

funerals

Version 2 29 04 20

Funeral Checklist

Name of Deceased	
Date of Funeral	
Time of Funeral	
Place of Funeral	
Age	
Spouse	
Next of Kin	
Family Members	
Children and Partners	
Grandchildren	

Music in	
Music during the service	
Hymns	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>
Music out	
Readings	

General Information

Sentences

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job 19.25-27

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Thessalonians 4.14,17b, 18

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.22,23

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5.4

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

God will show us the path of life; in his presence is the fullness of joy: at his right hand there is happiness for evermore.

cf Psalm 16.10

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplications.

cf Psalm 130.1

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.22,23

Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Luke 23.43

Introduction

God is love,
those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them

Love made us and journeys with us,
from the miracle of birth
into the mystery of death.

SS

We have come together to worship God,
in whose presence,
neither length of time nor distance of space
can separate us
from those whom we love.

We have come here today
to remember before God our *sister/brother N*

to give thanks for *her/his* life

to commend *her/him* to God

to commit *her/his* body to be *buried/cremated*,

and to comfort one another in grief.

We remember those not here today ...

Prayer

In a moment of quiet we gather our thoughts and memories of *N*.

Each of us will have our own memories,
our different feelings, our own needs

- we bring those to mind in a moment of silence as we prepare to pray:

Silence

God of all time and space,
you know us and love us,
and put your love into our hearts.

As we gather here to remember *N*,

... mother / father / sister / brother / husband / partner / son / daughter / friend ...

help us to feel our hearts filled with divine love,
our lives touched by God's presence,
our souls renewed
by the hope we have in the promises of heaven.

Amen.

Or:

Lord our God,
the death of our *brother/sister N*
reminds us of our human condition
and the brevity of our lives on earth.
But for those who believe in your love
death is not the end,
nor does it destroy the bonds
that you forge in our lives.
We share the faith of your Son's disciples
and the hope of the children of God.
Bring the light of Christ's resurrection
to this time of pain and sorrow
as we pray for *N* and for those who love *her/him*,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me, against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

John 14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.' Said Jesus
'Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places.
If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And when I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.
And you know the way to the place where I am going.'
Thomas said to him,
'Lord, we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way?'
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

Revelation 21

Then I, John saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "behold! God's dwelling place is now among men, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more. And mourning and crying and pain shall be no more, for the old order has passed away."

Homily

Act of Remembrance

My dear friends,
we believe that all that binds us in life
is not destroyed by death.
Death cannot take that which is locked in our hearts.

So in a time of silence
we remember *N*
and all that *s/he* means to each person here.

Remembering laughter and happiness.
tears and sorrows.

Remembering special days
engraved deep in the heart,
and the ordinary days
of which life is made.

Silence

Remembering is a gift,
a gift of love,
passing back and forth between yesterdays,
we walk with those who have gone from us.

Memory eternal be granted to *him/her*.

Prayers

A

God of all joy.

We rejoice in our precious memories of the **N** we lived, loved and laughed with, the pictures that tell *her/his* story from beginning to end and beyond.

Help us share our sadness and also celebrate *her/his* life.

God of all faith.

We give thanks for your promise of new life for our departed loved ones.

Wipe away every tear from the eyes of those who mourn the loss of **N**.

God of all grace.

We give thanks for our glimpses of the light behind the shadows of the valley of death.

Comfort those who journey that path today.

God of all calm.

We give thanks for those who comfort our sorrow with words and deeds of care and with their unspoken presence in times of need.

Heal the hearts aching with the pain of loss.

We reach out to one another as together we make our way through the valley of the shadow of death.

We reach forward to the shepherd who leads his flock through those depths overshadowed with grief towards the light that lies behind the clouds

And we offer all our prayers in the family prayer of Christians throughout the world, in every time and place, saying together:

B

We pray for N ...

[Turning to the coffin]

N, you shared your life with us,
God give eternal life to you.

You gave your love to us;
God keep you in his deep love.

You gave your time to us,
God give eternity to you.

You gave your light to us
God give everlasting light to you.

Go upon your journey,
to love, to light, to life eternal.

[Turning back to the congregation]

We pray for *N and N and all N's family and friends*
for ourselves, for every one here *[and those who can't be here ...]*

O God,
though you are unseen,
let us see you all around;
though you are silent,
let us hear you in the birdsong and the trees;
though you are untouchable,
let us seek your touch in those who comfort us now;
though you are unknowable,
O God, let us know your presence
with us now and always.

