



**Death is not extinguishing the light,
It is only putting out the lamp because
the dawn has come.**

(Tagore)

Ennis Parish

The Word of God
for
The Funeral Mass

RESOURCES FOR A FUNERAL LITURGY

PARISH OF ENNIS

Our sympathy to you who mourn the death of your loved one. We trust that you may find hope and solace in the Scriptures and in the poetry contained in this resource. When human words crumble before the mysteries of life and death, the eternal Word may provide an anchor for your hope.

Please use the extracts given here or any other extracts suitable to the occasion. The priests in the parish will be happy to discuss with you any of the details of the funeral prayers and the Requiem Mass. Our faithful parish dead are continually remembered. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord



Ennis Parish Pastoral Team

On the other side of Death

Death is a gateway
We all must pass through
To reach that fair land
Where the Soul's born anew

And like pilgrims we wander
Until death takes our hand
And we start on a journey
To God's promised land.

And in this Fair City
That God has prepared
Are unending joys
To be happily shared.

For we are both to die
And our sojourn on earth
is a short span of years
Beginning with a birth.

A place where we'll find
No suffering or tears.
Where time is not counted
By days, months or years....

With all of our loved ones
Who patiently wait
On death's other side
To open "The Gate".



When I leave

Family and friends, I am about to leave; my last breath does not say “goodbye”, for my love for you is truly timeless.

I leave myself to your memory with love.

I leave my thoughts, my laughter, my dreams to you whom I have treasured.

I give you what no thief can steal, the memories of our times together; the tender love filled moments, the successes we have shared, the hard times that brought us closer together and the roads we have walked side by side.

I also leave you a solemn promise that after I am home in the bosom of God, I will still be present in the Communion of Saints, whenever and wherever you call on me.

My spirit will be drawn to you by the magnet of our love.

Whenever you are in need, call me, I will come to you, with my arms full of wisdom and light to open up your blocked paths, to untangle your knots and to be your avenue to God.

And all I take with me as I leave is your love and the millions of memories of all that we have shared.

So fear not nor grieve at my departure, you whom I have loved so much, for my roots and yours are forever intertwined.



ORDER OF SERVICE / MASS

First Reading and Psalm

These are usually read by the first reader. (Psalm may be sung)

Second Reading .

Alleluia Verse , usually sung

Prayers of the Faithful (immediately after the homily).

These should be adapted to the circumstances of the deceased and made personal. Those featured in this booklet are meant only as guidelines. One, two or more readers may read the prayers.

Offertory Procession

Two or more persons may take the gifts of bread and wine and other gifts symbolising the life and faith of the deceased to the altar. This takes place after the prayers of the faithful.

Communion Reflection

One of the extracts in this booklet, or any other suitable prayer, poem or prose which is fitting, or which the deceased used as meditation during life, may be recited immediately after communion.

It is important that the readers who are chosen are competent in reading the Scriptures and other prayers / readings proclaimed in the funeral liturgy.

FIRST READINGS

1. A reading from the book of Wisdom

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.
What do we gain by all our hard work? I have seen
what difficult things God demands of us. God makes
everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us
can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts
questions in our minds about the past and the future. I
know the best thing we can do is to always enjoy life,
because God's gift to us is the happiness we get from
our food and drink and from the work we do.

Everything God has done will last for ever; nothing he
does can ever be changed. God has done all this, so
that we will worship Him.

The word of the Lord.



Your Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend,
he referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning to the
end.

He noted that first came her date of birth and spoke the following
dates with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those
years (1916—1998)

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth..
and now only those who loved her know what little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own; the cars, the house, the cash,
what matters is how we live and love and how we spend our “dash”.

So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to
change?

For you never know how much time is left, that can still be
rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
So when your eulogy's being read with your life's actions to rehash
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spend your
dash?

Sr. Joan Coffey, Sligo.

PERHAPS

PERHAPS, if we could see the splendour of the
land
to which our loved are called from you and me
WE'D UNDERSTAND.

PERHAPS, if we could hear the welcome they
receive from old familiar voices—all so dear
WE WOULD NOT GRIEVE

PERHAPS, if we could know the reasons why
they went we'd smile and wipe away the tears
that flow....
WE'D WAIT CONTENT

Those whom we love and lose
are no longer where they were before,
they are now with us
wherever we go.
(St John Chrysostom)

*"I shall see you again, and your hearts
will be full of gladness and joy".*
John 16.22

2. A reading from the book of Wisdom

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 at peace,
If they experience punishment as people see it,
Their hope was rich with immortality.
Slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.
God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to
be with him.
He has tested them like gold in a furnace,
And accepted them as a holocaust.
They who trust in him will understand the truth.
Those who are faithful will live with him in love.
For grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord.



