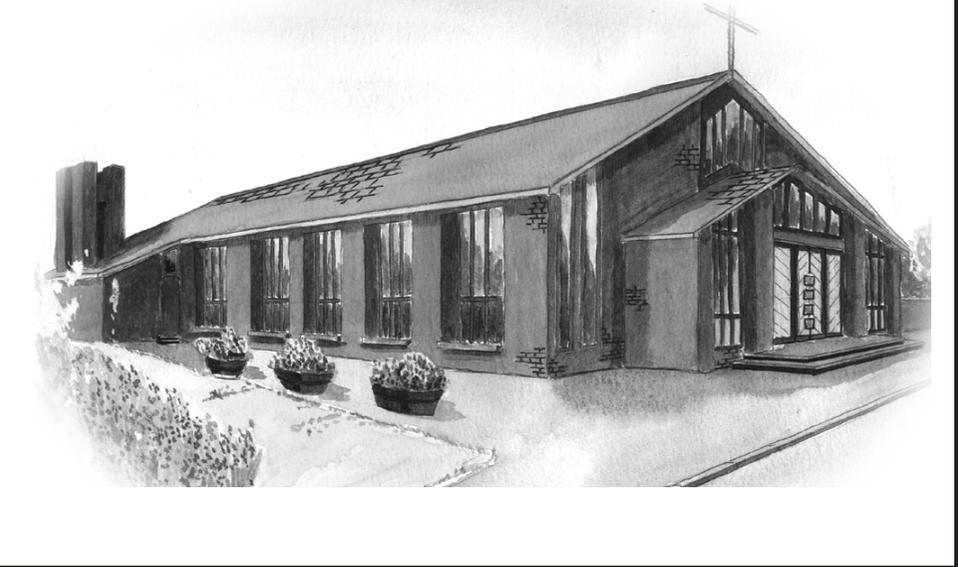


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moynavearty

Liturgy of the word
FOR
funeral masses



Please return to Church - Thank you

How to prepare

The texts are generally quite short and straightforward. This is a help if you are nervous, but it does mean that you have to make sure the message gets across to those who are listening. First, make sure that you feel no problems with pronunciation. Read the text out loud to get the feel of the sentences. Remember that you will tend to read too fast, so learn to pause and control your speech. Be clear on what is the main point of the passage. The sentence in italics is there to help you see the main point in the passage. It is not to be read out loud. Remember that the congregation will be particularly interested on this occasion in what is being said. They will not be so concerned with how you read as with what you are saying. You are sharing in the work of building up their faith and hope, helping to give comfort and consolation.

A word about the Responsorial Psalm. This may be sung, but if it is to be read, remember that it is a poem and has a musical rhythm.

The reader should help the congregation to remember the response by repeating it with them, but should never cue them in by saying: 'Response!'.

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Bereavement can be a very trying time for people, their families and friends. The purpose of the funeral rite is three fold:-

- (1) To commend the dead to God.
- (2) To support the Christian hope of the bereaved
- (3) To give witness to our faith in the resurrection.

To this end, included below are a selection of suitable hymns and psalms which might best express our belief in themes of hope and resurrection.

- Abide With Me.
- Nearer My God to Thee.
- The Lord's My Shepherd.
- Come To Me All Who Labour.
- Sweet Heart Of Jesus.
- Take Our Bread.
- I Am The Bread Of Life.
- I Watch The Sunrise.
- Only A Shadow.
- On Eagles Wings.
- In Bread We Bring You Lord.
- God Gives His People Strength.
- Be Thou My Vision.
- Peace To You.

FIRST READING 1

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 52:7-10

God comforts his people

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING 2

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8. 11

There is a time and season for everything

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 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 throw 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 throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence and a time to speak;
a time for war and a time for peace.

God has made everything suitable for its time.

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING 3

We are asked to look on this death not from our angle but from God's. To us it is a tragedy and a grave loss. But God has tested and tried his loved one. Death is not the end but the refining process by which the faithful are made worthy to live with God in love.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

He accepted them as a holocaust.

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 blessing 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.

FIRST READING 4

A reading from the book of Job. 19:23-27

God vindicates those who put their trust in him.

O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved in a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I will see God whom I will see on my side.

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING 5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25: 6-9

Death is the cause of many tears. But for those who trust in God the time will come when their tears will be wiped away.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING 6

A reading from the prophet Daniel 12:1-3
Those who lie sleeping in the dust will awake

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 1 Psalm 102 (103) 8,10-14,17-18

Response: *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.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

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

The love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who fear him;
his justice reaches out to children’s children
when they keep his covenant in truth. **R.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 2

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

The Lord is my shepherd;

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

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

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

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 3 Psalm 61 (63) 2-3.8.11-13

Response: *In God alone is my soul at rest.*

In God alone is my soul at rest;
my help comes from him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,
my fortress: I stand firm. **R.**

Take refuge in God all you people;
trust in him at all times.
Pour out your hearts before him
for God is our refuge. **R.**

Do not put your trust in oppression
nor vain hopes of plunder.
Do not set your hearts on riches
even when they increase. **R.**

For God has said only one thing:
only two do I know:

that to God alone belongs power
and to you, Lord, love. **R.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 4 Psalm 114 (115):1-8

Response: *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he has turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. **R.**

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name. **R.**

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.**

Turn back, my soul, to your rest
for the Lord has been good;
he has kept my soul from death
and my feet from stumbling. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Romans 8:31-39

Because God loves us and always takes our side, we are able to overcome every kind of trial and suffering.

