

A photograph of a wooden cross standing on a rocky shore next to a body of water. The cross is made of two dark, weathered branches. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a tree stump or a large log, resting on the rocks. The background shows a calm body of water with some reeds and a distant shoreline under a clear sky. The scene is framed by the dark, leafy branches of a tree in the upper left and right corners.

Funeral Readings

St. Patrick's Church

Monkstown, Co. Dublin

Funerals

To arrange a funeral ceremony the first contact is generally made with the Funeral Director who puts in place arrangements with the Church and contacts the parish. Fr Kevin or Deacon Eric will meet with the family and will discuss such items as the readings, hymns, prayer of the faithful etc.

At the time of death of a loved one there are so many difficult decisions to be made quickly and among those are organising the Funeral Liturgy. This page contains readings and prayers for the Funeral Mass to help you choose what is fitting for and appropriate for your deceased loved one. You will need to consider the following:

Some General Guidelines

For a funeral, the Readings necessary are as follows:

- The First Reading - An Old Testament Reading (options below)
- A Psalm (options below)
- The Second Reading - A New Testament Reading (options below)
- Gospel Acclamation (options below)
- Prayer of the Faithful (options below)

Given that two readings are required as well as the psalm and Gospel Acclamation, it is normal to have two readers. One reader would do the First Reading and the Psalm, if the Psalm is not being sung. The other reader would do the Second Reading and the Gospel Acclamation, if this is not being sung.

A selection of Readings and Prayers are given below. We recommend that you read through all the options, reflect on them as the Word of God and select the ones which seem to speak to you as appropriate for the celebration of the funeral of your loved one. Once you have selected your option, you can download and print them off via the link at the end of each reading or prayer.

Funeral Mass Readings

Funeral Mass 1st Readings – a selection of Readings from the Old Testament.

OPTION 1: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (41: 10, 44:22, 49:15 – 16)

Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.
For I am the Lord your God who grasps your right hand;
it is I who say to you “fear not, I will help you”.
I have brushed away your offences like a cloud,
your sins like a mist, return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child within her womb?
Even should she forget, I will never forget you.
See, upon the palm of my hand I have written your name.
Yes, in joy you shall depart, in peace you shall be brought back.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 2: A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes. (3: 2-8)

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.
A time for building, a time for tearing down.
A time for sorrow, a time for joy.
A time for mourning, a time for dancing.
A time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing.
A time for finding, a time for losing.
A time for saving, a time for throwing away.
A time for mending, a time for tearing.
A time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.
A time for conflict, a time for peace.

What does a man gain from the efforts that he makes?
I contemplate the task that God gives mankind to labour at.

All that he does is apt for its time;
but though he has permitted man to consider time in its wholeness,
man cannot comprehend the work of God from beginning to end.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 3: A Reading from the Book of Wisdom. (3: 1 – 9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be an affliction,
and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of men they were punished,
their hope was full of immortality,
slight was their affliction great will their blessing be.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through stubble.
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 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 for ever.

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.

OPTION 5: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (61: 1 – 3)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed;
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of our God;
to comfort all who mourn,
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 6: A Reading from the prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 60: 19-20)

No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor the moonlight shine on you,
but God will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.
You sun will set no more,
nor your moon wane,
but God, will be your everlasting light
and your days of mourning will be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 7: A reading from the Book of Jeremiah (17:5-8)

Thus says the Lord:
Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose hope is the Lord.
They are like a tree planted beside the waters
that stretches out its roots to the stream:
it fears not the heat when it comes;
its leaves stay green;
in the year of drought it shows no distress,
but still bears fruit.

The word of the Lord.

OPTION 8: A Reading from the Book of Job. (19: 1. 23 – 27)

Job said:
'Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were graven in the rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.'

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 9: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (35: 3 – 6. 10)

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.
And the ransomed of the Lord will return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 10 : A Reading from the Book of Wisdom. (4: 7 – 15)

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 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.

