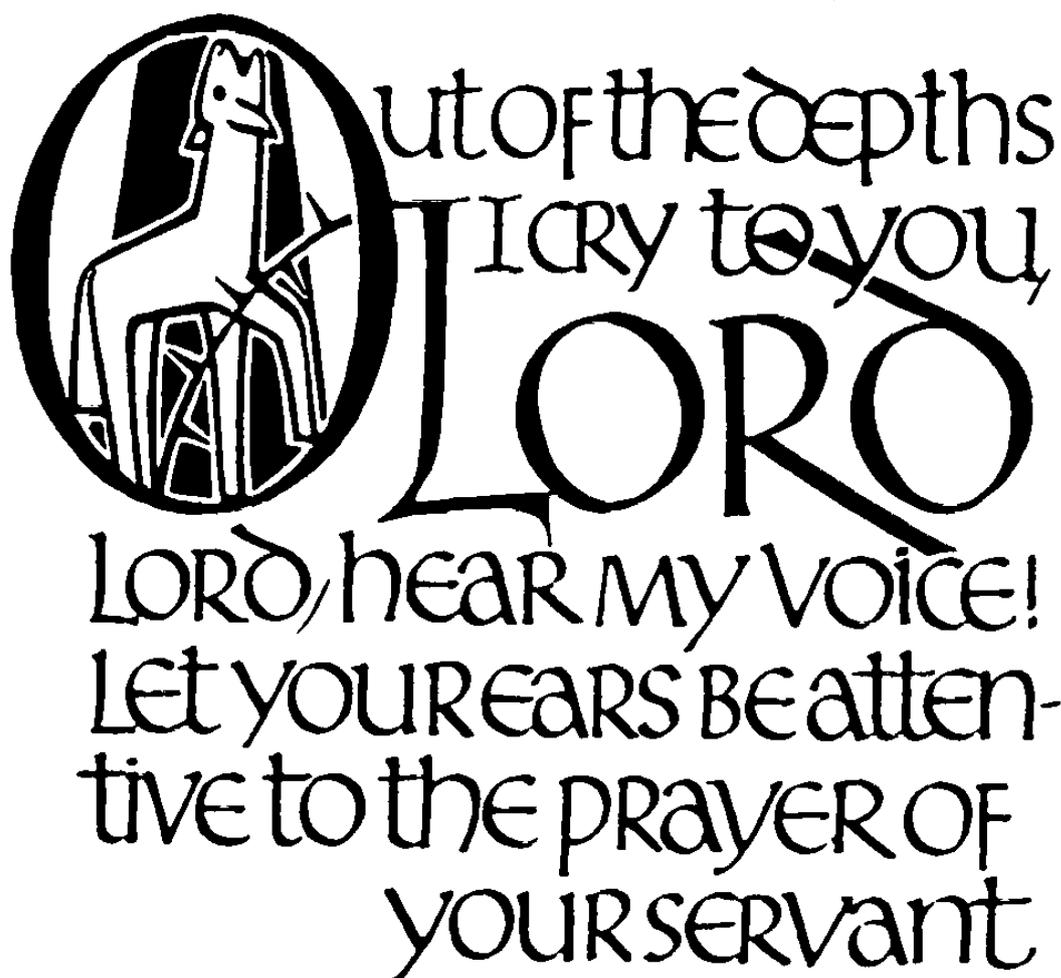


**READINGS FOR
REQUIEM MASSES**



ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

BELFAST

Preparation for the Requiem Mass

This is the central celebration for the deceased and is similar in structure to the Sunday Mass. There are a number of areas of preparation.

Readings

Please choose a First Reading, a Psalm, and if desired a Second Reading from the appropriate sections. If there is music the Psalm may be sung. The priest will choose an appropriate Gospel. Those who undertake to read should genuinely be capable of proclaiming these powerful words and not likely to be overcome by the emotion of the occasion.

Prayer of the Faithful

As with the readings, those who undertake these prayers should be genuinely capable of doing so.

Offertory

The gifts of bread and wine (only) may be brought to the Altar by family members

Music

It is never appropriate for secular songs or music to be played as part of the Sacred Liturgy. There is a list of suitable hymns in this booklet.

Homily

This will principally be on the paschal mystery of death and resurrection. However the priest may also say a few words about the deceased. For this he would welcome information from the family about the deceased's qualities in preparation for the homily.

FIRST READINGS

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked.

Indeed, the economy of the Old Testament was deliberately so oriented that it should prepare for and declare in prophecy the coming of Christ, redeemer of all men. Even though they contain matters imperfect and provisional, the books of the Old Testament bear witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love: these writings are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way.

Christians venerate the Old Testament as true Word of God. The Church has always vigorously opposed the idea of rejecting the Old Testament under the pretext that the New has rendered it void (Marcionism).