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

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us all, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or-distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING 2

We shall see him as he really is.

A reading from the first letter of St. John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING 3

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans. 14:7-12

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life - it is the Lord who speaks - every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING 4 2 Timothy 4:6-8

As death approaches, Paul reflects on his life; he is happy about the past and hopeful for the future.

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

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

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING 5

We carry God's treasure in vessels of clay.

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. 4:5-10

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING 6

Death is swallowed up in victory.

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of 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..

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS

1. Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to children. Alleluia!
2. Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, you whom my Father has blessed,

says the Lord,
take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for
you since the foundation of the world. Alleluia!

3. Alleluia, alleluia!
It is my Father's will, says the Lord,
that whoever believes in the Son
shall have eternal life,
and that I shall raise him up on the last day. Alleluia!
4. Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die. Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 1

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

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: N... has departed her (his) earthly home; may she (he) reach the joy and
peace of God's house.
Lord, hear us.

That Christ may have mercy on her (him), forgive her (his) sins, and bring
her (him) to everlasting life.
Lord, hear us.

For those who mourn for her (him), that they may be comforted by the hope
that she (he) has gone to her (his) everlasting home.
Lord, hear us.

For all here present: that nothing in this life may cause us to forget our
eternal home.
Lord, hear us.

For our deceased relatives and friends: that the Lord may bring them into the
light of his presence.
Lord, hear us.

We will now pause for an opportunity to make our own prayer. (Pause)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 2

Priest: We are the new people of God. With Christ as our leader we are journeying towards the promised land of heaven. Let us pray for N..., for ourselves and for others.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That N , who began his (her) spiritual journey at baptism, may reach its goal in the kingdom of heaven.
Let us pray to the Lord.

N.. was nourished with the bread of the Eucharist; may he (she) now enjoy the banquet of eternal life.
Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn for N.: that they may be comforted by the faith that he (she) has gone to God, the destination of life's journey.
Let us pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may receive an increase of faith in God and in our heavenly destiny.
Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have no faith.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That in his great mercy, God may bring all the dead into the promised land of heaven.
Let us pray to the Lord.

We now have an opportunity to make our own prayer. (Pause)

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 3

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

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Now that’s labours and sufferings are over, may God bring her (him) to a place of light, happiness and peace.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That God may pardon her (him) for her (his) sins.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That God may comfort us who mourn for and help us to comfort one another.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That God may reward those who cared for.....in her (his) old age.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That her (his) memory may live on among us.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That all the dead, especially our relatives and friends, may enjoy eternal life.
Let us pray to the Lord.

We now have an opportunity to make our own prayer. (Pause)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 4

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

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

Reader: N... believed in Christ, the Good Shepherd; may he (she) now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in the kingdom of heaven.
We pray in faith.

That the Lord may grant him (her) forgiveness for his (her) sins.
We pray in faith.

That those who grieve over his (her) loss may be comforted by the
knowledge that the Lord will take care of him (her).
We pray in faith.

For all the faithful departed, especially our relatives and friends: that they
may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
We pray in faith.

For those who do not follow Christ because they do not hear his voice or
know him,
We pray in faith.

We now have an opportunity to make our own prayer. (Pause)

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 5

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

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

Reader: That N... whose life was cut short by tragedy, may now enter into the fullness
of that life Christ won for us with his death. We pray in faith.

That God's mercy may shine warmly on her (him), forgiving all her (his) sins.
We pray in faith.

For N...'s family, relatives, and friends: that the Lord may keep their hearts
and minds in his love and peace.
Let us pray in faith.

For ourselves: that in the midst of the trials and uncertainties of life, our trust
in God may remain firm.
We pray in faith.

For our departed relatives and friends: that freed from every shadow of death, they may take their place in the new creation where all tears are wiped away. We pray in faith.

We might now wish to make a prayer of our own. (Pause)

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 6

Priest: Let us not be afraid. God is with us. Let us pray to him with the trust of a child.

Response: Lord, hear us in love.

Reader: That we may let N.....go with love and trust into the hands of God.
We pray in faith.

That N.....may see the face of God in heaven, and intercede for us there.
We pray in faith.

For N.....'s parents (and family), that they may find comfort in the faith that they will see her (him) again in the kingdom of heaven.
We pray in faith.

For doctors, nurses, and all who care for life at its weakest moments.
We pray in faith.

For all of us here present: that we may remember that we are God's children and that he cares about us.
We pray in faith.

We now have an opportunity to say a prayer of our own. (Pause)

Priest: God of love and mercy, we give this child back to you who first gave her (him) to us; and as you did not lose her (him) in the giving, so we do not lose her (him) in the return. Keep her (him) safe, and welcome her (him) into your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.