

PRAYER FOR THE BEREAVED

God of all consolation, your love
for us is very great,
You turn the darkness of death into
the dawn of new life,

Help us at this time.
Show compassion to us in our
sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength
And lift us from the darkness of
this grief.
To the peace and light of your
presence.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you
my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me
now and in my last agony.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph may I
breathe forth my soul
In peace with you. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him (her) O
Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon
him (her)
May he (she) rest in peace. Amen
May his soul and the souls of all the
faithful departed
Through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Amen.

FUNERALS IN OUR PARISH

Guidelines for the family of the deceased

OUR SYMPATHY

On behalf of our parish we offer you our
support and sympathy at this sad time.
Death in the family brings pain, numbness
and a sense of “what do we do now?”

Every baptised Catholic is a member of
the community of faith and is entitled to a
Christian funeral.

It is your wish to have the funeral of your
loved one in the Catholic Church. And it is
our wish to help you arrange and celebrate
the funeral liturgy with reverence and faith,
with warmth and respect.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The Catholic funeral liturgy tells us that "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." In the Sacrament of Baptism we already share in the life of the Risen Christ. The Catholic funeral sees the death of a Christian as the pathway to a complete sharing in His death and resurrection. The funeral gives us hope and strength, acceptance and reassurance. "Our faith is our consolation and eternal life our hope."

It is for that reason that each part of the funeral ceremony...the readings, the prayers, the music, the reflection, is linked to the Lord himself and is religious rather than secular in its content. The funeral is a family event, but is also a celebration for the whole faith community.

THE FUNERAL MASS

The Mass is centred on the Last Supper and on the death of Our Lord on the Cross... "this is my Body given for you... do this in memory of me."

Just as our Saviour died and is risen, so, we believe, the person who has died in Christ, is called to share in his risen life.

The funeral Mass is the great moment when family, friends and the wider community come together to pray for the one who has died, to give support to the bereaved, to express faith in the life to come and to express what it is to be part of a Christian community.

VARIOUS ROLES AT FUNERALS WHO DOES WHAT?

The family and friends of the deceased are invited and welcomed to take part in the funeral Mass as fully as possible.

Sometimes it may be difficult emotionally for immediate family members to read or take some other active part in the liturgy. That is a family decision. However, we wish you to know that members of the family circle, or friends, are welcome to take part in some or all of the following ways, as they choose:

1. **Symbols linked to the deceased.** Family members may bring to a table in the sanctuary some symbols which respectfully highlight aspects of the life of the deceased. If they wish to do so, this is done at the very start of the Mass.
2. **Word of God.** There are normally two readings with a Psalm in between. We suggest that one person proclaims Reading 1. The Psalm may be sung or read. Another person proclaims Reading 2.
3. **The Prayer of the Faithful.** There are normally six prayers, and they may be led by 6, 3, 2 or 1 person.
4. **The Offertory Gifts.** Two people bring up the bread and wine.
5. **Minister(s) of Eucharist.** One or two may assist as appropriate.
6. **Communion Reflection.** If there is a Communion Reflection, it should be brief, prayerful and Christian and may be read by a family member.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS AT A FUNERAL.

Holy Water: When the remains come to the Church door, the coffin is sprinkled with Holy Water. We are baptised people.

The Crucifix: Often there is a Crucifix on the coffin or in the procession to the Altar. Christ died for us on the Cross.

The Easter Candle: The Paschal or Easter Candle is placed close to the coffin. Christ is risen and enables us to share his risen life.

The Book of the Gospels: The Book is placed on the coffin. God's Word guides and helps us on our pilgrim journey through life.

The Incense: Incense reminds us that our souls and our prayers ascend to our heavenly Father.

SOME PRAYERS IN THE HOME OF THE DECEASED

(Led by a family member or friend)

We begin our prayer...

**In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Let us pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys
and one Glory be to the Father for N. who
has died

Our Father

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.**

**Give, us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against
us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

**Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with
thee:**

**blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

Glory be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.**

God, our loving Father, have mercy on the soul
of N.

Lead him (her) into the everlasting beauty of
heaven.

Let him (her) live with you forever in peace.

Forgive any wrong he (she) has ever done.

Look with love and kindness on all the good he
(she) has done for you and for others.

Number him (her) among your saints forever.

We believe that Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Bring N in union with Christ into the joy and
peace of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

