.
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.

The Word of the Lord

5

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

(3,17-26)

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I hoped for from the Lord".
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is gall to me!
My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him".
The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

6

A reading from the Book of Job

(19,1.23-27)

Job said:

"O that these words of mine were written down,
inscribed on some monument with iron and chisel and engraving tool,
cut into the rock for ever.

This I know: that my *Redeemer* lives,
and he, at last, will take his stand on earth.

After my awakening, 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

7

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

(3,1-8)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

(only if not being sung)

1

*The response is: **The Lord fills the earth with his love.***

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love. **R/**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name. **R/**

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **R/**

2

*The response is: **Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.***

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R/**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness, for this we revere you. **R/**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is watching for the Lord,
more than the watchman for daybreak. **R/**

3

The response is: **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/**

The Second Reading

Readings taken from the New Testament (during the Season of Easter instead of a First Reading from the Old Testament a second reading is also chosen from the New Testament). The reader does not say "The Second Reading" but only "A reading from....."

1

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (5,5-11)

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful people. It is not easy to die even for a good person - though of course for someone really worthy, one might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies: now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

2

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (5,17-21)

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who received the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many will be made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When the law came, it was to multiply the opportunities of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

3

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

(6,3-9)

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

4

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

(8,14-23)

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a Son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, 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 whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God: but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth: and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord

5

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 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

6

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

(8,31-33,37-39)

If God is for us, who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Jesus Christ? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor anything that exists, nor anything still to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

7

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15,20-28)

Christ has risen from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to God the Father.

For he must be King until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the one who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

8

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15,51-57)

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of Scripture will come true:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death where is your victory?

Death where is your sting?

Now the sting of sin is death, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

9

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4,14-5,1)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord

10

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (5,1.6-10)

We know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made of 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 he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord

11

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.

The Word of the Lord

12

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy (2,8-13)

Remember the Good News that I carry: "Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David": it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen so that they also may obtain the glory that comes with it. Here is a saying you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,
for he cannot disown his own self.

The Word of the Lord

13

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy (4,6-8)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord

14

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

We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, 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 forever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

Sliocht as céadlitir N.Pól chuig na Teasalónaigh (4,13-18)

Níor mhaith liom, a bhráithre, go mbeadh sibh aineolach i dtaobh na marbh i dtreo nach mbeadh sibh dobrónach ar nós na ndaoine eile atá gan aon dóchas. Creidimid go bhfuair Íosa bás agus gur aiséirigh sé. Ar an gcuma chéanna an mhuintir a fuair bás i bpáirt le Críost, tabharfaidh Dia iad siúd leis ón mbás chomh maith.

Agus tá an méid seo le rá againn libh ar fhocal an Tiarna féin: an méid a fhágfar beo dinn go dtí teacht an Tiarna, ní bheidh aon bhuntáiste againn orthu sin a bheidh tar éis bháis: mar nuair a thabharfar an fógra le glór an ardaingil agus le trampa Dé, tiocfaidh an Tiarna féin anuas ó neamh agus ar dtús éireoidh na mairbh i gCríost. Ansin an méid a bheidh fágtha beo dinn, ardófar chun siúil sinn mar aon leo trí na néalta in airicis an Tiarna sa spéir, agus ar an gcuma sin beimid i dteannta an Tiarna go deo. Déanaigí a chéile a mhisniú, más ea, leis na briathra sin.

Briathar Dé.

15

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.

The Word of the Lord

16

A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter

(1,3-9)

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons and daughters, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we can have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled 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 is revealed at the end of the 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 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 joy as 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.

The Word of the Lord

17

A reading from the Book of Revelation

(14,3)

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, “Write down: happy are those 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

18

A reading from the Book of Revelation

(21,1-4)

Then I 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, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, “You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.”

The Word of the Lord

19

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

(11,1-2.13-16)

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. *They* died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland.

The Word of the Lord.

