

St. Mary's Church  
P.O. Box 1319, 10 River Drive, Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, T4C 1B3  
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# FUNERAL GUIDELINES

This booklet is designed to assist you in preparing a funeral liturgy. Please feel free to contact the parish staff for additional information and assistance. The following guidelines may help clarify some of your questions.

THIS BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE AS A LINK ON ST. MARY'S WEBSITE.

[www.stmaryschchrane.ca](http://www.stmaryschchrane.ca) [www.rcdiocesecalgary.ab.ca](http://www.rcdiocesecalgary.ab.ca)

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## **PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

### **MUSIC**

Music affects our feelings and the atmosphere in which we pray. Music for the Funeral Liturgy must express the sacred nature of the celebration. Only sacred music is appropriate in this setting. Recorded music is not appropriate in a liturgical setting.

We recommend our parish musicians as they are trained and familiar with Liturgies at St. Mary's. The parish will cover the cost of the musicians if families are not in a position to assist with the fees, as outlined on page 6.

Our parish musicians will be happy to assist you in selecting music that is appropriate for funerals.

Contact St. Mary's Music Director, Melissa Townley-Smith

Phone: (403) 948-6537

[melissa.townley-smith@telus.net](mailto:melissa.townley-smith@telus.net)

### **WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

Words of Remembrance, like a homily, are to remember our loved one's life, in light of the Lord's death and resurrection. Words of Remembrance are to be personal but faith-filled witness of how our loved one's lived their faith, hop and love in the Lord and with their church community.

Eulogies are not part of the Catholic Funeral Rite. A relative or friend may speak in remembrance of the deceased at the Vigil Prayers or during the funeral luncheon but not during the Funeral Service. These words of remembrance would describe our loved ones' faith journey and consequently give praise to God.

As Catholics we believe that every baptized person should be buried with the same dignity and that our focus in the funeral service should be on thanking God for the gift of eternal life.

The Funeral Liturgy is an act of praise offered by the whole Church to God for Christ's victory over death. All praise offered at the funeral liturgy is directed towards God.

Families are asked to share with the parish priest or deacon the ways in which the one

who has died has served God, lived out the Christian life or been an example of faith. The priest or deacon will often include references to the faith of the deceased in the homily.

Some families prepare a leaflet containing biographical details as well as a summary of the accomplishments of a deceased relative. These can be handed out at the service as a permanent record of the individual's human accomplishments.

## **THE PALL – BAPTISMAL GARMENT**

The Church in Canada encourages the use of the pall at the funeral liturgy. This pall may be placed silently on the coffin by family members, friends or by the Parish ministers during the rite of the reception of the body.

The pall is a reminder of our baptism. Just as the new Christian was clothed in the white garment on becoming a member of the church, the coffin is covered with a white cloth as the person enters into the new life of the Resurrection in Jesus.

The Order of Christian Funerals says that only Christian symbols may be on or near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. Flowers and insignia of associations, even Christian associations, should be placed elsewhere, or at least removed from the coffin for the liturgy.

## **CREMATION**

Cremation has become a common practice in recent years. The Order of Christian Funerals prefers that cremation take place after the funeral service and before the committal service. The church prefers that, in keeping with a spirit of reverence, the cremated remains be buried, not scattered.

The funeral Liturgy, including Mass, may be celebrated with the cremated remains of the deceased present.

## FUNERALS DURING THE TRIDUUM

In the Catholic Church, funerals are not celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday: “The Triduum”. Families may choose to delay the service until after Easter Sunday or they may have a funeral liturgy without mass in a funeral chapel and celebrate a memorial Mass after Easter.

## FUNERAL RECEPTIONS

The Gathering Area is normally available for a funeral luncheon. A donation to the parish for the use of the Hall may be made if family finances permit.

The Funeral Reception Team will purchase the food for the reception based on the number of guests the family anticipates will attend. The Gathering Area will accommodate a maximum of 140 people seated or up to 400 standing.

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| a. | Beverages only   | \$2.00 / person |
| b. | Cost for a light lunch<br>Includes: cheese, sausage, crackers, pickles, baking and fruit for garnish     | \$4.00 / person |
| c. | Cost for a full lunch<br>Includes a variety of sandwiches, cheese, pickles, baking and fruit for garnish | \$6.00 / person |

The Parish reception team will set up and serve the beverages and lunch as well as clean up after the lunch.

**Payment for the lunch is made payable to St. Mary’s Funeral Reception**

## **FUNERAL FEES**

### **1. CHURCH EXPENSES**

The suggested offering for the use of our church facility for funeral services is \$500.00 which includes clergy, heat and cleaning expenses.

### **2. MUSIC**

The musicians fees are as follows:

Accompanist: \$100.00

Leader of Song or Soloist: \$100.00

We do not wish to place a burden on families whose financial resources are limited. The fees will be waived for families that are not able to make an offering.