OPTION 11 : A Reading from the Prophet Daniel. (12: 1 – 3)

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:

“At that time Michael will stand up,
the great prince who mounts guard over your people.
There is going to be a time of great distress,
unparalleled since nations first came into existence.
When that time comes, your own people will be spared,
all those whose names are found written in the Book.
Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake,
some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace.
The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven,
and those who have instructed many in virtue,
as bright as stars for all eternity.”

The Word of the Lord.

Funeral Mass Responsorial Psalm – a selection of Psalms

OPTION 1: R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and 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.**

OPTION 2: R: For you my soul is thirsting, 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.**

OPTION 3: R The Lord is my light and my help

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

There is one thing I shall 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**

OPTION 4: R The Lord is compassion and love.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. R

As a Father has compassion for 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

Second Reading – a selection of Readings from the New Testament.

OPTION 12: A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans. (8: 14 – 18)

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ –
if, in fact, we suffer with him, we do so that we may also be glorified with him.
I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory which is waiting for us

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 13: A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15: 51 – 57)

I will tell you something that has been a 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.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 14: 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 ourselves.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 15: A Reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy. (4: 6 – 8)

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

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 16: A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

(4: 13-18)

We want you to be quite certain, friends, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 17: A Reading from the first 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 mortal 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.

OPTION 18: A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans. (6: 3-9)

When we were baptised in Christ 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 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 is 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.

OPTION 19: A Reading from the first Letter of St. John.

Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's Love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 20: 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.

OPTION 21: A Reading from the Book of the Apocalypse. (14:13)

I, John, heard a voice from Heaven saying,
'Write this: Blessed are those who die in the Lord.
Blessed indeed, says the Spirit,
now they may rest forever from their labours,
for their good deeds go with them!'

The Word of the Lord.

OPTION 22: A Reading from the First Letter of St. John. (1:5-7)

This is what we have heard from Him,
and the message we are announcing to you:
God is light; there is no darkness in Him at all.
If we say that we are in union with God while we are living in darkness,
we are lying because we are not living the truth.
But if we live our lives in the light, as He is in the light,
we are in union with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Funeral Mass Gospel Acclamations

ACCLAMATION 1: (John 11: 25-26)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die.

Alleluia!

ACCLAMATION 2: (Matthew 11: 25)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you Father
Lord of heaven and earth;
For revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom
To mere children.

Alleluia!

Funeral Mass Gospel Readings

OPTION 23: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. (19: 17-18. 25-30)

Carrying His own cross, Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgatha, where they crucified Him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing His mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to His mother, 'Woman, this is your Son'. Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'. After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the Scripture perfectly He said: 'I am thirsty'. A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to His mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar He said: 'It is accomplished'; and bowing His head He gave up His spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OPTION 24: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. (24: 13-16. 28-35)

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us? They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem.

There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what happened on the road and how they recognised him at the breaking of bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

OPTION 25: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (11: 25-30)

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 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

OPTION 26: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. (14: 1 – 6)

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 not 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

OPTION 27: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. (5: 1 – 12)

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 sons 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer of the Faithful

Eighteen different sets of Prayer of the Faithful are provided in the document below. These are offered only as a guide and families are free to compose their own and consult with the priest before the Mass.

Each page of the document below has one set of Prayers on it. Prayers are indexed below. For example, Prayers appropriate for a child or youth who has died through illness are on page 1, those appropriate for a child or youth who has died tragically are on page 2, etc. Please bear this in mind when printing from the document.

Index of Prayers

1. For a child or youth who died through illness
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16. An Invincible Spring
17. Treasure in Earthen Vessels
18. Sunrise, Sunset

- 1 - Let the Little Ones Come to Me (1)

A child or youth who died through illness

Priest: Let us pray to God with the confidence and trust of a child.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That Christ, who loves the little ones, may welcome N., into the joy and peace of God's kingdom.
Lord, hear us.
- That N's sufferings may be a source of blessings for us.
Lord, hear us.
- That from his (her) place in heaven, he (she) may intercede for us.
Lord, hear us.
- For his (her) parents, family, and friends: that the Lord may comfort them in their loss.
Lord, hear us.
- For all those who loved and cared for N., during his (her) illness.
Lord, hear us.
- That we may be convinced that if we share Christ's sufferings in this life, we will share his glory in the next.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of mercy, we commend our (little) brother (sister) N., to your care.
Give him (her) a place of honour in your kingdom
for he (she) shared in the cross of your Son on earth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-2 - Let the Little Ones Come to Me (2)

