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Honouring Life
Religious & Civil Services

Liturgy Guide
Catholic Funeral Mass

Introduction

This booklet has been prepared by **Massey Bros.** to assist you to select the readings you would like to have as part of your loved one's Funeral Mass.

You are free to choose one Old Testament and/or one New Testament reading before the Gospel reading.

The Responsorial Psalm comes after the first reading.

Scripture extracts taken from the Christian Community Bible with the kind permission of the Pastoral Bible Foundation and Claretian Publications.

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Old Testament Readings

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Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them. In the eyes of the unwise they appear to be dead. Their going is held as a disaster; it seems that they lose everything by departing from us, but they are in peace. Though seemingly they have been punished, immortality was the soul of their hope. After slight affliction will come great blessings, for God has tried them and found them worthy to be with him; after testing them as gold in the furnace, he has accepted them as a holocaust. At the time of his coming they will shine like sparks that run in the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king forever. Those who trust in him will penetrate the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love, for his grace and mercy are for his chosen ones.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The upright, even if he dies before his time, will be at rest. Honourable age does not depend on length of days, nor is the number of years a true measure of life. A man's gray hair is understanding, and a spotless life is ripe old age. The upright was pleasing to God, who loved him, and since he was living among sinners, he was taken up. God removed him lest evil impair his understanding and treachery seduce his soul. For the fascination of evil obscures true values and restless desire undermines a simple heart. Though his life soon ended, he travelled far. Because his soul was precious to the Lord, he was quickly removed from the wickedness around him. People 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 the Word of the Lord



Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (43: 1-4)

But now, thus says Yahweh, who created you, Jacob, who formed you, Israel:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
When you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through fire, you will not be burned; neither will the flames
consume you.
For I am your saviour, I, Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel.
I give Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Since you are precious in my sight, and important—for I have loved you,
I give people in exchange for you and nations in return for your life.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8,11)

There is a given time for everything and a time for every happening under heaven:

A time for giving birth, a time for dying; a time for planting, a time for uprooting. 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, a time for gathering stones; 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 sowing; a time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time for loving, a time for hating; a time for war, a time for peace.

He made everything fitting in its time, but he also set eternity in their hearts, although they are not able to embrace the work of God from the beginning to the end.

This is the Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

On this mountain Yahweh Sabaoth will prepare for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, meat full of marrow, fine wine strained.

On this mountain he will destroy the pall cast over all peoples, this very shroud spread over all nations, and death will be no more.

The Lord Yahweh will wipe away the tears from all cheeks and eyes; he will take away the humiliation of his people all over the world: for Yahweh has spoken.

On that day you will say: This is our God. We have waited for him to save us, let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (12,2-6)

He is the God of my salvation; in him I trust and am not afraid,
Yahweh is my strength: him I will praise, the one who saved me.
You will draw water with joy from the very fountain of salvation.
Then you will say: "Praise to Yahweh, break into songs of joy for him,
proclaim his marvelous deeds among the nations and exalt his Name.
Sing to Yahweh: wonders he has done let these be known all over the earth.
Sing for joy, O people of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

This is the Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3,17-26)

He has deprived my soul of peace, till I have forgotten happiness.
Now I say, "Gone are my hopes and all my confidence in Yahweh."
Recalling my affliction and homelessness is wormwood and gall.
Thinking it over and over makes my soul downcast.

But this, when I ponder, is what gives me hope:

Yahweh's love abides unceasingly.

His compassion is never consumed; every morning it is renewed.

And his love remains ever faithful.

"My portion is Yahweh," says my soul.

"On him shall I rely." Yahweh is good to those who hope in him, to souls who search for him.

It is rewarding to wait in silence for Yahweh's salvation

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (49,8.14-16)

This is what Yahweh says: “Yahweh has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.”
Can a woman forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child
of her womb?

Yet though she forget, I will never forget you.

See, I have written your name upon the palm of my hands; your walls are ever
before me. Your sons hurry back, and those who laid you waste hasten to depart
from you.

This is the Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Prophet Daniel (12,1-3)

Those who sleep will awake to everlasting life:

At that time, Michael will rise, the Great Commander who defends your people. It shall be a time of anguish as never before, since the nations first existed until this very day.

Then, all those, whose names are written in the book, will be saved.

Many of those who sleep in the Region of the Dust will awake, some to everlasting life but others to eternal horror and shame.

Those who acquired knowledge will shine, like the brilliance of the firmament; those who taught people to be just will shine, like the stars, for all eternity.

This is the Word of the Lord





Responsorial Psalms



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Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 23

R: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters,
He restores my soul. **R**

He guides me through the right paths for his name's sake.
Although I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for you are beside me:
Your rod and your staff comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me in the presence of my foes.
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup is overflowing. **R**

Goodness and kindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
I shall dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live **R**

Psalm 130

R: Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Yahweh,
O Yahweh, hear my voice! **R**

Let your ears pay attention
to the voice of my supplication. **R**

If you should mark our evil,
O Yahweh, who could stand?
But with you, is forgiveness,
and for that, you are revered. **R**

I waited for Yahweh, my soul waits;
and I put my hope in his word.
My soul expects Yahweh
more than watchmen, the dawn. **R**



Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 116

R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living

Alleluia!