### **3. FUNERAL RECEPTIONS**

These additional, optional fees are outlined on page 5.

## **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS**

Please indicate your choice of BOTH readings AND readers for the following:

### **PART I: VIGIL PRAYERS**

1. Old Testament 789(1) – 789(7)

Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

2. New Testament 790(1) – 790(18)

Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Prayers of the Faithful

Selection A, B, C: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Gospel 793(1) – 793(17): \_\_\_\_\_

### **PART II: FUNERAL LITURGY**

1. Old Testament 789(1) – 789(7)

Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

2. New Testament 790(1) – 790(18)

Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Prayers of the Faithful

Selection A, B, C: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Gospel 793(1) – 793(17): \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET AND ALL ORIGINALS**

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH – FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS  
INFORMATION**

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY CONTACT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Funeral Home:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYERS:**

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FUNERAL:**

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Presiding Priest:**

**Prayers:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Funeral:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Staff Checklist for Funerals**

**Name of Deceased**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Funeral:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Contact**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Things to know:**

**Where will the Vigil Prayers be held?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Will they be going to the cemetery after Mass or cremation?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is Father Bill the celebrant, another priest, or concelebration?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Arrange Senior altar servers, readers, greeters and Eucharistic Ministers and notify Fr.**

**Parking Control?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrange if needed, Lunch team and Notify Father.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Family contact for Lunch Team**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Arrange musicians, if required and notify Father.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Are there notifications to the funeral home needed? Readers, musicians, who will do this?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of musicians** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation for Church use** \_\_\_\_\_

**Death certificate received:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there special cleaning requirements?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**OLD  
TESTAMENT  
READINGS**

**Job 19**

**789 (1)**

**A reading from the book of Job**

**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 forever.**

**"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."**

**The Word of the Lord**

**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 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; the grace and mercy await those he has chosen.**

**The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

**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**

**A reading from the book of 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 forever.**

**The Lord God 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.**

**A reading from the book of Lamentations**

**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 favors 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.**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.**

**In those days I, Daniel, was doing penance and heard this word of 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.**

**A reading from the second book of Maccabees**

**Judas, Israel's leader, took a collection, 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**

**NEW TESTAMENT**  
**READINGS**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Peter said: "The truth I have now come to realize 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 Judea; 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 afterward 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 this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name."**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**You have been taught that when we were baptized in Christ Jesus we were baptized in his death; in other words, when we were baptized 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 realize 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 any more.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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**

**A reading from the letter of 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 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 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**

**A reading from the letter of 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 judgment 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**

**A reading from the first letter of 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 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 to 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**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul  
to the Corinthians**

**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**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul  
to the Corinthians**

**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**

**Phil. 3**

**790 (11)**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians**

**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**

**A reading from the first letter of 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**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy**

**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**

**A reading from the first letter of 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**

**1 Jn. 3**

**790 (15)**

**A reading from the first letter of John**

**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**

**Rev. 14**

**790 (16)**

**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 forever after their work, since their good deeds go with them."**

**The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the book of Revelation**

**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 other books opened 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 everyone 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**

**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 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 am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. 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**

**PRAYERS  
OF THE  
FAITHFUL**

# A

1. For the world and all its dead and dying, that fulfillment light and peace may be the common lot of all God's children.

We Pray to you, Lord.

2. That the presence of friends and relatives in these days may testify to God's constant presence and love.

We pray to you, Lord.

3. For our sister / brother \_\_\_\_\_ that they who knew creative labour, joy and suffering here may share Christ's risen life and happiness.

We pray to you, Lord.

4. For the relatives and friends who suffer this loss, this pain of separation, that our common faith and hope and love may be a strong support for them.

We pray to you, Lord.

5. That all who minister to the dying might find the hearts and hands to help them in their work.

We pray to you, Lord.

## **B**

1. **For the Church: that we grow in faith in Jesus' power over death.**

**We pray to you, Lord.**

2. **For those of us who were close to \_\_\_\_\_: that the hope of new life in Jesus may be our consolation and strength.**

**We pray to you, Lord.**

3. **For everyone here: that the bread of heaven which we share may be our food for everlasting life.**

**We pray to you, Lord.**

4. **For the whole world: that the sadness caused by death may be overcome by the presence of the love of God, in himself and in his Church.**

**We pray to you, Lord.**

5. **Let us present our own prayers for \_\_\_\_\_ to God our Father \*\*\* PAUSE\*\*\*.**

**We pray to you, Lord.**

# C

1. That our brother / sister \_\_\_\_\_  
may receive the reward promised to those who  
keep your word.  
We pray to you, Lord.
  
2. That the power of the resurrection may transform  
mortality into unending life.  
We pray to you, Lord.
  
3. That he / she may share with your saints the joy,  
light and peace of your presence in glory.  
We pray to you, Lord.
  