3. *A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

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.

4. *A reading from the book of Wisdom*

The virtuous person, though they die before their 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 one's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.
They have sought to please God, so God loved them; as they
were living among sinners, they have been taken up.
They have been carried off so that evil may not warp their
understanding or treachery seduce their souls; 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, they 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.

A Place at the table.

To honour a life
To honour the memories
To say our good byes
And treasure the stories
And hold them to our heart
Just let the feeling rise.

The comfort we feel
from those around us
Has power to heal
Their love can astound us
And help to ease the loss
The loss we feel inside

And although we feel alone now
And wish things were like before
Let these words sink deep within
He's calling, calling at the door.

I'll be saving a place for you at the table
I'll be saving a place for you beside me
I've heard you say you'll miss me
Come say goodbye and kiss me
I'll be saving a place for you.

Our lives must go on
Continue the journey
No matter how long
Let's carry the memory
And share the love we have
A love for all to see

And although.....

Little Lights

Jesus spoke of little lights, candles, lamps
not great bonfires, just small steady flames
to brighten some dark corner of the house.

Jesus always preached little—
children, flowers, sparrows the widow's mite,
mustard seeds, loaves and fishes. He didn't expect people to
make great gestures.

He knew that little is the currency of every day living.

We thank God for little lights,
the warm smile, the hug, the phone call,
A wave from a passing car, a cup of tea,
an open door, a talent freely shared.

How often, when our own candles have gone out,
has someone relit it from their lamp of kindness.

That can't happen with a big light.



"In his hand is the life
of every living thing
and the breath of
every human being."

Job 12:10

5. *A reading from the Book of Psalms*

O Lord, our Lord,
your greatness is seen in all the world!
Your praise reaches up to the heavens;
it is sung by children and babies.
You are safe and secure from all your enemies;
you stop anyone who opposes you.

When I look at the sky, which you have made,
at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places -
what are human beings, that you think of them;
mere mortals, that you care for them?

Yet you made them inferior only to yourself;
you crowned them with glory and honour.
You appointed them rulers over everything you made;
you placed them over all creation:
sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too;
and the birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas.

O Lord, our Lord,
Your greatness is seen in all the world.

The word of the Lord

6. *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that he is near.
Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way
of thinking. Let them turn to the Lord, our God; he is
merciful and quick to forgive.

"My thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours,
and my ways are different from yours.

As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways and thoughts above yours".

The word of the Lord

7. *A reading from the book of Psalms*

Lord, you have examined me and you know me.
You know everything I do; from far away you understand
all my thoughts.
You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know
all my actions.
Even before I speak, you already know what I will say.
You are all round me on every side; you protect me with your power.
Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.
Where could I go to escape from you?
Where could I get away from your presence?
If I went up to heaven, you would be there;
if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.
If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west,
you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me.
I could ask the darkness to hide me or the light round me
to turn into night, but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night
is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are the same to you.
You created every part of me;
you put me together in my mother's womb,
I praise you because you are to be feared; all
you do is strange and wonderful.
I know it with my heart.

When my bones were being formed, carefully
put together in my mother's womb, when I was
growing there in secret, you knew that I was
there - you saw me before I was born.

The days allotted to me had all been recorded in
your book, before any of them ever began.
O God, how difficult I find your thoughts; how many of them there
are!
If I counted them, there would be more than the grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.

The word of the Lord



Reflection

I feel your sorrow,
And appreciate your prayers.
When you are lonely
Know that I am nearby for you.
While I'm no longer on earth, I'm in a new place
A place too beautiful to describe.
It's a place of peace, comfort and love,
A place so warm and wonderful
It defies imagination.
While you are sad now,
You will grow in strength.
You can turn to me in prayer - please do.
You can continue to love me.
I will watch over you - though for now
You will not be able to see or touch me.
You are still on earth
And meant to be there for now.
You will grieve; it isn't easy.
Death is always sad,
But believe that some day we'll be reunited
To be all that we can be
With God and loved ones.
Amen.

