



Readings, Hymns and Reflections



EXCELLENCE IN FUNERAL CARE



Contents

Planning the funeral liturgy	2
Choosing The Readings	2
Readings from the Old Testament	3
Readings from the New Testament	7
Responsorial Psalms	9
Second Readings from the New Testament	13
Suggested Prayers of the Faithful	22
Suggested Reflections for Funeral Mass	24
Suggested Hymns	27
Tips for the Reader	28
Your Selection	29



EXCELLENCE IN FUNERAL CARE

Planning the funeral liturgy

The Church actively encourages the family to be involved, in the planning and participation of the funeral liturgy. This booklet we hope provides some assistance and choice for the family to consider when deciding on the content of the liturgy. The priest will gladly assist in this decision making process.

For a Funeral Mass the order will generally be as follows:

- ◆ Opening Hymn
- ◆ Presentation of symbols
- ◆ 1st Reading (by family)
- ◆ Responsorial Psalm (usually sung by musicians)
- ◆ 2nd Reading (by family)
- ◆ Gospel (read by Priest)
- ◆ Homily (by Priest)
- ◆ Prayers of the Faithful (3-5 typically, by family)
- ◆ Offertory Hymn
- ◆ Communion Hymns (2)
- ◆ Communion Reflection (by family)
- ◆ Eulogy (by family)
- ◆ Recessional hymn

Choosing The Readings

The readings are a central part of a Funeral Mass. You may choose one from Old Testament and/or one from the New Testament reading before the Gospel reading.

For a Funeral Mass you can choose the first reading from the Old Testament *or in the Easter Season from the New Testament*. The Responsorial Psalm is normally sung. However, if it is not being sung you can choose a psalm for reading from the Responsorial Psalm section. You can select readings from pages 8 to 11 in this booklet.

The Responsorial Psalm comes after the first reading.

The following is a helpful limited guide but you are free to choose readings from scripture and a psalm other than those contained in this booklet. Your priest will help guide you on the choice of readings.

The location of each reading and psalm in the Lectionary is noted below. The Lectionary is the official book of readings used at Mass.

Readings from the Old Testament

First Reading 1 (Lectionary Old Testament 1)

A reading from the book of Job [19:1.23-27]

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

First Reading 2 (Lectionary Old Testament 2B)

A reading from the book of Wisdom [3:1-6.9]

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

In the eyes of the unwise they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are in 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 worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.

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

The Word of the Lord

First Reading 3

(Lectionary Old Testament 3)

A reading from the book of Wisdom [4:7-15]

The virtuous man, though he died before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honorable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is a person'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

First Reading 4

(Lectionary Old Testament 4)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah [25:6-9]

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death forever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek, he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said. See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation, the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord

First Reading 5

(Lectionary Old Testament 5)

A reading from the book of Lamentations [3:17-26]

My soul is shut out from peace; I have forgotten happiness. And now I say, My strength is gone that hope which came from the Lord. Brooding on my anguish and affliction is gall and wormwood. My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me. This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope: the favours of the Lord are not all past, his kindnesses are not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; great is his faithfulness. 'My portion is the Lord says my soul and so I will hope in him'. The Lord is good to those who trust him, to the soul that searches for him. It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

The Word of the Lord

First Reading 6

(Lectionary Old Testament 7)

A reading from the second book of Maccabees [12:43-45]

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

The Word of the Lord

First Reading 7
(Not in Lectionary)

A reading from the book of Tobit [4:1-5, 15-17, 20]

Tobit thought: 'I have come to the point of praying for death; I should do well to call my son Tobias and talk to him'. He summoned his son Tobias and told him: 'When I die, give me an honourable burial. Honour your mother, and never abandon her all the days of your life. Do all that she wants, and give her no reason for sorrow. Remember, my child, all the risks she ran for your sake when you were in her womb. And when she dies, bury her at my side in the same grave.'

'My child, be faithful to the Lord all your days. Never entertain the will to sin or to transgress his laws. Do good works all the days of your life, never follow ways that are not right; for if you act in truthfulness, you will be successful in all your actions, as all men are if they practice what is right ...'

'Be careful, my child, in all you do, well-disciplined in all your behaviour. Do to no one what you would not want done to you. Do not drink wine to the point of drunkenness; do not let excess be your travelling companion. Give your bread to those who are hungry, and your clothes to those who are naked. Whatever you own in plenty, devote a proportion to almsgiving; and when you give alms, do not do it grudgingly' ... So now, my child, remember these precepts and never let them fade from your heart.'

