



Celebration of Christian Funerals Ferrybank & Slieverue





Celebration of a Christian Funeral

As Christians we believe that Jesus Christ died on the Cross for all of us and was raised from the dead. He destroyed the power of death so that all who believe in him might have eternal life. We trust that the gift of Christian Faith in the Resurrection of the Dead will bring you hope and strength at this difficult time.

Prayers for the Deceased

It is customary to have prayers recited in the family home or funeral home before removal of the body of the deceased to the Church. An appropriate time for this prayer service is organised in consultation with the priest, family members and the funeral undertaker. The prayers are led by the priest or a member of the funeral ministry team.

Removal to the Church

The removal of the body to the Church for the funeral Mass usually takes place on the morning of the Funeral Mass itself or on the previous evening. When the removal takes place on the morning of the funeral Mass the body is received with prayer and Christian symbols are placed on the coffin by family members recalling the deceased persons faith.

When the removal takes place on the evening before the funeral Mass, the body is received into the church with Prayers of Reception. At this point Christian Symbols are placed on the coffin. again by family members.

If the family wishes to present items which commemorate aspects of the life of the deceased this can be done on the evening or morning of reception into the Church. The presentation of items containing alcohol or prohibited substances is not permitted.

Celebration of the Requiem Mass

During the Mass for the dead we pray for the person who has died entrusting them to the Love and Mercy of God. We give thanks to God for the blessings they received during life and for the good they have done. We pray for consolation for their family and friends. Above all we listen to the voice of God who speaks to us in His Word, assuring us of hope and new life. We receive the Body of Christ, who walks with us on the journey of life and who promises us that we will raise us up from death. The family is always encouraged to participate in the Mass. The priest or member of the funeral ministry team will explain how you can be involved.

Music for the funeral Mass

As a funeral celebrated in a Church is a Christian funeral the music chosen should always be appropriate. A selection of suitable hymns will be provided as well as contact details for parish musicians and singers.

If a family wishes to have a song or piece of music played other than hymns they are welcome to do so once the Religious Rites have been completed. Undertakers provide specialist sound equipment which can facilitate the playing of music especially in the cemetery.

Eulogy or Words of Appreciation

If a family member wishes to speak after the funeral Mass they are welcome to do so.

A Eulogy should be brief so that it does not become too difficult for the family member to deliver and should not contain any material that may be offensive to anyone.

Burial or Cremation

Following the Requiem Mass the body of the deceased is usually brought for burial or cremation. When burial takes place a member of the funeral ministry team or the priest will be available to recite the graveside prayers.

If the body is to be cremated then the remains can be buried after cremation with prayers after in the family grave.

In keeping with Christian tradition a priest or minister will not be available for services at any other venue where cremated remains may be disposed of.

The Funeral Mass



Introduction

This booklet contains all the relevant readings which can be used for the celebration of a funeral mass.

In choosing your readings please choose one reading from each of the following sections...

A Selection of Old Testament Readings (No. s 1-6)

A Selection of Responsorial Psalms (No. s 7 -8)

The psalm may also be sung

A Selection of New Testament Readings & Gospel Acclamations (No. s 9 -12)

Prayers of the Faithful (No.s 13 -14)

You can use the selection on Prayers of the faithful as they are or adapt them to your own particular circumstances and preferences. Usually there are 4, 5 or 6 prayers of the faithful at the Requiem Mass.

Hymns & Music (No. 15)

Funeral Planning Sheet (No. 16)

Notes (No. 17)

1. A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

The Word of the Lord

2. A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear, for the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my Saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name!

Sing a psalm to the Lord,
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.



3. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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.

The word of the Lord.



4. A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

The word of the Lord.



5. A reading from the book of Job

Job said:

'Ah, would that these words of mine were written down, inscribed on some monument

with some iron chisel and engraving tool,
cut into the rock forever.

This I know: that my Avenger 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.



6. A reading from the book of Wisdom

The virtuous man, though he die 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.