A child or youth who died tragically

Priest: Let us now pray with confidence to Christ who showed in word and deed that the little ones are precious to him.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That Christ may welcome N., into that kingdom which he said belongs especially to the little ones.
Lord, hear us.
- As a child N., thirsted for life here on earth; may she (he) now enjoy the fullness of life in heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- For the parents of N.,: that they may be consoled in the knowledge that as they cherished her (him) in life, God will cherish her (him) in death.
Lord, hear us.
- That we may treasure the beautiful but fragile gift of life which God has given us.
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, in Christ you have shown us how much you love the little ones. Write the name of N., on the palm of your hand, and grant her (him) a place of honour in your kingdom of light and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-3 - Unfailing Love

A parent

Priest: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Therefore, let us pray to him with confidence.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That God may reward N., for all the love that she (he) shared.
Lord, hear us.
- That in his boundless mercy God may blot out the sins she (he) committed through human weakness.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may visit N's family and friends with comfort and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may bless this community with an increase of hope and love.
Lord, hear us.
- That our departed relatives and friends may be freed from every shadow of death, and take their place in the new creation.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

O God, you made us for yourself, and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you. Grant that amidst the uncertainties of this changing world, our hearts may be set on our eternal home where true joys are to be found.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-4 - A Time of Ripening

An elderly person (1)

Priest: If we trust in God, he will take care of us in life and in death. Let us pray with confidence to him in our hour of need.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- Now that N's labours and sufferings are over, may God bring her (him) to a place of light, happiness and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may pardon her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may comfort us who mourn for N., and help us to comfort one another.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may reward those who cared for N., in her (his) old age.
Lord, hear us.
- That her (his) memory may live on among us.
Lord, hear us.
- That all the dead, especially our relatives and friends, may enjoy eternal life.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-5 - Mission Accomplished

Death of an elderly person (2)

Priest: For those who live a good life, the hour of death is transformed into an hour of glory, because God gives them the crown of eternal life.

Let us pray to God in our hour of loss.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., has finally reached the shore of eternity; may he (she) enjoy rest from all his (her) labours.
Lord, hear us.
- N., fought the good fight; he (she) finished the race; may he (she) now receive the crown of eternal glory Christ won for us with his death and resurrection.
Lord, hear us.
- That the hardships and sufferings he (she) endured may, through the mercy of God, gain him (her) forgiveness for his (her) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who grieve for him (her): that their sorrow may be changed into joy.
Lord, hear us.
- For all those who cared for N., in his (her) old age: that their kindness and patience may be rewarded.
Lord, hear us.
- That all who knew N., may draw inspiration from his (her) life.
Lord, hear us.

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

-6- Sharing His Sufferings

Someone who suffered a lot

Priest: Through Christ we have become children of God and heirs to the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, let us pray to God with confidence in this hour of sorrow.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., shared the bitterness of Christ's sufferings on earth; may she (he) share his glory in heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That she (he) may know the sweetness of God's mercy.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn N's death: that they may be comforted by the knowledge that after all her (his) pain, she (he) is now at peace.
Lord, hear us.
- For all who suffer: that they may bear their pain with patience and fortitude.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who care for the sick and suffering: that they may have kind hearts and gentle hands.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that we may remember that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory which is waiting for us in the next.
Lord, hear us.