Somewhere beyond the sunset, where our loved ones never die.
They rest in a beautiful garden, beneath a cloudless sky.

Though heaven and earth divide us, we are never far apart.
For they are always in our thoughts and for ever in our prayers.

Life is a Journey.

Birth is a beginning
and death a destination
And life is a journey:
From childhood to maturity
and youth to age;
From innocence to awareness
and ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to desecration
and then perhaps to wisdom.
From weakness to strength or
from strength to weakness
and often back again;
From health to sickness
and we pray to health again.
From offence to forgiveness
from loneliness to love
from joy to gratitude
from pain to compassion.
From grief to understanding
from fear to faith.
From defeat to defeat to defeat
until looking backwards or ahead.
We see that victory lies not
at some high point along the way
but in having made the journey
step by step,
a sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning
and death a destination
and life is a journey.
A Sacred Journey
to life everlasting.

8. A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Strengthen the weak hands 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 will be upon their heads; they will obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The word of the Lord.

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

.9. A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance 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.

10. A reading from the Song of Songs

Set me like a seal on your heart
Like a seal on your arm
For love is strong as death
Jealously as relentless as Sheol
The flash of it is a flash of fire
A flame of Yahweh Godself,
Love no flood can quench
No torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.

Grief

Grief cannot be shared, for it is mine alone.

Grief is a dying within me,
A great emptiness, a frightening void.
It is loneliness, a terrible dread.
Another's words do not help.
A reasoned argument explains little
For having tried too much.

Silence is the best response to another's grief.
Not the silence that is a pause in speech,
Awkward and unwanted,
But one that unites heart to heart.
Love, speaking in silence, is the way into
The void of another's grief.

The best of all loves comes silently,
And slowly too, to soften the pain of grief,
And begin to dispel the sadness.
It is the love of God, warm and true
Which will touch the grieving heart and heal it.
He looks at the grieving person and has pity,
For grief is a great pain.

He came among us to learn about grief,
And much else too, this Man of Sorrows.

He knows. He understands.
Grief will yield to peace in time.

Cardinal Basil Hume

Reflection

I feel your sorrow,
and appreciate your prayers,
when you are lonely
know that I am nearby for you.

While I'm no longer on earth,
I'm in a new place
a place too beautiful to describe.

It's a place of peace, comfort and love,
a place so warm and wonderful
it defies imagination.
While you are so sad now,
you will grow in strength.
you can turn to me in prayer
— please do.

You can continue to love me.
I will watch over you—
though for now you will not be able to see or touch me.

You are still on earth
and meant to be there for now.

You will grieve; it isn't easy.
Death is always sad,
but believe that some day
we'll be reunited
to be all that we can be
with God and loved ones.

Amen.

A Psalm for the dying.

Relatives and friends, I am about to leave:
My last breath does not say “goodbye,”
For my love for you is truly timeless,
Beyond the touch of boney death.
I leave myself not to the undertaker,
For decoration in his house of the dead,
But to your memory, with love.
I leave my thoughts, my laughter, my dreams
To you whom I have treasured beyond gold and precious gems.
I give you what no thief can steal,
The memories of our times together:
The tender, love filled moments,
The successes we have shared,
The hard times that brought us closer together
And the roads we have walked side by side.

I also leave you a solemn promise
That after I am home in the bosom of God,
I will still be present,
Whenever and wherever you call on me.

My energy will be drawn to you by the magnet of my love.
Whenever you are in need, call me;
I will come to you, with my arms full of wisdom and light
To open up your blocked paths,
To untangle your knots and to be your avenue to God.

And all I take with me as I leave is your love
And the millions of memories of all that we shared.
So I truly enter my new life as a millionaire.
Fear not nor grieve at my departure,
You whom I have loved so much,
For my roots and yours are forever intertwined.

11. A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives.

Then my favour will shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. I will always be with you to save you; my presence will protect you on every side. When you pray I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond.

If you put an end to oppression, to every gesture of contempt, and to every evil word; if you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon. And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things. I will keep you strong and well. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water, like a spring of water that never runs dry.

The word of the Lord

12. A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure.

A faithful friend is something beyond price, there is no measuring their worth.

A faithful friend is the elixir of life, and those who respect the Lord will find one.

Whoever respects the Lord makes true friends

For as one is, so is their friend.

The word of the Lord.