I am pleased that Yahweh has heard
my voice in supplication, that he has not been deaf to me,
the day I called on him. **R**

When the cords of death entangled me,
the snares of the grave laid hold of me,
when affliction got the better of me,
I called upon the name of Yahweh:
"O Yahweh, save my life!" **R**

Gracious and righteous is Yahweh;
full of compassion is our God.
Yahweh protects the simple:
he saved me when I was humbled. **R**

Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for Yahweh has taken care of you.
He has freed my soul from death,
my eyes from weeping,
my feet from stumbling; **R**





New Testament Readings

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New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (5: 5-11)

Hope does not disappoint us, because the Holy Spirit has been given to us, pouring into our hearts the love of God. Consider, moreover, the time that Christ died for us: when we were still helpless and unable to do anything. Few would accept to die for an upright person; although, for a very good person, perhaps someone would dare to die.

But see how God manifested his love for us: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us; and we have become just, through his blood. With much more reason now he will save us from any condemnation.

Once enemies, we have been reconciled with God through the death of his Son; with much more reason, now we may be saved, through his life.

Not only that, but we even boast in God because of Christ Jesus, our Lord, through whom we have reconciled

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (6: 3-9)

Don't you know, that in baptism, which unites us to Christ, we are all baptized and plunged into his death?

By this baptism in his death, we were buried with Christ and, as Christ was raised from among the dead by the glory of the Father, we begin walking in a new life.

If we have been joined to him by dying a death like his, so shall we be, by a resurrection like his.

We know, that our old self was crucified with Christ, so as to destroy what of us was sin, so that, we may no longer serve sin if we are dead, we are no longer in debt to sin.

But, if we have died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him.

We know, that Christ, once risen from the dead, will not die again, and death has no more dominion over him.

This is the Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8: 14-23)

All those who walk in the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. Then, no more fear: you did not receive a spirit of slavery, but the spirit that makes you sons and daughters, and every time, we cry, "Abba! (this is Dad!) Father!" the Spirit assures our spirit, that we are sons and daughters of God. If we are children, we are heirs, too. Ours will be the inheritance of God, and we will share it with Christ; for, if we now suffer with him, we will also share glory with him. I consider, that the suffering of our present life cannot be compared with the glory that will be revealed, and given to us.

All creation is eagerly expecting the birth, in glory, of the children of God.

For, if now, the created world was unable to attain its purpose, this did not come from itself, but from the one who subjected it.

But it is not without hope; for even the created world, will be freed from this fate of death, and share the freedom and glory of the children of God

We know, that the whole creation groans and suffers the pangs of birth.

Not creation alone, but even ourselves; although the Spirit was given to us, as a foretaste of what we are to receive, we groan in our innermost being, eagerly awaiting the day, when God will give us full rights, and rescue our bodies as well.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (14: 7-12)

In fact, none of us lives for himself, nor dies for himself.
If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord.
Either in life or in death, we belong to the Lord;
It was for this purpose that Christ both died and came to life again,
to be Lord, both of the living and of the dead.
Then you, why do you criticize your brother or sister?
And you, why do you despise them?
For we will all appear at the tribunal of God.
It is written: I swear by myself—word of
the Lord—every knee will bend before
me, and every tongue shall give glory
to God. So each of us will account
for himself before God.

This is the Word of the Lord



New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

(8: 31-35, 37-39)

What shall we say after this?

If God is with us, who shall be against us?

If he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not give us all things with him?

Who shall accuse those chosen by God: He takes away their guilt.

Who will dare to condemn them?

Christ, who died, and better still, rose, and is seated at the right hand of God, interceding for us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Will it be trials, or anguish, persecution or hunger, lack of clothing, or dangers or sword?

No, in all of this, we are more than conquerors, thanks to him, who has loved us.

I am certain, that neither death nor life, neither angels nor spiritual powers, neither the present nor the future, nor cosmic powers, were they from heaven, or from the deep world below, nor any creature whatsoever, will separate us from the love of God, which we have, in Jesus Christ, our Lord

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:14, 5:1)

We know that he, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us, with Jesus,
and bring us, with you, into his presence.

We know that, when our earthly dwelling, or, rather, our tent, is destroyed,
we may count on a building from God, a heavenly dwelling,
not built by human hands, that lasts forever.

This is the Word of the Lord



New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

(3: 20-21)

For us, our citizenship is in heaven, from where we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

He will transfigure our lowly body, making it like his own body, radiant in glory, through the power which is his, to submit everything to himself.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy (2: 8-13)

Remember Christ Jesus, risen from the dead, Jesus, son of David, as preached in my gospel.

For this gospel I labor, and even wear chains like an evildoer, but the word of God is not chained. And, so, I bear everything, for the sake of the chosen people, that they, too, may obtain the salvation given to us, in Christ Jesus, and share eternal glory.

This statement is true:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

If we endure with him, we shall reign with him;

If we deny him, he will also deny us.