Priest: Lord, give us the certainty that beyond death there is a life where broken things are mended and lost things are found; where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-7- A Green Tree Falls

Sudden death

Priest:

As we stand before the mystery of death, Christ stands among us and says to us, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.' Therefore, let us place our prayers before him, confident that he will hear them.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., whose life was cut short by death, may enter into the fullness of that life Christ won for us by his own death.
Lord, hear us.
- As death surprised her (him) with its suddenness, may God now surprise her (him) with his kindness and mercy.
Lord, hear us.
- That her (his) family may find comfort through faith in God and the support of the community.
Lord, hear us.
- For ourselves: that we may continue our earthly journey, steadfast in faith and joyful in hope.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may grant eternal life to all those whom death has taken away from us.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, you made us not for death but for eternal life. Let the splendour of Christ's resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and cause the radiance of eternity to shine on us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

- 8 - When the Lights Go Out

Tragic death (1)

Priest: God brought his Son through the darkness of Calvary to the glory of Easter. We are confident that he will bring us too through the darkness of death to his kingdom of light. Let us now turn to him with our prayers.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That Christ, to whom N., was united in baptism, may give him (her) a share in his glory in heaven.
Lord, hear us
- As death surprised N., with its suddenness, may Christ now surprise him (her) with his mercy and kindness.
Lord, hear us
- For the family, relatives, and friends of N.,: that they may find strength through faith in God and the support of the community.
Lord, hear us
- For ourselves: that our trust in God and in his love for us may never waver.
Lord, hear us
- For all those who died, especially those who were dear to us.
Lord, hear us

Priest: God of love and mercy, give us the certainty that beyond death there is a life, where broken things are mended and lost things are found; where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Out of the Depths We Cry

Tragic death (2)

Priest:

God is on our side. Therefore, let us pray to him with confidence in our hour of need.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., whose life was cut short by tragedy, may now enter into the fullness of that life Christ won for us with his death.
Lord, hear us.
- That God's mercy may shine warmly on her (him), forgiving all her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For N's family, relatives, and friends: that the Lord may keep their hearts and minds in his love and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- For ourselves: that in the midst of the trials and uncertainties of life, our trust in God may remain firm.
Lord, hear us.
- For our departed relatives and friends: that freed from every shadow of death, they may take their place in the new creation where all tears are wiped away.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, you made us not for death but for eternal life. Let the splendour of Christ's resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and cause the radiance of eternity to shine on us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-10 - The Great Loss

When there is a great sense of loss

Priest:

Christ is the Good Shepherd who gave his life to save his sheep.
In our loss, let us turn to him, and with confidence make our needs known to him.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., believed in Christ, the Good Shepherd;
may he (she) now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in the kingdom of heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That the Lord may grant him (her) forgiveness for his (her) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- That those who grieve over his (her) loss may be comforted
by the knowledge that the Lord will take care of him (her).
Lord, hear us.
- For all the faithful departed, especially our relatives and friends:
that they may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who do not follow Christ
because they do not hear his voice or know him.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

Lord, give us the certainty that beyond death there is a life where broken things are mended and lost things are found; where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-11- Journey to the Promised Land

Priest:

We are the new people of God.

With Christ as our leader we are journeying towards the promised land of heaven.

Let us pray for N., for ourselves, and for others.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., who began his (her) spiritual journey at baptism, may reach its goal in the kingdom of heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- N., was nourished with the bread of the Eucharist; may he (she) now enjoy the banquet of eternal life.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for N.,: that they may be comforted by the faith that he (she) has gone to God, the destination of life's journey.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that we may receive an increase of faith in God and in our heavenly destiny.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who have no faith.
Lord, hear us.
- That in his great mercy, God may bring all the dead into the promised land of heaven.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

O God, may the radiance of your glory light up our hearts, and bring us safely through the shadows of this world until we reach our homeland of everlasting light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-12- The Story of a Life

Priest:

Through the death and resurrection of his Son,
God has given us victory over sin and death.
He will not refuse us anything we ask of him in faith.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- Now that N., has come to the end of her (his) earthly journey,
may Christ give her (him) a place at the banquet of the kingdom of heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ in his mercy may blot out all her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn N's death: that they may find consolation
through faith in God and the support of other people.
Lord, hear us.
- That our faith may enable us to see Christ as our companion on the road of life,
a road that leads to the glory of God's kingdom.
Lord, hear us.
- For all who are crushed by failure and disappointment.
Lord, hear us.
- For all who departed from this life believing in God:
that they may find light, happiness, and peace in his kingdom.
Lord, hear us.