Sample 1. *RESPONSORIAL PSALMS*

Response:

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

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

Response

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.

Response

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

Response

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.

Response

Anyone is capable of going to Heaven

Heaven is our home.

People ask me about death and whether I look forward to it and I answer, "of course", because I am going home.

Dying is not the end, it is the beginning.

Death is continuation of life.

This is the meaning of eternal life;

it is where our soul goes to God, to speak to God,

to continue loving him with greater love

because in Heaven we shall be able to love him

with our whole heart and our soul

because we only surrender our body in death.

Our heart and our soul live for ever.

When we die we are going to be with God,

and with all those we have known who have gone before us:

Our family and our friends will be there waiting for us.

Heaven must be a beautiful place.

Every religion has an eternity, another life.

People who fear death are the ones who believe this is the end.

I have not known anyone die in fear

If they have witnessed the love of God.

They have to make their peace with God, as do we all.

People die suddenly all the time

so it could happen to us too at any moment.

Yesterday is gone and tomorrow has not yet come,

so we must live each day as if it were our last,

So that when God calls us we are ready,

and prepared to die with a clean heart.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Remembering

Everyone loves to be remembered,
But if we want to be remembered we have a duty also to
remember.

Memory is a powerful thing.
Wrongly used it can bring death rather than life.
Rightly used it is a form of immortality
It keeps the past alive.
Those we remember never die.
They continue to walk and talk with us.
Their influence is still felt among us.
There is nothing stronger or more helpful than a good
remembrance.

N. our brother/sister, we want you to know
That we haven't forgotten you.
We remember you.
And your memory most definitely brings life to us today.
May it also assure us of life for you,
That eternal life, Christ came on earth to give us.



Sample 2.

Response:
The Lord is compassion and love.

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

Response

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

Response

As for people, their days are like grass;
their flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and they are gone
and their place never sees them again.

Response

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to his children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth.

Response

**BE MERCIFUL TO ME, O GOD,
BECAUSE OF YOUR CONSTANT
LOVE.**
Psalm 51

Sample 3

Response:

The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life,
Before whom shall I shrink?

Response

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.

Response

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.

Response

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!

Response.

Gone only from our sight

I am standing on the seashore.
Suddenly a ship at my side spreads her white sails to the
morning breeze,
And starts out for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength,
And I stand and watch her until at length she is only a ribbon
of white cloud
Just above where sea and sky mingle with each other.
Then someone at my side says:
"There! She's gone!"

Gone where?
Gone from my sight—that is all.
She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when
she left my side,
And just as able to bear her load of living freight
to the place of her destination.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her,
And just at that moment when someone at my side says;
"There! She's gone!"
There are other voices ready to take the glad shout,
"There! She comes!"
And that is dying.

Death is not extinguishing the Light.
It is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.

A Simple life but Close to God.

It is a simple life we lived here,
but nobody could say that it was comfortable.
Often during life I have known God's holy help,
because I was often in the grip of sorrow
from which I could not escape.

When the need was greatest,
God would lay his merciful eye on me,
and the clouds of sorrow would be gone without trace.
In their place would be a spiritual joy
whose sweetness I cannot describe here.

There are people who think this island is a lonely place,
but the peace of the Lord is here.

We helped each other,
and lived in the shelter of each other.
But now my life is spent, like a candle,
and my hope is rising every day
that I'll be called into the eternal kingdom.

May God guide me on this long road
I have not travelled before.

I think everything is folly except for loving God.

(Peig Sayers)



Sample 4.

Response: 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.

Response

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.

Response

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

Response.

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.

Response



Sample 5.

Response;

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

How gracious is the Lord and just;
Our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so He saved me.

I trusted, even when I said:
“I am sorely afflicted,”
And when I said in my alarm:
“no one can be trusted”.

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.



Response.

Response

Response

One's Daily Work

When God's Son became man
he didn't become a king or a great political
leader.

He became a workingman.

The Gospels show us Christ
as a healer, teacher and wonder worker.
But these activities lasted only three years.

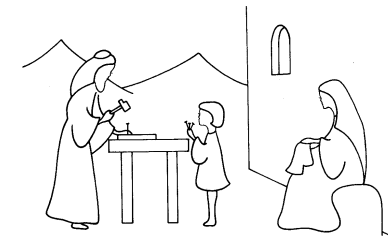
For the rest of his life on earth
He worked as a village carpenter.