7. Responsorial Psalm: Ps 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. **Response.**

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. **Response.**

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

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. **Response**

8. Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102

Response: 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. **Response.**

As a father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear him;
For he knows of what we are made of
He remembers that we are dust. **Response.**

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

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. **Response**

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

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.

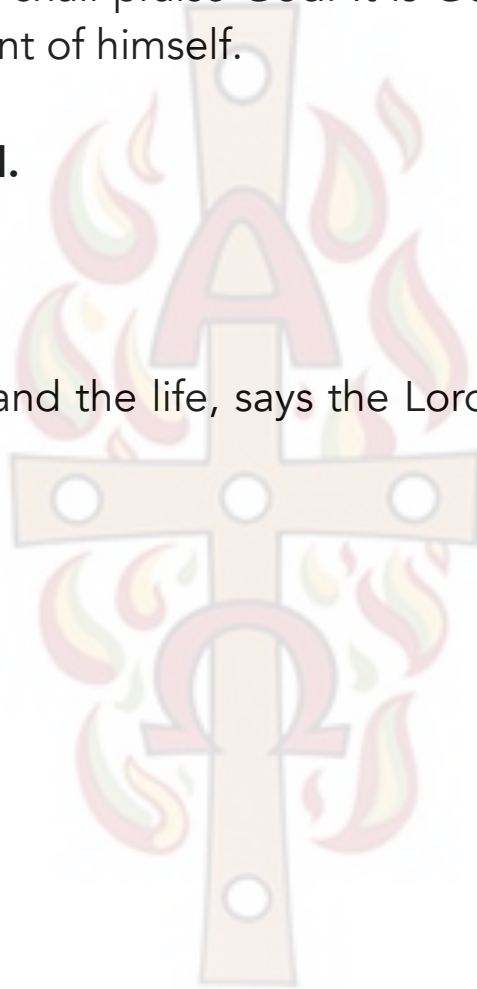
The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

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

Alleluia.



10. A reading from the first letter of St. John

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.

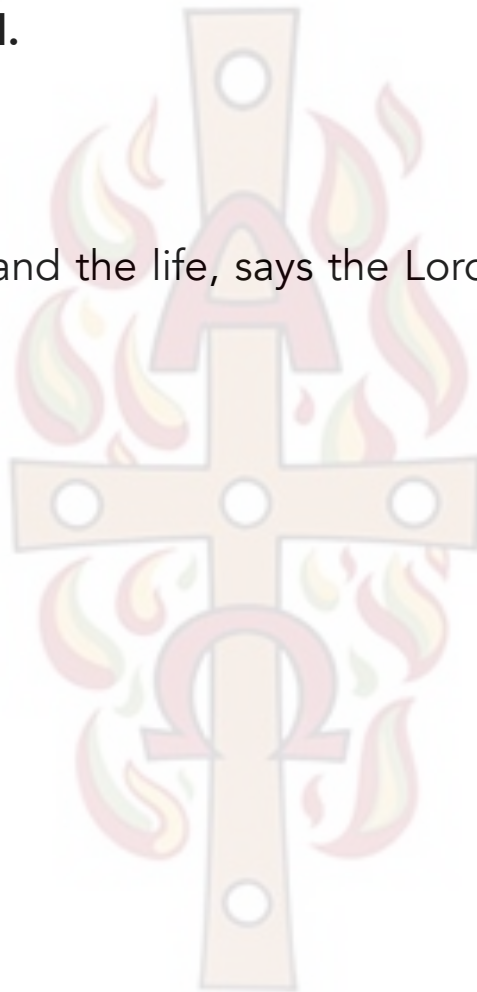
The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

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

Alleluia.



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

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.

