

# **CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

**A Workbook for Preparing a Christian Burial**

# ORDER OF FUNERAL LITURGY

## INTRODUCTORY RITE

Gathering Hymn  
Greeting  
Placing Christian Symbols on the Coffin  
Sprinkling Coffin with Holy Water  
Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)  
Opening Prayer

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm (may be sung where appropriate)  
Second Reading (optional)  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel  
Homily  
Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions)

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST [IF A REQUIEM MASS]

Offertory Hymn  
Preparation of the Gifts  
Preface  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer  
Holy Communion  
Communion Hymn  
Communion Reflection Hymn

## FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer  
Silence  
Sign of Farewell (Incensing the Coffin)  
Song of Farewell  
Prayer of Commendation  
Recessional Hymn

## PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

## PREPARING A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

This booklet is provided to assist you in preparing a funeral for a Roman Catholic Christian. The following pages contain texts for Readings and Prayers which will allow you to personalise your loved one's funeral.

Please select one reading from pages 5 to 11 inclusive, and record your choice on the accompanying selection sheet.

- + If you have chosen not to have a sung responsorial psalm, please select one psalm from pages 12 to 15 inclusive, and record your choice. In some cases, there are two possible responses ('A' or 'B'). Please select one and record your choice.
- + Please select one Gospel reading from pages 16 to 20 inclusive, and record your choice.
- + You will also need to select or write Prayers of the Faithful for the funeral. A guide for selection and composition can be found on pages 21 and 23.
- + If a parish organist is assisting with the provision of music at the funeral, they will be able to assist you with choosing music appropriate for a Christian funeral. Hymn suggestions are offered from pages 24 to 36 inclusive.
- + If you choose to have Words of Remembrance spoken about the person who has died, it is important that the words be both concise and honest. Rather than recount everything the person did, he/she could try to say how and why the person should be remembered. Please try to limit the total time given to the Words of Remembrance to a maximum of five minutes. Please also record the name of the speaker on the selection sheet, too.

Please do not hesitate to discuss any questions or special needs with the Celebrant of your funeral.

## FIRST READING

### Wisdom 3:1-9

*(For one who suffered! God tests and chooses us. Peace! Hope! Trust!)*

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

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

### Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

*(Consolation! A time for everything.)*

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:

A time for giving birth, a time for dying;  
a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted.  
A time for killing, a time for healing;  
a time for knocking down, a time for building.  
A time for tears, a time for laughter;  
a time for mourning, a time for dancing.  
A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up;  
a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing.  
A time for searching, a time for losing;  
a time for keeping, a time for throwing away.  
A time for tearing, a time for sewing;  
a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.

A time for love for loving, a time for hating;  
A time for war, a time for peace.

### **Isaiah 25:6-9**

*(For a child. Where death has caused particular sorrow. Consolation! God saves us.)*

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 God 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.

### **Romans 5:17-21**

*(For those who are outsiders. God's grace is greater than our sins. Jesus brings life.)*

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 receives 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 were 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.

### **Romans 8:14-23**

*(For a disabled person or one who suffered. The Spirit brings us to glory. Death is liberation.)*

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 co-heirs 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 await for our bodies to be set free.

### **Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

*(For one who had a difficult life. Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.)*

With God on our side, 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 refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? 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.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled and worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or 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.

## **Romans 14:7-12**

*(Suitable for a child or adult. Our lives are for God. Christ: Lord of the living and the dead.)*

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.]

## **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

*(The enduring qualities of love!)*

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

Love does not come to an end.

## **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

*(Judgement day! Life is changed. Victory over death!)*

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

## **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

*(At home with God! God's judgement!)*

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

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.

## **Philippians 3:20-21**

*(Heaven, our home. Life is changed.)*

For us, our homeland is heaven, and from heaven come 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.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*(Suitable for a baptised child or adult. Hope! Dying and rising with Christ. Consolation!)*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died.

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

## **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

*(For one who suffered or persecuted or marginalised. Dying and living with Christ. Faithfulness!)*

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 shall bear it all for the sake of those chosen, so that in the end, they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that 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.

## **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

*(Fought the good fight! Fidelity to God!)*

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

## **1 John 3:1-2**

*(God's love! We shall be like God.)*

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.