Tobias then answered his father Tobit, 'Father', he said 'I will do everything you have told me.'

The Word of the Lord

Readings from the New Testament

First Reading 8

(Lectionary New Testament First Readings 2)

A reading from the book of Revelation [14:13]

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

The Word of the Lord

First Reading 9

(Lectionary New Testament First Readings 3)

A reading from the book of Revelation [20:11-21:1]

I, John, saw a large white throne and the One who was sitting on it. In his presence, earth and the sky vanished, leaving no trace. I saw the dead, the great and small, standing in front of his throne, while the book of life was opened and other books 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 every one was judged according to the way in which he had lived. Then Death and Hades were thrown in to 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.

The Word of the Lord

First Reading 10

(Lectionary New Testament First Readings 4)

A reading from the book of Revelation [21:1-7]

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, 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.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new' he said. 'I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he a son to me.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalms

Responsorial Psalm 1 (Psalm 26) (Lectionary After Old Testament First Reading 1)

RESPONSE:

The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be 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 saviour 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

Responsorial Psalm 2 (Psalm 114) (Lectionary After Old Testament First Reading 2)

RESPONSE:

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 one 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

Responsorial Psalm 3 (Psalm 22)
(Lectionary After Old Testament First Reading 4)

RESPONSE:

**The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.**

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

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. R

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

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

Responsorial Psalm 4 (Psalm 24)
(Lectionary After Old Testament First Reading 5)

RESPONSE:

**Those who hope in you, Lord,
shall not be disappointed.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have 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

Responsorial Psalm 5 (Psalm 41)
(Lectionary After Old Testament First Reading 6)

RESPONSE:

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

Like a 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 cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy. R

Responsorial Psalm 6 (Psalm 102)
(Lectionary After Old Testament First Reading 7)

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
for repay us according to our faults. R
As a father has compassion on his children,
the Lord has pity of 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 fear him;
His justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth. R

Responsorial Psalm 7 (Psalm 23)
(Not In Lectionary)

RESPONSE:

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. R

Who shall climb the mount of the Lord?
Who shall standing in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. R

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves them.
Such are the people who seek him,
seek the face of the God and Jacob. R

Responsorial Psalm 8 (Psalm 83)
(Not In Lectionary)

RESPONSE:

My soul is long for the courts of the Lord.

The sparrow finds herself a home
and the shallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my kind and my God. R

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, who strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Sion. R

As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs.
They walk with every growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Sion. R

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield;
he will give us his favour and glory.
The Lord will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame. R

Responsorial Psalm 9 (Psalm 129)
(Lectionary After New Testament First Reading 2)

RESPONSE:

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 work.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watching for daybreak. R

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. R

Second Readings from the New Testament

Second Reading 1

(Lectionary, First Reading Easter Season 1)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles [10:34-43]

Peter, addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise,' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody 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 people. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses- we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead -and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 2

(Lectionary, New Testament 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

Second Reading 3

(Lectionary, New Testament 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 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 will be made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When 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

Second Reading 4

(Lectionary, New Testament 3)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [6:3-4,8-9]

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

Second Reading 5

(Lectionary, New Testament 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

Second Reading 6

(Lectionary, New Testament 5)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [8:31-35, 37-39]

With God on our side, who can be against us? Since God did not spare his only 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 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 or 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 loves 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, nor height, nor depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 7

(Lectionary, New Testament 6)

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

Second Reading 8

(Lectionary, New Testament 7)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [15:20-23]

Christ has been raised 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.

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 9

(Lectionary, New Testament 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

Second Reading 10

(Lectionary, New Testament 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

Second Reading 11

(Lectionary, New Testament 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

Second Reading 12

(Lectionary, New Testament 12)

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

Second Reading 13

(Lectionary, New Testament 13)

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 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 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

Second Reading 14
(Not In Lectionary)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy [4:6-8]

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

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 15
(Lectionary New Testament 14)

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 to be revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 16
(Lectionary New Testament 15)

A reading from the first letter of St John [3:14-16]

We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love one another. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your brother is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them. This has taught us love – that he gave up his life for us; and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 17
(Not In Lectionary)

A reading from the first letter of St John [4:7-12.17]

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. Love will come to its perfection in us when we face the day of Judgement without fear.