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

This is the Word of the Lord



New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy (4: 6-8)

As for me, I am already poured out as a libation, and the moment of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Now, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the just judge, will reward me, on that day, and not only me, but all those who have longed for his glorious coming.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4: 13-18)

Brothers and sisters, we want you not to be mistaken about those who are already asleep, lest you grieve as do those who have no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose; it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus.

God will bring them together, with Jesus, and for his sake.

By the same word of the Lord, we assert this: those of us who are to be alive at the Lord's coming, will not go ahead of those who are already asleep.

When the command by the archangel's voice is given, the Lord, himself, will come down from heaven, while the divine trumpet call is sounding.

Then, those who have died in the Lord, will rise first; 17 as for us who are still alive, we will be brought along with them, in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the celestial world. And we will be with the Lord forever.

So then, comfort one another with these words.

This is the Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

A Reading From the First Letter of St. John (3: 1-2)

See what singular love the Father has for us: we are called children of God, and we really are.

This is why the world does not know us, because it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children, and what we shall be has not, yet, been shown.

Yet, when he appears in his glory, we know, that we shall be like him, for, then, we shall see him as he is.

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Peter (1: 3-9)

Let us praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his great mercy. In raising Jesus Christ from the dead, he has given us new life, and a living hope. The inheritance that does not corrupt, nor goes bad, nor passes away, was reserved for you, in heaven, since God's power shall keep you faithful, until salvation is revealed, in the last days.

There is cause for joy, then, even though you may, for a time, have to suffer many trials.

Thus will your faith be tested, like gold in a furnace.

Gold, however, passes away, but faith, worth so much more, will bring you, in the end, praise, glory and honor, when Jesus Christ appears.

You have not, yet, seen him, and, yet, you love him; even without seeing him, you believe in him, and experience a heavenly joy beyond all words for you are reaching the goal of your faith: the salvation of your souls

This is the Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (14: 3)

They sing a new song before the throne, in the presence of the four living creatures and the elders, a song, which no one can learn, except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been taken from the earth

This is the Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (21: 1-4)

Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and no longer was there any sea.

I saw the new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God, out of heaven,
adorned as a bride prepared for her husband.

A loud voice came from the throne,

“Here is the dwelling of God among mortals: He will pitch his tent among them,
and they will be his people; he will be God-with-them.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death or
mourning, crying out or pain, for the world that was, has passed away.”

This is the Word of The Lord



Suggested Prayers of the Faithful

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Suggested Prayers of the Faithful

Reader:

Let us thank God for having given N... the gift of life and pray that he will now grant N... the greater gift of eternal life.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Reader:

Let us praise God for all that he did through N... during his life on earth.

May he have the reward of his goodness.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Reader:

We are all God's creatures, so we must ask God to forgive N... for his sins and failings, confident that he will be welcomed by the whole community of saints.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Reader:

Let us pray especially for the sorrowing relatives and friends, that the pain of their sorrow may be softened, and that the emptiness may be filled with the love of God.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Reader:

Let us pray for all those who care for the sick, especially those who cared for N... during the last illness of our friend.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Reader:

Let us pray for all who are suffering that the Lord may give them strength in their weakness. Mary was close to Jesus when he died, so we know she can understand our sorrow at this time. Let us turn to her for help.

Hail Mary....

Let us now pray in silence for the repose of the soul of our friend N...





Suggested Music for the Funeral Mass

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Suggested Music for the Funeral Mass

Entrance Hymn

- I'm On A Journey, I'm Going Home
- I Watch The Sunrise
- Softly And Tenderly
- Amazing Grace
- Christ Be Beside Me
- Hail Queen Of Heaven
- Sweet Heart Of Jesus
- How Great Thou Art
- Here I Am Lord
- I'll Sing A Hymn To Mary
- Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace
- Holy God We Praise Thy Name

Psalms

- You Are Mine
- The Lord's My Shepherd (Old)
- The Lord's My Shepherd (Modern)
- Be Not Afraid
- Eagles Wings
- Here I Am Lord
- Shepherd Of My Soul
- Only In God
- Faithful One
- What A Faithful God
- Yahweh's Love

Offertory

- The Bread Of Life
- Let Us Be Bread
- As I Kneel Before You
- Ave Maria
- Soul Of My Saviour
- In Love For Me
- In Bread We Bring You Lord

Communion

- There Are Many Rooms In My Father's House
- Footprints
- Cloud's Veil
- Close To You
- Lord I Come To You
- Panis Angelica
- There Is A Place
- You Raise Me Up
- You Are Mine
- Sweet Heart Of Jesus
- Forever Friend
- How Great Thou Art
- Queen Of The May



Suggested Music for the Funeral Mass

Blessing Of The Coffin

- The Hand Of God Shall Hold You
- Jesus Remember Me
- Father, I Place My Life In Your Hands

Recessional

- Pie Jesu
- Nearer My God To Thee
- Abide With Me
- I'll Walk With God
- Be Not Afraid
- Going Home
- May Songs Of The Angels
- In Paradisum
- I'm On A Journey Going Home
- Sweet Heart Of Jesus
- How Great Thou Art
- Close To You

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