## **Acts 10:34-43**

*(Used during Easter season. For all who are outsiders! God accepts those who do right.)*

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 of 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 men, and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people, and to tell them, that God 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."

## **Apocalypse 20:11-21:1**

*(Used during Easter season. Our names are in The Book of Life.)*

I, John, saw a great white throne and the One who was sitting on it. In his presence, earth and sky vanished, leaving no trace. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of his throne, while the Book of Life was opened, and other books opened, which were the record of what they had done in their lives, by which the dead were judged.

The sea gave up all the dead who were in it; death and Hades were emptied of the dead that were in them; and everyone was judged according to the way in which he had lived.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the burning lake. This burning lake is the second death; and anybody whose name could not be found written in the Book of Life, was thrown into the burning lake.

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.

### **Apocalypse 21:1-5**

*(Used during Easter season. Suitable for a child or adult. God is with them. New creation.)*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, "You see this city? Here God lives among his people. He will make his home among them; they 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 is gone."

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: "Now, I am making the whole of creation new."

### **Apocalypse 7:9-10, 15-17**

*(Used during Easter season. For a child. The saints praise God. God will care for us.)*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

They now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb, who is at the throne, will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Choose response 'A' or 'B'

### Psalm 22 (23)

A.) *Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil; for you are with me.*

B.) *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/.**

### Psalm 24 (25)

A.) *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

B.) *No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.*

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R/.**

Relieve the anguish of my heart and set me free from my distress.

See my affliction and my toil and take all my sins away. **R/.**

Preserve my life and rescue me.

Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.

May innocence and uprightness protect me: for my hope is in you, O Lord. **R/.**

## **Psalm 26 (27)**

*A.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

*B.) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.*

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/.***

## **Psalm 41 (42)**

*A.) My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?*

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

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

These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:  
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God,  
amid the cries of gladness and thanksgiving, the throng wild with joy. ***R/.***

## **Psalm 62 (63)**

*A.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. ***R/.***

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R/.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you  
with joy. **R/.**

You have been my help; in the shadow of your wings, I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **R/.**

### **Psalm 102 (103)**

*A.) The Lord is kind and merciful.*

*B.) The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.*

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, 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/.**

### **Psalm 114 & 115 (116)**

*A.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me.  
**R/.**

I trusted, even when I said: "I am sorely afflicted,"  
and when I said in my alarm: "No man can be trusted." **R/.**

O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.  
**R/.**

### **Psalm 121 (122)**

*A.) I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of the Lord.*

*B.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."  
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R/.**

Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.  
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. **R/.**

For Israel's Law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement of the House of David. **R/.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!" **R/.**

For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you!"  
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R/.**

### **Psalm 142 (143)**

*A.) O Lord, hear my prayer.*

Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal.  
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.  
Do not call your servant to judgement for no one is just in your sight. **R/.**

I remember the days that are past: I ponder all your works.  
I muse on what your hand has wrought and to you I stretch out my hands.

Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you. **R/.**

Lord, make haste and give me answer; for my spirit fails within me.  
In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you. **R/.**

Teach me to do your will, for you, O Lord, are my God.

Let your good spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth.  
*R/.*

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 5:1-12

*(For those who were poor in spirit, gentle, etc., persecuted or abused. Happiness!)*

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

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

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

Happy those who mourn; they shall be comforted.

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

Happy the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart; they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.

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

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

### Matthew 11:25-30

*(For a child or a person with childlike simplicity. For those who life was hard! Eternal rest!)*

Jesus exclaimed:

“I bless you, Father, Lord of Heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever, and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

## **Matthew 25:1-13**

*(For one who awaited death or was ready for death. Be prepared!)*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

“The kingdom of heaven will be like this – ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible; the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas, the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.

“The bridegroom was late and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight, there was a cry. ‘The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.’

“At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ But they replied, ‘There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.’

“They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us.’ But he replied, ‘I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.’

“So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.”

## **Matthew 25:31-46**

*(For one who helped others. “Whatever you did for these, you did to me.” Come to eternal life.)*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men, one from another, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

“Then the king will say to those on his right hand, ‘Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.’

“Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?’ The king will answer, ‘I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’

“Next, he will say to those on his left hand, ‘Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.’

“Then it will be their turn to ask, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?’ Then he will answer, ‘I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.’ And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.”

## **Mark 10:13-16**

*(For a child. Jesus loves children.)*

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these, that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child, will never enter it.” Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

## **Luke 7:11-17**

*(For a young person. Resurrection! Consolation!)*

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town, it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her, he felt sorry for her. "Do not cry," he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, "Young man, I tell you to get up." And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people." And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

## **Luke 12:35-40**

*(For one who awaited death or was ready for death. Happiness.)*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

## **John 6:37-40**

*(Suitable for a child or adult. Christ welcomes us to eternal life. Resurrection!)*

Jesus said to the crowd:

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

“Now the will of him who sent me is, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father’s will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.”

## **John 11:17-27**

*(“I am the resurrection and the life.” Personal faith in Christ!)*

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.”

“Your brother,” said Jesus to her “will rise again.”

Martha said, “I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live; and whoever lives and believes in me, will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she said, “I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, the One who was to come into this world.”

## **John 14:1-6**

*(“I am the Way, the Truth and the life.” Christ prepares a place for us.)*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house, if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said, “Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

In preparing the Prayers of the Faithful (also referred to as General Intercessions), you may either select one intercession from each of the following sections (A to E), or you may compose your own prayers, based on the following examples. It is important that your prayer petitions cover each category, as the petitions should not pray exclusively for the deceased and the mourners.

Each prayer petition should follow a common form, and have a standard cue for the people's response (e.g. *For... That... Let us pray that... We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear us.*)

Please record your selections, in full, on the accompanying selection sheet.

### **A] For the one who has died.**

*Examples:*

1. For **N.**, a child of God and heir to the kingdom, that he/she may be held securely in God's loving embrace, now and for all eternity. Lord, hear us.
2. That God, in his mercy, may blot out all **N.'s** offences, establish him/her in light and peace, and call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints. Lord, hear us.
3. That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of **N.** Lord, hear us.
4. In baptism, **N.** received the light of Christ. Let us pray that God will scatter the darkness and lead him/her over the waters of death. Lord, hear us.

### **B] For the bereaved family.**

*Examples:*

1. The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Let us pray that God will heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, hear us.

2. For the family and friends of our brother/sister **N.**, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus. Lord, hear us.
3. That all of us, **N.'s** family and friends, may be comforted in our grief. Lord, hear us.
4. For **N.'s** family [especially his/her mother, father, sister, brother...], that they may feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief. Lord, hear us.

### **C] For the assembled mourners.**

#### *Examples:*

1. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. Lord, hear us.
2. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N.** Let us pray that God will strengthen our hope, so that we may live in the expectation of the coming of Christ. Lord, hear us.
3. That the Lord Jesus who blesses those who mourn and are in pain, will look upon **N.'s** family and friends, who gather around him/her today. Lord, hear us.
4. For us the Church, that we may prepare worthily for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next. Lord, hear us.

### **D] For others who have died.**

#### *Examples:*

1. That God may welcome into glory, those of our family and friends, who have departed this life [especially...]. Lord, hear us.
2. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. May God grant them an everlasting home with Christ. Lord, hear us.

3. Those who trusted in the Lord, now sleep in the Lord. Let us pray that all the faithful departed will find in God refreshment, rest and peace. Lord, hear us.
4. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. Lord, hear us.

## **E] For causes or organisations appropriate to the deceased.**

### *Examples:*

1. That God will grant release to all those who suffer from ... . Lord, hear us.
2. For the doctors and nurses at ... who cared for **N.**, that their works of service may be richly blessed. Lord, hear us.
3. **N.** fought for peace and freedom. May he/she now rest in peace and may people everywhere live free from oppression. Lord, hear us.
4. For the work of ..., that those of us who are left will carry forward that for which **N.** so generously laboured. Lord, hear us.

## HYMNS

### **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.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
what but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be  
through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

### **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.

When we've been here ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.

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.

## As Gentle As Silence

Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence  
of all that I love here on earth.

All the beauty I see, God has given to me  
and the giving is gentle as silence.