(Paragraphs 121-123 Catechism of the Catholic Church)

(1) A Reading from the Book of Exodus

23:20-23

The Lord says this:

'I myself will send an angel before you to guard you as you go and bring you to the place that I have prepared. Give him reverence and listen to all that he says. Offer him no defiance; he would not pardon such a fault, for My name is in him. If you listen carefully to his voice and do all that I say, I shall be enemy to your enemies, foe to your foes. My angel will go before you.'

The Word of the Lord

(2) 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

(3) 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 aloof'

The word of the Lord.

(4) A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1-9

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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

(5) 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 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.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

**During Eastertide the First Reading is chosen
from Acts or Apocalypse.**

(9) 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 men. 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 witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

The word of the Lord.

(10) A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

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.

(11) A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

20:11-21:1

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 the other books 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 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.

The word of the Lord.

(12) A reading from the book of Apocalypse

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.

THE PSALMS

The Psalter's many forms of prayer take shape both in the liturgy of the Temple and in the human heart. Whether hymns or prayers of lamentation or thanksgiving, whether individual or communal, whether royal chants, songs of pilgrimage or wisdom-meditations, the Psalms are a mirror of God's marvellous deeds in the history of his people, as well as reflections of the human experiences of the Psalmist. Though a given psalm may reflect an event of the past, it still possesses such direct simplicity that it can be prayed in truth by men of all times and conditions.

Certain constant characteristics appear throughout the Psalms: simplicity and spontaneity of prayer; the desire for God himself through and with all that is good in his creation; the distraught situation of the believer who, in his preferential love for the Lord, is exposed to a host of enemies and temptations, but who waits upon what the faithful God will do, in the certitude of his love and in submission to his will. The prayer of the psalms is always sustained by praise; that is why the title of this collection as handed down to us is so fitting: "The Praises." Collected for the assembly's worship, the Psalter both sounds the call to prayer and sings the response so that call: Hallelu-Yah! ("Alleluia"), "Praise the Lord!"

What is more pleasing than psalm? David expresses it well: "Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good: let there be praise of our God with gladness and grace!" yes, a psalm is a blessing on the lips of the people, praise of God, the assembly's homage, a general acclamation, a word that speaks for all, the voice of the Church, a confession of faith in song.

(Paragraphs 2588-2589 Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Psalm 22

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 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

R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth and teach me.

For you are God my Saviour.

R/.

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.

Preserve my life and rescue me.

Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.

R/.

Psalm 26

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 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

R. My soul is thirsting for God, The God of my life.

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/.

And I will come to the altar of God,
The God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God.

R/.

Why are you cast down, my soul,
Why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise Him still,
My Saviour and my God.

R/.

Psalm 62

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/.

Psalm 102

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 on his son,
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 flowers 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

R. 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 120

R. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up mine eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

R/.

May He never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, He sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

R/.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side He stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

R/.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
He will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

R/.

Psalm 121

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

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 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 129

R. 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 word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.

R/.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,

Israel indeed He will redeem
from all its iniquity.

R/.

Psalm 142

R. Lord, listen to 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/.

SECOND READING

THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Word of God, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, is set forth and displays its power in a most wonderful way in the writings of the New Testament which hand on the ultimate truth of God's Revelation. Their central object is Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and his Church's beginnings under the Spirit's guidance.

The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Saviour.

(Paragraphs 124-125 Catechism of the Catholic Church)

(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 men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man 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.

(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 were 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.

(3) A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

6:3-9

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 anymore.

The word of the Lord.

(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.

(5) A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans :31-35, 37-39

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 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 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, not any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

(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.

(7) A reading from the 1st letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-28

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 men die in Adam, so all men 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. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom of God the Father. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. – Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

(8) A reading from the 1st 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 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.

(9) A reading from the 2nd letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 4:14-5:1

We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For 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.

The word of the Lord.

(10) A reading from the 2nd letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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.

The word of the Lord.

(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.

(12) A reading from the 1st letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 4: 13-18

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.

The word of the Lord.

(13) A reading from the 2nd letter of St Paul to Timothy 4:6-8

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 to come for me 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 those who have longed for His appearing.

The word of the Lord

(14) A reading from the 2nd 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 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.

The word of the Lord.

(15) A reading from the 1st 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 revealed we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He really is.

The word of the Lord.

(16) 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 our brothers.

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.

The word of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Some of these prayers may be used, or new intercessions composed.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Option A

Priest: Let us pray for the whole Church, that we may be prepared for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next.

Reader: We pray for **N.** and all those who also have died in Christ. May Christ now be their light, their joy, their consolation in the glory and peace of Heaven. God is full of mercy and compassion. May He forgive **N.** any sins he/she committed through human frailty.
Lord hear us.

For our sorrowing family, relatives and friends of **N.** that they may find strength and consolation in their faith and in the love and support of the community. God of all consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light in time of darkness, and faith in time of doubt.
Lord hear us.