Amen.

C

We swim in the ocean of the Spirit,
held within her limitless love.

Grace falls upon us, a gentle rain,
released from the heart of God.

We touch the depths and the air-kissed waves,
the flow of feelings, connecting all to all.

We open mind and heart, body and spirit to the living water,
to the flowing love, to the God around us and within us.

As the deer longs for flowing waters,
so my soul thirsts for you, Holy One.

May deep speak to deep.
The water that gives birth to all creation also gives birth to us.
The water that lives in every creature also lives in us.

The water that refreshes the dry places of the earth
also renews us.

May deep speak to deep;
and may we hear the murmur of the Spirit,
the wisdom of water, deeper than words can say.

SS

D

Our prayer:

a curling leaf, a flash of red and gold in the turning of the year, the turning of the day.

Nothing stays the same.

From the dying of things beauty is born, the mystery of life is revealed.

We pray that we might walk with the one in whom we die,
in whom we live again.

We pray for all who stand on the edge:

between one journey and another;

between life and death;

between joining and parting.

Guide our ways, Christ our Light,

so we can walk without fear and lend a hand to those who stumble.

Keep us, holy Spirit of air, under the shadow of your wings.

Keep us, holy Spirit of earth, in the darkening of your trees.

Keep us, holy Spirit of water, in the stillness of your depths.

Keep us, holy Spirit of fire, in the embers of your heart.

Under the wings of the Spirit, the Spirit of the shining dark:

let there be rest.

The flame dies down, the new year's moon is born:

let there be rest.

In the ending of the day, in the time of letting go:

let there be rest.

SS

**OUR Father,
who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Prayer of Commendation and Farewell

[Move to the coffin, face the people and say:]

God is love,
those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.

Love made us and journeys with us,
from the miracle of birth
into the mystery of death.

SS

Having heard God's word of hope
let us commend **N** to the loving arms of God who is love,
the source of all love and all life:

*[With this water
we mingle the tears of mourning with the water of Baptism
and call to mind Christ's journey
through the deep waters of death to the fullness of the Resurrection
and **N's** own baptism into that journey of life.]*

*[If arranged in advance family and friends may come forward and lay a hand on the coffin]
[Turn to the coffin]*

Into your hands God,
we commend **N**,
in the sight of this world **s/he** is now dead;
in your sight may **s/he** live for ever.

May every tear be wiped away
and may **s/he** be received into your compassionate arms.
May **s/he** find a place of everlasting peace
and unending light
beyond the dark valley of the shadow of death.

Though we are parted from **him/her**
we know that in Jesus
you show us that your love is without end.

[Place a hand on the coffin]

N go forth from this world
in the love of God, the source of all life;
in the mercy of Jesus, who bears all our pain,
in the power of the Spirit, who makes all whole.

N may the angels lead you into paradise;
may the saints come to welcome you.
and take you to the Holy City,
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

[Return to the lectern]

Nunc Dimittis

Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people
To be a light to lighten the gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel

Committal

[From the lectern operate the curtain]

We have entrusted our *sister/brother N* to God's mercy,
and we now commit *her/his* body

to the ground / to be cremated:

earth to earth,
ashes to ashes,
dust to dust

in sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life
through Jesus
who will transform our frail bodies
to be like his glorious body,
and who dies, was buried, and rose again for us.

Amen.

Blessings

[Move to the centre, close to the congregation]

God will show us the path of life;
in God's presence is the fullness of joy;
at God's right hand
is happiness for evermore.

A

Hear the words of Jesus:
Set your troubled hearts at rest.
Trust in God always, trust also in me.

Although we have been parted from **N**
none of us is ever separated within the love of God.
the peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his son Jesus Christ:
and the blessing of God
giving you life,
bearing your pain,
making you whole:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and all you love
today and every day.
Amen.

B

Jesus said 'I give you peace,
let not your hearts be troubled'

Loving God we long for peace;
peace to leave **N** with you,
peace with you,
peace to strengthen us for today and tomorrow,
peace with each other
and peace of heart with you.
Lord grant us that peace which is the gift of your son.

C

May we travel onward in peace
Letting go of all that does not serve love
May we walk to the edge of light
Led by faith into the unknown
May we open our spirit to mystery
To the glory that shines around us
May we share the dreaming of God
And wake to the newness of creation.

SS

Go in peace and may the God of Peace be with you