Ev'ry day, ev'ry hour, ev'ry moment  
have been blessed by the strength of God's love.  
At the turn of each tide, God is there at my side  
with a touch that is gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned from your presence,  
and I've walked other paths, other ways.  
But I've called on your name in the dark of my shame  
and Your mercy was gentle as silence.

## Be Not Afraid

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live. *R/.*

**Refrain: Be not afraid, I go before you always.**

**Come follow me, and I will give you rest.**

If you pass through raging waters, in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is by your side,  
know that I am with you through it all. *R/.*

## City Of God

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!  
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.  
The people in darkness have seen a great light.  
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night. *R/.*

**Refrain: Let us build the City of God!  
May our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love,  
has turned the night into day.**

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.  
The One who has loved us, has brightened our way.  
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be  
a light for His people, to set their hearts free. *R/.*

God is light; in Him there is no darkness.  
Let us walk in His light, His children, one and all.  
O comfort my people; make gentle your words.  
Proclaim to my city, the day of her birth. *R/.*

### **Come As You Are**

Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;  
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
No need to fear, love never ends.  
Don't run away shamed and disheartened;  
rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise,  
why do you think I'd love you the less?

### **Companions On The Journey**

**Refrain: We are companions on the journey,  
breaking bread and sharing life;  
and in the love we bear is the hope we share  
for we believe in the love of our God,  
we believe in the love of our God.**

No longer strangers to each other,  
no longer strangers in God's house;  
we are fed and we are nourished

by the strength of those who care,  
by the strength of those who care. ***R/.***

We have been gifted with each other,  
and we are called by the Word of the Lord;  
to act with justice, to love tenderly,  
and to walk humbly with our God,  
to walk humbly with our God. ***R/.***

We will seek and we shall find;  
we will knock and the door shall be opened;  
we will ask and it shall be given,  
for we believe in the love of our God,  
we believe in the love of our God. ***R/.***

We are made for the glory of our God,  
for service in the name of Jesus;  
to walk side by side with hope in our hearts,  
for we believe in the love of our God,  
we believe in the love of our God. ***R/.***

## **Eagle's Wings**

**Refrain: I have carried you on eagle's wings!  
I will care for you in all your years!**

My heart is full of peace;  
You have been within my life!  
Your guiding hand has always covered me  
I am full of confidence in you. ***R/.***

My soul is like a child,  
cradled safe within your arms!  
You have carried me across my years!  
Leading me thru' sorrow and thru' joy. ***R/.***

Never need I be afraid!  
No matter how uncertain things may be!  
Sometimes thru' me, sometimes in spite of me,  
You seem to find purpose in my life. ***R/.***

## Galilee Song

Deep within my heart, I feel  
voices whispering to me.  
Words that I can't understand;  
meanings I can't clearly hear!  
Calling me to follow close,  
lest I leave myself behind!  
Calling me to walk into  
evening shadows one more time. *R/.*

**Refrain: So I leave my boats behind!  
Leave them on familiar shores!  
Set my heart upon the deep!  
Follow you again my Lord.**

In my memories, I know  
how You send familiar rains  
falling gently on my days;  
dancing patterns on my pain!  
And I need to learn once more,  
in the fortress of my mind,  
to believe in falling rain  
as I travel deserts dry. *R/.*

## Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord  
has done for us.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord  
has done for us.  
Give thanks! Give thanks!

### **Hail Mary, Gentle Woman**

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.  
Amen.

**Refrain: Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright.  
Gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.**

You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one. ***R/.***

Blessed are you among women.  
Blessed in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits,  
blessed they with gentle hearts. ***R/.***

### **Hail, Queen Of Heaven, The Ocean Star**

Hail, Queen of Heav'n, the ocean star,  
guide the wand'rer here below,  
thrown on life's surge, we claim your care:  
save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, star of the sea,  
pray for the wand'rer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste and spotless maid,  
from sin's domain God kept you free,  
plead with your Son, for He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.

Virgin most pure. star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner, pray for me.

And while to God who reigns above,  
in Godhead One, in Persons Three,  
the source of life, of grace, of love,  
homage we pay on bended knee.

Mother and Queen, star of the sea,  
pray for your children, pray for me.