The Word of the Lord

Suggested Prayers of the Faithful

READER:

Let us thank God for having given N..... the gift of life and pray that he/she will now grant N..... the greater gift of eternal life.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

In baptism N..... was given the pledge of eternal life.
May he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

For the family of N... that in these difficult and dark days they may be sustained by their faith, and by the knowledge that they will be reunited with N..... one day in God's heavenly kingdom.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

For our deceased relatives and friends: that God may bring them into the light of his presence, and give them a share in his glory.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

For all the faithful departed: that they may see God face to face in the kingdom of heaven.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

For all here present: that our remembrance of N..... may be a source of comfort and strength to us.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

The gift of life, which we all share, is very precious, Lord, make us more aware of the gifts and talents that you have given us, particularly those that we so often take for granted. May we use them to make the world a better place.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

READER:

For all of us gathered here: that we may remember at all times, but especially at times of trouble and anxiety, that we are loved by God and that he will take care of us.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

(Relevant prayer for death after an illness)

READER:

We pray for all nurses and carers, particularly the nurses and carers who were so good to N..... in the last months of his/her life.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Suggested Reflections for Funeral Mass

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

To Those Whom I Love & Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be thankful for our many beautiful years.
I gave you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave me happiness.
I thank you for your love you each have shown,
But now it's time for me to travel on alone.
So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part.
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say 'Welcome Home'.

Dry Your Tears

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

The Broken Chain

We little knew that morning that,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you.
the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
your love is still our guide;
and although we cannot see you,
you are always at our side.
Our Family chain is broke,
and nothing seems the same,
but as God calls us one by one,
the Chain will link again.

Life Is But A Stopping Place

Life is but a stopping place,
a pause in what's to be,
a resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
we all were meant to learn some things,
but never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place,
far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
for some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
we'll claim a great reward,
and find an everlasting peace,
Together with the lord

Remember

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die!
Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am the song that will never end.
I am the love of family and friend.
I am the child who has come to rest
In the arms of the Father
who knows him best.
When you see the sunset fair,
I am the scented evening air.
I am the joy of a task well done.
I am the glow of the setting sun.
Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die!

Let Me Go

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

Suggested Hymns

OPENING HYMNS

How Great Thou Art
Christ be beside me
Make me a Channel of your Peace
Abide with me
Morning has broken
Amazing Grace
Holy God we praise thy name
I'll sing a hymn to Mary
Faith of Our Fathers
Hail Queen of Heaven

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd
The Lord is my Light
May your love be upon us
The Lord will heal the broken heart
Like the deer that yearns for
running stream
My Soul is Thirsting
Be with me Lord
The Lord is kind and merciful
Be not afraid

Here I am Lord
On Eagles Wings
Yahweh I know you are near

OFFERTORY

Ag Christ an Siol
As I kneel before you
Gifts of Bread and Wine
In bread we bring you Lord
Lord accept the gifts we offer
See us Lord about Thine Altar
When creation was begun
Lay your hands gently upon us
Ave Maria (Schubert)
Ave Maria (Gounod)

COMMUNION

Ave Verum
Be Still my Soul
Be still for the Presence of the Lord
Come to Me
The Hiding Place (Liam Lawton)
I am the Bread of Life

I will be the Vine
Listen
Like a Shepherd
Laudate Dominum (Mozart)
Panis Angelicus
Pie Jesu (Lloyd Webber)
Pie Jesu (Fauré)
Soul of my Saviour
Sweet Sacrament Divine
Sweet Heart of Jesus
The Clouds Veil (Liam Lawton)

RECESSIONAL

Going Home (Dvorak)
In Paradisium
Jesus Remember Me
May songs of the angels
welcome you
Nearer my God to Thee
I'll walk with God
Queen of the May
I'm on a journey, I'm going home
Song of Farewell

Tips for the Reader

The following are a few tips from the Dublin Diocese which the readers may find helpful.

- ◆ Ensure that you know which readings you are proclaiming.
- ◆ Practice the reading a number of times the night before the Mass.
- ◆ Read slowly and clearly – try not to rush.
- ◆ Make sure you have the reading with you when you come to the Church.
- ◆ Speak clearly into the microphone – your mouth should be six inches away from the microphone when you are using it.

Your Selection

Opening Hymn

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Prayers of the Faithful (3/5)

Offertory Hymn

Communion Hymns (2)

Reflection

Eulogy

Recessional Hymn





EXCELLENCE IN FUNERAL CARE

THE FANAGAN GROUP INCLUDES CARNEGIES, KIRWANS AND NICHOLS