4. That we who mourn may know the consolation of  
your love.  
We pray to you, Lord.
  
5. That strengthened by faith in your promise, we  
may live toward the day of reunion in heaven.  
We pray to you, Lord.

# **GOSPEL READINGS**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:**

**"How happy are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**"Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.**

**"Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.**

**"Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.**

**"Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.**

**"Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.**

**"Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called the sons of God.**

**"Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**"Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**At that time Jesus exclaimed, "I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.**

**"Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**

**"Come to me, all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.**

**"But at midnight there was a cry, 'The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.' At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.' But they replied, 'There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.'**

**"They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us.' But he replied, 'I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.' So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.**

**"Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.'**

**"Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?'**

**"And the King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'**

**"Next he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.'**

**"Then it will be their turn to ask, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?'**

**"Then he will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.' And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life."**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Mk. 15, 16**

**793(5)**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

**When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"**

**When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling on Elijah." Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink saying, "Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down." But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**

**The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, "In truth this man was a son of God."**

**When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.**

**They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But when they looked they could see that the stone--which was very big--had already been rolled back.**

**On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, "There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified; he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him."**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

**Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her.**

**When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. "Do not cry," he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, "Young man, I tell you to get up." And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother.**

**Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people." And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**"See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at the table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready.**

**"You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house.**

**"You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Lk. 23**

**793 (8)**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

**When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left.**

**One of the criminals hanging there abused him. "Are you not the Christ?" he said. "Save yourself and us as well."**

**But the other spoke up and rebuked him. "Have you no fear of God at all?" he said. "You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.**

**"Jesus," he said, "remember me when you come into your kingdom."**

**"Indeed, I promise you," he replied, "today you will be with me in paradise."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

**It was about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." With these words he breathed his last.**

**When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, "This was a great and good man." And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts.**

**All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.**

**On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there.**

**As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, "Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

**On the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognizing him.**

**He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast.**

**Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.**

**"What things?" he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth," they answered, "who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free.**

**"And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing."**

**Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it**

**not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.**

**When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening," they said, "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.**

**Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?"**

**They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "Yes it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized him at the breaking of the bread.**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Jn. 6**

**793 (11)**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to the crowds:**

**"All that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and whoever comes to me  
I shall not turn him away;  
because I have come from heaven,  
not to do my own will,  
but to do the will of the one who sent me.**

**"Now the will of him who sent me  
is that I should lose nothing  
of all that he has given to me,  
and that I should raise it up on the last day.  
Yes, it is my Father's will  
that whoever sees the Son and believes in him  
shall have eternal life,  
and that I shall raise him up on the last day,"**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to the crowds:**

**"I am the living bread  
which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give  
is my flesh, for the life of the world."**

**Then the Jews started arguing with one another:  
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they  
said. Jesus replied:**

**"I tell you most solemnly,  
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink  
his blood,  
you will not have life in you.  
Anyone who does eat my flesh  
and drink my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I shall raise him up on the last day.**

**"For my flesh is real food  
and my blood is real drink  
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me  
and I live in him.  
As I, who am sent by the living Father,  
myself draw life from the father,  
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.**

**"This is the bread come down from heaven;  
not like the bread our ancestors ate:  
they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live  
for ever."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus arrived at Bethany and found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathize with them over their brother.**

**When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you."**

**"Your brother," said Jesus to her, "will rise again."**

**Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said:**

**"I am the resurrection.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.  
Do you believe this?"**

**"Yes, Lord," she said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Mary, the sister to Lazarus, went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."**

**At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" They said, "Lord, come and see."**

**Jesus wept; and the Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But there were some who remarked, "He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?"**

**Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, "Take the stone away."**

**Martha said to him. "Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day."**

**Jesus replied, "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:**

**"Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me."**

**When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, "Lazarus, here! Come out!" The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, let him go free."**

**Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.**

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Jn. 12**

**793 (15)**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**"Now the hour has come  
for the Son of man to be glorified.  
I tell you, most solemnly,  
unless a wheat grain  
falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it yields a rich harvest.  
Anyone who loves his life loses it;  
anyone who hates his life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life.**

**"If a man serves me, he must follow me,  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
If anyone serves me,  
my Father will honor him.**

**Now my soul is troubled.  
What shall I say:  
Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason  
that I have come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!"**

**A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and  
I will glorify it again.**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Jn. 14**

**793 (16)**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am going now to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone  
and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am  
you may be too.  
You know the way, to the place  
where I am going."**

**Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are  
going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said:**

**"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father  
except through me."**

**Jn. 17**

**793 (17)**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, saying:**

**"Father,  
I want those you have given me  
to be with me where I am,  
so that they may always see the glory  
you have given me  
because you loved me  
before the foundation of the world.**

**"Father, Righteous One,  
the world has not known you,  
but I have known you,  
and these have known  
that you have sent me.  
I have made your name known to them  
and will continue to make it known,  
so that the love with which you loved me  
may be in them,  
and so that I may be in them."**

**The Gospel of the Lord**