



**On behalf of the Parish Community of The Church of the Irish Martyrs, Letterkenny, we extend our deepest sympathy to you.**

The Christian Community encourages you to be as fully involved as you can in planning your loved one's funeral liturgy. It is the final journey of your loved one; we commend him or her to the Lord, we support and pray for all who mourn, and we seek strength in the promise of the Lord that he will not forget his own.

## **Funeral Ceremony**

The Funeral Mass and burial is a sacred Christian ceremony. We gather as the Christian community in God's house to pray for the soul of the deceased person. The focus of the music and liturgy is upon death and resurrection in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

The readings are to be taken from the Holy Scriptures, a selection of which is printed in this booklet.

- \* **1st Reading** is taken from the Old Testament.
- \* Then a **Psalm** is read or sung by the first reader or a singer from the Book of Psalms.
- \* **2nd Reading** is taken from the New Testament Epistles and may be read by another person.
- \* You may have one or several people read the **Prayers of the Faithful**. You can compose or adapt prayers to personalise them for the deceased and for those that you would like to remember on the day. If you prefer, the priest may read the prayers. A sample of these prayers is provided in this booklet.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

If you would like to have an **Offertory Procession**, it is recommended to have two people (or more) to bring up the gifts to the Altar. The priest will then receive the gifts at the front of the Altar.

## **Music**

The music is to be Christian Sacred Music that appropriately reflects the Christian theme and meaning of the liturgy. Music should be selected in consultation with the Celebrant and the musicians. Only music that is religious and appropriate is permitted. Favourite songs or pop songs may be played in the home of the deceased before or at the gathering after the Christian burial ceremonies.

## **Personal Tributes**

It is more appropriate for personal tributes to take place in the Graveyard, in the home of the deceased or in the gathering place after the burial. They should not take place during the Funeral Mass.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

If any family member or friend wish to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession in preparation for the Mass, please ask one of the priests. This can be arranged in your home or in the Church.



## **First Readings**

### **1. 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 an annihilation; but they are at peace. If, as it seems to us, they suffered punishment, 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 perfect offering.

When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;  
as sparks ran through the stubble, so will they.

They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,  
and the Lord will be their King forever.

Those 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.*

## **2. A reading from the Book of Revelation**

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.*

## **3. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes**

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:

A time for giving birth, a time for dying;

a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted.

A time for killing, a time for healing;

a time for knocking down, a time for building.

A time for tears, a time for laughter;

a time for mourning, a time for dancing.

A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up;

a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing.

A time for searching, a time for losing;

a time for keeping, a time for throwing away.

A time for tearing, a time for sewing;

a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.

A time for loving, a time for hating;

a time for war, a time for peace.

What does a man gain for the efforts that he makes? I contemplate the task that God gives mankind to labour at. All that he does is apt for its time; but though he has permitted man to consider time in its wholeness, man cannot comprehend the work of God from beginning to end.

*The word of the Lord.*

## **4. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines.

On this mountain He will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, He will destroy death forever.

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.*

**5. A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The upright person, even if they die before their time, will be at rest. Honourable age does not depend on the length of days, nor is the number of years a true measure of life;

understanding is our grey hair, ripe old age is a spotless life.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by Him, and while living among us, was taken up. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; for their soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took them quickly from our midst of the people. Peoples saw but did not understand, and it did not occur to them that God's grace and mercy are with His chosen ones, His protection is for the holy. This is why they receive, from the hands of the Lord, the Kingdom of glory. He will shelter them with His hand and His arm will be a shield.

*The word of the Lord.*

**6. A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

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

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then will the lame man leap like a hart, 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 shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*The word of the Lord.*

## **Psalms**

**1. Response: 'Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord'**

i) 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.

*Response*

ii) If you, O Lord,  
should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would you survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness;  
for this we revere you.

*Response*

- iii) My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman  
for the daybreak.

*Response*

- iv) Because with the Lord  
there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed He will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

*Response*

**2. Response: 'To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul'**

- i) 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.

*Response*

- ii) Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have  
shown from of old.  
In your love remember me  
because of your goodness  
O Lord.

*Response*

- iii) 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.