Sliocht as an litir chuig na hEabhraigh

(11,1-2.13-16)

Is é rud é creideamh ná urra go bhfaighimid na nithe a bhfuilimid ag súil leo agus cruthú gur ann do na nithe nach bhfeicimid. Is mar gheall ar an gcreideamh a tugadh dea-theist ar ár sinsir. Fuair na daoine seo go léir bás sa chreideamh sin gan na maitheasaí a ghealladh dóibh a fháil. Ach chonaic siad uathu iad agus bheannaigh siad dóibh, mar a déarfá, agus d'admhaigh siad nach raibh iontu féin ach stráinséirí agus comhthígh ar dhroim an domhain seo. Taispeánann daoine a labhraíonn mar seo go bhfuil tír dhúchais á lorg acu. Dá mbeidís ag cuimhneamh fós ar an tír a d'fhág siad bheadh deis acu ar fhilleadh ar ais uirthi. Ina ionad sin, áfach, is amhlaidh a bhí siad ag tnúth le tír níos fearr, is é sin le rá, le tír neamhaí.

Briathar Dé.

Prayer of the Faithful

These are samples for use in preparing the Prayer of the Faithful. Please chose 4-6 prayers and seek advice from the priest if needed. The priest will introduce and conclude the Prayer of the Faithful.

1. We pray for _____ who has died: May God now welcome him/her into his heavenly home of eternal happiness and peace. Lord, hear us.
2. We pray for the relatives and friends of _____, especially his/her wife/ husband _____, his/her sons and daughters _____, his/her brothers and sisters _____, the members of his/her extended family, his/her neighbours and friends: May God fill their hearts with his comfort and consolation. Lord, hear us.
3. We pray for all those whose lives are dedicated to caring for the sick and in particular we pray for the doctors, nurses, chaplain and staff of _____ Hospital/Nursing Home who cared for _____ during his/ her illness: May God reward their goodness and kindness. Lord, hear us.
4. We pray in thanksgiving for our neighbours and friends who have been so kind to us during this time of sadness: May God reward their kindness and bless their homes with happiness and peace. Lord, hear us.
5. As we pray that _____ will find eternal peace, we pray that the peace that is in Heaven will touch the troubled parts of our world, our country, our parish, our homes and our hearts. Lord, hear us.
6. We pray for all who are ill at this time: May God lay his healing hand on them and give them courage and hope. Lord, hear us.
7. We pray for young people: may they always value goodness, kindness and friendship. May they see the beauty of the gift of human life. May they come to know God the Father's love for each and every one of them. Lord, hear us.
8. We pray for all elderly people: May they receive love and care from their families and friends and may they have courage to give witness to faith and to the hope of eternal life. Lord, hear us.
9. We pray for all who have died, especially the relatives and friends of _____ who have gone before him/her: May God unite them all in the happiness and peace of his heavenly home. Lord, hear us.

GUIDELINES FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Appreciations or eulogies by family members or friends of the deceased do not take place in the church but may take place after the Rite of Committal in the cemetery/crematorium or when family and friends gather after the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service.

The ambo is for the proclamation of the Word of God.

Readings at the Funeral Mass are from the Roman Catholic Lectionary.

Secular songs and texts devoid of a Christian content are not permitted in the Funeral Mass.

The gifts of the chalice and patten for the Eucharistic celebration are left on a table in the body of the church for presentation by the family.

Gifts of memory if desired can be presented on the evening before if there is the Reception of the Remains or as the coffin is brought to the sanctuary for the Funeral. They will be received and placed on a table provided.

A visiting priest officiating at the Funeral Mass must present a valid celebret to the Parish Priest or the Sacristan at the church. He is also to be familiar with these regulations for which he is asked to abide by.

Funeral undertakers are also made aware of these regulations.

These are guidelines for our parishes in accordance with what is permitted in the Diocese of Meath

It is customary to gather again for a Month's Memory Mass in or around a month after the funeral. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements. Perhaps it may also suit to look ahead and have the First Anniversary Mass booked too, as it is not always possible closer to the time to have the date you may so desire to have. With the increase of the population of our parishes it is more difficult for every family to get a Weekend Mass, so we ask that in the coming years after the First Anniversary to book a Mass intention for the Deceased Family, whereby within reason all the deceased family members can be named or simply included under the family name. The weekday parish Masses might often be easier booked for individual intentions.

In November as the Christian Community around the world remembers the Holy Souls of all the Faithful Departed you and your family will be invited to a Mass of Memory to acknowledge all who may have died during the previous year. It is another moment of prayerful reflection as we come to terms with the void left in our lives by the death of the ones we have loved. We trust in the hope of the eternal life to come for them and us all one day in Heaven when the tears of this world have passed.

On the First Fridays of every month Mass is offered for all the names inscribed on the Parish List of the Dead. You are welcome to attend and join in offering this special Mass intention for all our beloved dead.

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