We pray for all who are critically ill, and for all who care for them. Give them peace in their hearts and the hope to see you in glory forever.
Lord hear us.

For our departed relatives, for **N.** friends and all who were close to us in this life. Lord, give them the reward of their goodness.
Lord hear us.

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her son was dying, help those who mourn and be with all of us in our time of need. For all who have gathered here to worship in faith that we may be reunited one day with all whom we love, when every tear will be wiped away.
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. Amen

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Option B

Priest God our Father has given us victory over sin and death through his Son Jesus Christ. Let us turn to him in our hour of need, and pray to him with confidence.

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.

For **N.** that Christ may have mercy on his/her soul, and grant him/her full pardon for his/her sins.
Lord, hear us.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

Priest: Father, into your hands we commend the soul of our brother/sister, **N.** look gently upon him/her, and bring him/her home to your kingdom where death will be no more. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Option C

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for His Church. Confident that God hears the voice of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayer to His.

Reader In Baptism **N.** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death
Lord hear us.

Our brother/sister **N.** was nourished at the table of the savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.
Lord hear us.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.
Lord hear us.

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.
Lord hear us.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to You alone.
Lord hear us.

The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief.
Lord hear us.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N.** strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming
Lord hear us.

Priest: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voice of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Option D

Priest God the almighty Father, raised Christ His Son from the dead; with confidence we ask Him to save all His people, living and dead.

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

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day.
Lord, hear us.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.
Lord, hear us.

For doctors, nurses and carers, particularly those who were so good to **N.** in the last months of his/her life. May they have kind hearts and gentle hands.
Lord, hear us.

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.

For all here present, that Christ may open our ears and hearts to receive His love and the Good News of salvation.
Lord, hear us.

Priest: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MUSIC FOR FUNERALS

Music is an important part of Catholic funeral rites. Music allows convictions and feelings to be expressed that words alone may fail to convey. Music has the power to strengthen the faith and hope of those present. The hymns chosen should express the mystery of our salvation in Christ, namely, the saving power of the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. Funeral music should support, console, and uplift those present and help create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory.

Many of these hymns are suitable for more than one part of the Mass, so it is possible to choose two hymns for the same section, if desired.

Post reflection hymns are available only when the relevant cantor is available to sing.

Entrance Hymns

Be not afraid	L964
Be thou my vision	L969
Christ be beside me	L910
Do not be afraid	L972
Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord	
I will come to you in the silence	L 776
I will never forget you, my people	L796
Keep in Mind	L773
Unless a grain of wheat shall fall	L748
We Will Want No More	T.Kendzia
When I survey the wondrous cross	L756

Responsorial Psalm

- Ps. 22 The Lord is my shepherd,
 there is nothing I shall want.
- Ps.23 Lord you are my Shepherd,
 in you I lack nothing.
- Ps. 24 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- Ps. 26 The Lord is my light and my help.
 Or
 I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
 in the land of the living.
- Ps. 41 Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
 so my soul if yearning for you, my God.
- Ps. 62 O God, you are my God,
 for you I long, for you I thirst.
- Ps. 114 I will walk in the presence of the Lord
 in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Various settings of the Alleluia available.

During the Preparations of the Gifts

Ag Críost an síol	L737
Be still and know that I am God	L909
Beatitudes	
Dona Nobis Pacem	
God be in my head	L914
From heaven you came	L749
I watch the sunrise	L956
Jesus heal us	L436
O the love of my Lord is the essence	L967

Holy holy	
Christ had died	Dying you destroyed our death
Great Amen	
Lamb of God	

Communion Hymns

Be still, for the presence of the Lord	L720
Bread for the world	L625
Christ is alive, with joy we sing	L270
Eat this bread, drink this cup	L633
Holy gifts for holy people	L613
How great thou art	L721
I am the bread of life	L629
I have loved you	L775
I heard the voice of Jesus say	L795
Jesus remember me	L253
Nothing can trouble	L947
One bread we break	L626
O God you search me	L779
Shepherd me O God	L951
Stand by Me	T. Kendzia
Taste and See	T. Kendzia
The Clouds' Veil	C124
The Lord's my shepherd	L806
The Servant Song	R. Gillard
We have been told	L859

Post Communion (or instrumentals)

Irish Blessing	B. Chilcott
In Paradisum	Requiem by Faure
Pie Jesu	Requiem by Faure
The Deer's Cry	C126
The Clouds' Veil	C124
St. Patrick's Prayer	T. Rafferty

Final hymns

Abide with me	L907
Be not afraid	L964
Christ be our Light	L883
Come and Go with Me	T. Kendzia
Day is done, but Love unfailing	L678
In Paradisum	L442
Make me a Channel of your Peace	L898
May the choirs of angels come to greet you	L443
May God the father look on you with love	L445 V1
May flights of angles lead you on your way	L445 V2
O Lord, my God (How great thou art)	L721
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord (On eagle's wings)	L952