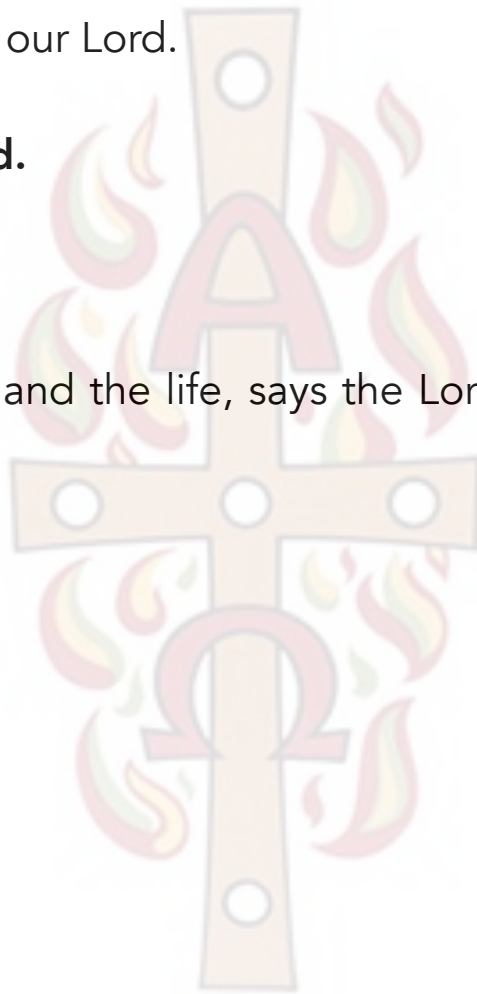
The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

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

Alleluia.



12. A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

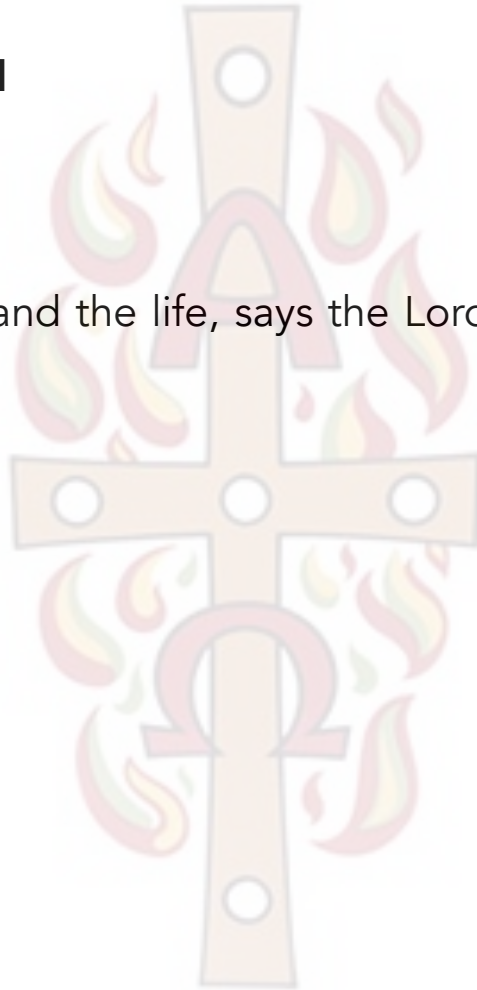
As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,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

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

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



13. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that she/ he may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

Lord, hear us.

For the family and friends of N. that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Lord, hear us.

Lord N. was nourished at the table of the Word and the Eucharist. Keep a special place for her / him around your heavenly table.

Lord, hear us.

Lord you are close to the broken-hearted and those whose spirits are crushed you will save. We ask you to bind up the hearts that are saddened by N.'s departure from us.

Lord, hear us.

As we say farewell to N. we remember all who have gone before us and all our relatives and friends. Give them all eternal rest, O Lord.

Lord, hear us

For all gathered here, who listen to God's Word, and are nourished by the bread of life at this Eucharistic celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection for N.