There was nothing spectacular about his work.
He didn't make benches and tables by means of miracles,
but by the hammer and the saw.

And, as far as we know,
nothing he made ever became a collector's item.

Our daily tasks may be dull and insignificant,
but we must not underestimate their importance.

In the long run,
the only thing that ripens and bears fruit
is the meagre work of every day



Footprints in the Sand.

One night a man had a dream.
He dreamt that he was walking
Along a beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed the scene of his life.
For each scene he noticed
Not one but two sets of footprints in the sand.
He understood immediately that one belonged to him,
And the other to the Lord.

But then he noticed a curious thing.
At the lowest and saddest times in his life
There was only one set of footprints.
This bothered him, so he asked the lord:
'how come that during the most difficult times in my life,
the very times when I most needed you,
you left me on my own?'

Then the Lord replied:
'My friend, during your trials and sufferings,
when you see only one set of footprints,
those footprints are mine.
It was then that I carried you.'



Second Readings

1. 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.



2. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

3. From St. Paul to the Ephesians.

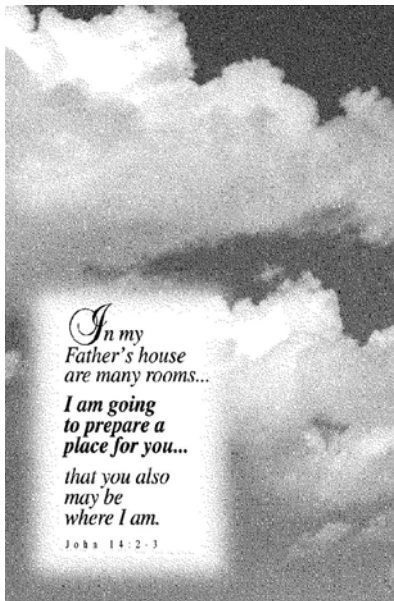
This then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that according to the riches of his glory, you may be strengthened in your inner being through the power of his Spirit.

That Christ may live in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and ground in love.

So that planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people, you will have the strength to grasp the breath and the length, the height and the depth of the love of Christ, so that you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

The word of the Lord



Trust in God

Lord, I have no idea where I'm going,
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself.
And the fact that I think I am doing your will,
Does not mean that I am actually doing it.
But I believe that the desire to please you,
Does in fact please you,
And I hope that I have that desire.

I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I trust you always.

Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death,
I will not fear, for you are with me,
And you will never leave me face my perils alone.

(Thomas Merton)

When death will knock at your door.

On the day when death will knock at your door
What will you offer to him?

Oh, I will set before my guest
The full vessel of my life.
I will never let him go with empty hands.

All the sweet vintage
Of all my autumn days and summer nights,
All the earnings and gleanings of my busy life
Will I place before him
At the close of my days
When death will knock at my door.

(Tagore)

GRIEF

The shortest verse in the scriptures reads simply, 'Jesus wept' (Jn 11:35). Confronted by the death of his friend Lazarus and the grieving of Lazarus' family and neighbours, Jesus wept.

He was troubled in spirit and obviously in distress. Jesus was fully human and divine. His humanity shines through in his reaction to death, in his obvious grief. His divinity shows itself in his raising Lazarus and others from the dead, and in his own victory over death at the resurrection.

It is human to grieve. Death is one of the great challenges of living. It brings us to face the inevitability of loss. We only live fully when we have faced this and integrated the reality of loss into the fabric of our lives.

Some of the common reactions to death, even to the smaller deaths of our lives, like the end of a relationship or leave-taking are:

Denial: At first we may refuse to believe bad news or to allow it to sink in. This, when it is temporary, helps us to absorb bad news slowly and at a pace which will not overwhelm us.

Anger is common and may be misdirected if it is not acknowledged and expressed constructively.

Depression is a natural phase in grief. Feelings of emptiness and futility may sink in, especially if anger is present but not expressed.

Guilt is commonly expressed by those who are left behind, the bereaved. 'If only...' becomes a constant, nagging thought. Guilt can be appropriate or not appropriate, justified or not justified. It is a natural reaction, but like any of the others, it ought to be seen through and left behind.

4. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Yet I do proclaim a message of wisdom to those who are spiritually mature. But it is not the wisdom that belongs to the world or to the powers that rule this world - powers that are losing their power.

The wisdom I proclaim is God's hidden wisdom, which he has already chosen for our glory even before the world was made, none of the rulers of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.