### **Hail Redeemer, King Divine**

Hail Redeemer, King Divine!

Priest and Lamb, the throne is Thine,  
King whose reign shall never cease,  
Prince of everlasting peace. *R/.*

**Refrain: Angels, saints and nations sing  
praised be Jesus Christ our King!  
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,  
King of Love on Calvary.**

King whose name creation thrills,  
rule our minds, our hearts, our wills.  
'Till in peace each nations rings  
with Thy praises, King of Kings. *R/.*

### **Here I Am, Lord**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I who make the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send? *R/.*

**Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone,  
I will speak My Word to them,  
Whom shall I send? *R/.*

### **Holy God, We Praise Thy Name**

Holy God we praise Thy name,  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee.  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
holy, holy, holy Lord.

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee.  
While in essence only One,  
undivided God we claim Thee;  
and adoring bend the knee;  
while we own the Mystery.

## 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. *R/.*

**Refrain: 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. *R/.*

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. *R/.*

## Like A Shepherd

**Refrain: Like a shepherd He feeds His flock  
and gathers the lambs in His arms,  
holding them carefully close to His heart,  
leading them home.**

Say to the cities of Judah:  
prepare the way of the Lord.  
Go to the mountain top, lift your voice:  
Jerusalem, here is your God. ***R/.***

I myself will shepherd them,  
for others have led them astray.  
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds  
and pasture them, giving them rest. ***R/.***

### **Peace Is Flowing**

Peace is flowing like a river,  
flowing out of you and me.  
Flowing out into the desert,  
setting all the captives free.

His love is flowing like a river,  
flowing out of you and me.  
Flowing out into the desert,  
setting all the captives free.

His healings flowing like a river,  
flowing out of you and me.  
Flowing out into the desert,  
setting all the captives free.

His joy is flowing like a river,  
flowing out of you and me.  
Flowing out into the desert,  
setting all the captives free.

### **Soul Of My Saviour**

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;  
Body of Christ, be Thou my saving guest;  
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in Thy tide,  
wash me with water flowing from Thy side.

Strength and protection may Thy Passion be;  
O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;  
deep in Thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;

so shall I never, never part from Thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign,  
in death's dread moments make me only Thine.  
Call me and bid me, come to Me on high  
when I may praise Thee with Thy saints for aye.

### **Strong And Constant**

I will be Yahweh who walks with you!  
You will be always within my hand!  
Take your heart and give it all to me! *R/.*

**Refrain: Strong and constant is my love,  
strong and constant is my love!**

Should you wander far away from me.  
I will search for you in ev'ry land!  
Should you call, then you will truly know. *R/.*

When you know sorrow within your life,  
I will come, I will embrace your heart!  
Through your pain you will discover me. *R/.*

### **The Old Rugged Cross**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
and exchange it someday for a crown.**

O, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above  
to bear it to dark Calvary. *R/.*

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
a wondrous beauty I see;  
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died

to pardon and sanctify me. *R/.*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
then he'll call me someday to my home far away,  
when his glory for ever I'll share. *R/.*

### **The Crimond**

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me  
the quiet water by.

My soul He doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
ev'n for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
and staff my comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes.  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy, all my life,  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for ever more  
my dwelling place shall be.

### **The Lord Is My Shepherd**

The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
wherever He leads me, wherever He goes.  
Over the mountains, the waters and byways,  
valleys and highways, He's waiting for me. *R/.*

**Refrain: I want to go and meet Him there,  
to lay myself down in His love.  
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
wherever He leads me, wherever He goes.**

And while on the journey, to where we are going,  
He promised to be there to help us along.  
And over the mountains, we'll walk on together,  
to know all the wonders, He's given to me. *R/.*

### **Trinity Song**

Father in my life I see,  
You are God who walks with me.  
You hold my life in your hands,  
close beside you I will stand,  
I give all my life to you,  
help me Father to be true.

Jesus in my life I see,  
You are God who walks with me.  
You hold my life in your hands,  
close beside you I will stand,  
I give all my life to you,  
help me Jesus to be true.

Spirit in my life I see,  
You are God who walks with me.  
You hold my life in your hands,  
close beside you I will stand,  
I give all my life to you,  
help me Spirit to be true.