Lord hear us

For all who are suffering and for all who love them and for all who seek comfort and peace at the foot of the Cross with Mary the Mother of Jesus

Lord hear us

For all whose lives are enriched by their memories of N. and who give thanks for blessings received and shared through N.'s love and care for others

Lord hear us

Jesus said unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains a single grain. May N. who we honour with Christian burial reap a harvest of eternal joy

Lord hear us

Jesus said do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and also in me. May all who mourn N.'s death be consoled by their trust and faith in the God of life

Lord hear us

Jesus said when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself. May we find hope in the death and resurrection of the Lord who in love gathers us together to pray for N. and to give thanks for a life shared with family and friends

Lord hear us

14. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For N. who In Baptism died with Christ and was given the promise of eternal life.

Lord hear us

For the family and friends of N. and all who mourn that they may be comforted

Lord hear us

For all who carry sorrow in their hearts and bear the pain of loss

Lord hear us

For all gathered here, who listen to God's Word, and are nourished by the bread of life at this Eucharistic celebration of the Lords death and resurrection for N.

Lord hear us

For all who are suffering and for all who love them and for all who seek comfort and peace at the foot of the Cross with Mary the Mother of Jesus

Lord hear us

For Christians everywhere who seek hope in the dying and rising of Jesus from the dead

Lord hear us

For all whose lives are enriched by their memories of N. and who give thanks for blessings received and shared through N's. love and care for others

Lord hear us

15. Hymns and Music for the Funeral Mass

The following is a list of hymns / music suitable for the funeral liturgy
Only Sacred music is permitted during religious services

Entrance Music / Opening Hymn

Abide With Me
Amazing Grace
Christ Be Beside Me
Be Thou My Vision
Be Still My Soul
Here I Am, Lord
Morning Has Broken
You Are Mine

Responsorial Psalm

Be Thou My Vision
Here I Am, Lord
Hiding Place
Mo Ghrá Thú
On Eagle's Wings
The Clouds Veil
The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Gospel Acclamation (except during Lent)

'Alleluia' to Leonard Cohen's melody
Celtic Alleluia
Seinn Alleluia

Offertory

A Mhuire Mhatháir
Ag Críost an Siol
As I Kneel Before You
Be Still For The Presence of the Lord
Gifts of Bread & Wine
In bread we bring you Lord
Pie Jesu (Lloyd Webber)
Wherever you go
Just for today
Eat this Bread

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God is sung

Communion

Amazing Grace
As I Kneel Before You
Ave Maria (Schubert)

Be Not Afraid
Here I Am, Lord
I Watch The Sunrise
Panis Angelicus
Pie Jesu (Andrew Lloyd Webber)
The Clouds Veil
The Deer's Cry (I Arise Today)
The Prayer
You Are Mine
You Raise Me Up
Soul of my Saviour
Sweet Heart of Jesus
I am the Bread of life
Old Rugged Cross
I watch the sunrise
At the end of the day
Walk with me O My Lord

Final Commendation

May songs of the Angels
Jesus, Remember Me

Recessional & other songs (Vocal or instrumental)

Amazing Grace
Going Home
Hail Queen of Heaven
How Great Thou Art
May The Road Rise To Meet You (Lori True)
Nearer My God To Thee
Queen of the May
Remember Me (Christy Hennessy)
You Raise Me Up
I'll walk with God
The silence and the sorrow

Instrumentals (if required)

Gabriel's Oboe
May It Be (Enya)
Nella Fantasia
You Raise Me Up

16. Funeral Mass Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased _____ RIP

Presentation of Symbols

Name	Symbol
Name	Symbol
Name	Symbol
Name	Symbol

Readings from the Word of God

First Reading & Psalm	Name of Reader
Psalm will be sung	Yes No
Second Reading & Gospel Acclamation	Name of Reader
Gospel Acclamation will be sung	Yes No

Prayers of the Faithful

Prayer 1 / Name	Prayer 2 / Name
Prayer 3 / Name	Prayer 4 / Name
Prayer 5 / Name	Prayer 6 / Name

Offertory - Presentation of Gifts of Bread & Wine

Bread / Name	Wine / Name
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Music

Choir / Musicians / Singer / Soloists -

Reflection / Words of Remembrance

Name of family member / friend -



17.NOTES



Parish Contacts

Priest: Fr Kieran O' Shea

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