However, as scripture says:

"What no one ever saw or heard,
what no one ever thought could happen,
is the very thing God prepared for those who love him."

But it was to us that God made known his secret by means of his Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, even the hidden depths of God's purposes.

The word of the Lord

5. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Death came through one man
and in the same way the resurrection of the dead
has come through one man.

Just as all die in Adam,
so all will be brought to life in Christ;
but all of them in their proper order:
Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ,
those who belong to him.

The word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

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

We believe that Jesus died and rose again,
and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus:
God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching,
that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming
will not have any advantage over those who have died.

At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel
will call out the command
and the Lord himself will come down from heaven
those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise,
and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in
the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air.

So we shall stay with the Lord for ever.

With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord

7. A reading from St. John

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.

Selection 2.

Priest: In confidence we approach the throne of God's grace, that we
shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

Reader: We pray for those who care for the sick and housebound. We
give thanks for the skills and the commitment of doctors, nurse and
carers. May they continue to reflect the compassion and healing of God
who is made known to us in Christ. **Lord hear us**

Reader: We pray for all who mourn. May their tears be wiped away,
and may their mourning be turned into joy. **Lord hear us**

Reader: We remember and pray for those who do not have access to
basic health care, adequate food or shelter. We give thanks for our
blessings and pray that the ways of justice and peace may prevail
throughout the world. **Lord hear us**

Reader: We pray for N... May God receive him/her kindly, with
generosity and forgiveness, and the rewards of his/her faith. May he/she
continue to inspire us, to intercede for us, and be there at the end to
welcome us, in our turn, into eternal life.

Lord hear us

Reader: We give thanks for the love which N... showed during his/her
life. May he/she know the perfection and fulfilment of that love in
heaven.

Lord hear us

Reader: Lord, you are life and the enemy of death. Rescue us and the
faithful departed from eternal darkness. **Lord hear us**

Reader: Bring all the dead into the light that no darkness can over
power. May we all meet in joy with you. **Lord hear us**

Priest: Father, all those who love others, after the example of Christ
your Son, are truly blessed by you in this life, but what they receive
here is only a shadow compared with the good things you have
prepared for them in the next life. We make all our prayers through
Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of the Faithful

Selection 1.

Priest: My friends, since God has loved us so much, we too must love one another. No one has seen God, but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us, and we know that love is stronger than death. so let us pray to the God who first loved us.

Reader: N... lived Christ's commandment of love; may he/she now hear those words, "Come, O Blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Lord hear us

Reader: N... showed much love for others in this life, may he/she now experience the loving mercy of God.

Lord hear us

Reader: From his/her place in the kingdom of the Father may he/she intercede for us and continue to help us.

Lord hear us

Reader: For those who nursed N... in his/her illness, that all of them will be rewarded for their gentleness and care.

Lord hear us

Reader: For all who mourn today. That they will receive strength to assist them in their sadness and grief.

Lord hear us

Reader: We remember all who have died. Today may they enjoy the promise of eternal happiness.

Lord hear us

8. A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else.

You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

The peace that Christ is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful, Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts.

Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and other sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.

Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

"See what love the Father has given us,



that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

9. A reading from the first letter of St. John

Let us love one another, for 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 his 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 atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us, that we may confidence for the day of judgement.

The word of the Lord.

10. A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made of hands, eternal in the heavens. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS

During the season of Lent, please omit the Alleluia.

Simply recite the lines in between

1.

Alleluia, Alleluia!,

Your words are spirit Lord and they are life,

You have the message of eternal life,

Alleluia.

2.

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,

that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me,

and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

Gospel

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL.



13. *A reading from the letter of St Paul to Timothy*

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, I solemnly urge you to preach the message, to insist upon proclaiming it, to convince, reproach and encourage as you teach with all patience.

The time will come when people will not listen to sound doctrine, but will follow their own desires and will collect for themselves more and more teachers who will tell them what they are itching to hear. They will turn away from listening to the truth and give their attention to legends.

But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances; endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the Good News and perform your whole duty as a servant of God.

As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed; the time is here for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day—and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear.

The word of the Lord.

14. *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

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

11. *A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.*

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 these that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - rose from the dead and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come before us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

12. *A reading from the first letter of St. John.*

We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our sisters and brothers. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your sisters and brothers 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 sisters and brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.