*Response*

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

- i) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the

pastures where He gives me repose.  
Near resting waters He leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

*Response*

- ii) 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 a staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

*Response*

- iii) You have prepared a  
banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil  
my cup is overflowing.

*Response*

- iv) 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*

**4. Response: 'My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my Life'.**

- i) Like the deer that yearns  
for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning  
for you, my God.

*Response*

- ii) My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God?

*Response*

- iii) Why are you cast down, my soul,  
why groan within me?  
Hope in God;  
I will praise him still,  
my Saviour and my God.

*Response*

## Second Readings

### 1. A reading from the Book of Revelation

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 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 anyone who is thirsty: it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he a child to me.'

*The word of the Lord.*

### 2. 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.  
Whoever treasures this hope of Him  
purifies himself, to be as pure as He is.

*The word of the Lord.*

### 3. A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, friends, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.  
We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died.  
At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and 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.*

**4. A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy**

Be careful always to choose the right course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's work, in thoroughgoing service.

As for me, 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 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.*

**5. 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; 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 come to life, it was so that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

*The word of the Lord.*

**6. 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 those that God has chosen?

When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Jesus Christ?

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 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.

*The word of the Lord.*

**7. A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and



prepare you for the day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

*The word of the Lord.*

## **8. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

It was in Christ that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; Chosen to be for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before He came.

Now you too, in Him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it;

And you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for His own, to make his glory praised.

*The word of the Lord.*

## **Mass of the Angels**

### **A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The child of virtue is now in the hands of God. Though he/she has died early, he/she is at rest. For age is not honoured for length of time, nor measured by number of years. There was one who pleased God and was loved by Him, and while among us he/she was taken up. Becoming perfect in such a short time, he/she fulfilled long years; for his/her soul was pleasing to the Lord.

Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with His people, and He always watches over His loved ones. For people who trust in God, they will always understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with Him in love.

*The word of the Lord.*

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

1. (a) We pray that Christ, our good Shepherd, may welcome \_\_\_\_\_ into his heavenly home and grant him/her light, happiness and peace.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

- (b) We pray that the Risen Christ, may welcome \_\_\_\_\_ into his kingdom of light, peace and love.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(c) We pray that \_\_\_\_\_ may now know the happiness of heaven where age, illness and tragedy are no more and where \_\_\_\_\_ now finds total fulfilment in God.

*Lord, hear us.*

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2. (a) We thank God for the love and goodness that \_\_\_\_\_ shared with his/her family and with so many others.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(b) We give thanks to God for \_\_\_\_\_, for the goodness of his/her life and for the many blessings \_\_\_\_\_ brought and continues to bring to his/her family and so many others.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(c) For all of us grieve the death of a person we loved so dearly; may we continue to draw inspiration and blessings from his/her life.

*Lord, hear us.*

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3. (a) We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and all who mourn \_\_\_\_\_'s passing from this world; may God grant them comfort and strength, hope and courage, in their great loss.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(b) We pray that \_\_\_\_\_ and all the family may find comfort and strength through their faith in God, through their love and support for one another following \_\_\_\_\_'s example and through the help of friends, neighbours and relatives.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(c) For all here present; that we may continue to hunger for a life of goodness, justice and compassion.

*Lord, hear us.*

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4. (a) For all who are sick; may they, and their families, know the healing presence of God.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(b) We pray that we may always treasure the precious but fragile gift of life that God has given each of us.

*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(c) We pray for all here present; may we always strive for a life of goodness, drawing inspiration from the good example of \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Lord, hear us.*

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5. (a) For all who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_. May the Lord embrace them in His love forever.  
*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(b) We pray for all our loved ones who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_. May they take their place in the new creation where all tears will be wiped away.  
*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(c) We pray for all who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_. May they live in God forever.  
*Lord, hear us.*

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6. (a) For the poor, the rejected, the old and the lonely among us, that they may feel at home in our midst and may find that their love is needed.  
*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(b) For victims of cruelty, injustice and neglect in our community and the world, that we may recognise their need and help them.  
*Lord, hear us.*

**or**

(c) For harmony and growth in our families.  
*Lord, hear us.*

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