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-13- The Seed Must Die

Priest:

Those who die with Christ will live with him forever in heaven.
Comforted by this faith, let us make our prayers to him.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., died with Christ in baptism;
may she (he) now share his risen life in heaven.
Lord, hear us.
- That she (he) may have forgiveness for her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- That she (he) may reap a rich harvest
from her (his) acts of self-denial and generosity.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ, who himself knew the anguish of death,
may comfort those who mourn for N.,
Lord, hear us.
- For all those who have no hope of a life beyond the grave:
that they too may believe the Good News of eternal life.
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all the faithful departed:
that God may bring them into the light of his presence.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of power and love, you made us not for death but for eternal life. Let the splendour of Christ's resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and cause the radiance of eternity to shine on us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-14- Going Home

Priest:

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

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- N., has departed her (his) earthly home; may she (he) reach the joy and peace of God's house.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ may have mercy on her (him), forgive her (his) sins, and bring her (him) to everlasting life.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for her (him): that they may be comforted by the hope that she (he) has gone to her (his) everlasting home.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that nothing in this life may cause us to forget our eternal home.
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends: that the Lord may bring them into the light of his presence.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-15- Parting Time

Priest:

It is from God we come when we enter this world, and it is to him we go when we leave it. Comforted by this faith, let us pray to him with confidence.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., who has departed this world may reach the safety of God's eternal kingdom.
Lord, hear us.
- That God in his boundless mercy may blot out the sins she (he) committed through human weakness.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for N.,:
that the Lord may turn their sorrow into joy.
Lord, hear us.
- That God may grant eternal life to all those whom we loved in this life but whom death has taken from us.
Lord, hear us.
- That we may treasure our friends in life and in death.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

God of mercy, stretch forth your hand, rescue our sister (brother) from the power of death, and bring her (him) to a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-16- An Invincible Spring

Priest:

Christ is the resurrection and the life. Let us pray that our faith may not fail us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That N., may enjoy the full flowering of that life Christ shared with her (him) in baptism.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ call our sister (brother) from this land of shadows to the land of eternal light.
Lord, hear us.
- That Christ may free her (him) from the bonds of her (his) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- Christ comforted Martha and Mary;
may he comfort us who mourn for N.,
Lord, hear us.
- For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all the faithful departed.
Lord, hear us.
- For those without faith: that they too may hear the words of Christ and believe.
Lord, hear us.
- We might now wish to make a prayer of our own. *(Pause).*

Priest:

All-powerful God, you sent your Son into our world to plant within our hearts the hope of eternal life. Guard that hope with your grace, and bring it to fulfilment in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-17- Treasure in Earthen Vessels

Priest:

We are God's children. As such we have a divine dignity which death cannot touch. In this confidence let us place our prayers before God.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- Now that the vessel of N's body lies in death, may God in his love bring his soul home to himself.
Lord, hear us.
- That he (she) may be released from his (her) sins, and blessed with eternal light and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- For the family, relatives, and friends of N.,: that they may find consolation in their faith and strength in the support of the community.
Lord, hear us.
- For all here present: that we may never doubt the treasure we carry in earthen vessels.
Lord, hear us.
- For all the dead whose faith is known to God alone.
Lord, hear us.
- We now have an opportunity to make a prayer of our own. *(Pause).*

Priest:

Lord, give us the certainty that beyond death there is a life where broken things are mended and lost things are found; where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad; where all that we have loved and willed of good exists, and where we will meet again our loved ones.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

-18- Sunrise, Sunset

Priest:

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

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader(s):

- That God may welcome N., whose earthly pilgrimage is ended, into his kingdom of light and peace.
Lord, hear us.
- That the light of God's mercy may banish the darkness of his (her) sins.
Lord, hear us.
- For those who mourn for him (her):
that God may fill them with hope through believing.
Lord, hear us.
- For ourselves: that we may continue our earthly journey,
steadfast in faith and joyful in hope.
Lord, hear us.
- For our departed relatives and friends: that freed from every shadow of death,
they may take their place in the new creation.
Lord, hear us.

Priest:

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord.