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| A picture of a winding road and trees  Funeral Booklet  St Michael’s V2.3 |  |

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**How to use this Booklet**

This funeral booklet will help with assembling the contents of an Order of Funeral Service whether it takes place in the church or crematorium.

A member of the St. Michael's bereavement team will provide a suitable template that can be completed by making use of the various readings, bidding prayers and hymns that are in this booklet.

It is important however to note the following.

**The order of service must only make use of the readings, Gospel readings and hymns that are contained in this booklet.**

You may choose your own bidding prayers as well as poems but first speak to the Priest/Deacon leading the service.

# **Appendix A Readings & Psalms**

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**MASSES FOR THE DEAD**

**First Reading from The Old Testament**Outside the Easter Season

1

**A reading from the book of Job** 19:1.23-27

*This I know: that my Avenger lives.*

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: these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 26:1. 4. 7-9. 13-14.

Priest v.1. Alt. B2 v.13

Priest: The Lord is my light and my help.

Or I am sure I shall see the Lord's Goodness in the land of the living.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
   whom shall I fear?  
   The Lord is the stronghold of my life;   
   before whom shall I shrink?
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
   for this I long,  
   to live in the house of the Lord,  
   all the days of my life,  
   to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
   to behold his temple.
3. Lord, hear my voice when I call:  
   have mercy and answer  
   It is your face, 0 Lord, that I seek;  
   hide not your face.

Priest: The Lord is my light and my help.

Or I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness

in the land of the living.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness   
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord!

**2**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** 3:1-9

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,

their leaving us, like annihilation;  
but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;

slight was their affliction, great will their 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;  
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*Shorter Form*

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** 3:1-6.9

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,  
their leaving us, like annihilation;   
but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;

slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be.  
God has put them to the test  
and proved them worthy to be with him;

he has tested them like gold in a furnace,  
and accepted them as a holocaust.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,   
those who are faithful will live with him in love;   
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Pss 114:5-6; 115:10-11. 15-16. Ps 114:9

Priest: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the Living.

Or Alleluia!

1. How gracious is the Lord, and just;   
   our God has compassion.  
   The Lord protects the simple hearts;   
   I was helpless so he saved me.
2. I trusted, even when I said:  
   `I am sorely afflicted,'  
   and when I said in my alarm:  
    ‘No man can be trusted’
3. 0 precious in the eyes of the Lord  
   is the death of his faithful.  
   Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
   you have loosened my bonds.

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

Or Alleluia!

**3**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom** 4:7-15

*Untarnished life, this is ripe old age.*

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.

Length of days is not what makes age honorable,  
 nor number of years the truemeasure 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 22. v.4**

Priest If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear, for you are there with me.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want   
   Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
   Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
   If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
   You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.   
   My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.
4. 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.

4

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah** 25:6-9

*The Lord will destroy Death for ever.*

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 for ever.

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

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

1. The Lord is my shepherd;   
   there is nothing I shall want.  
   Fresh and green are the pastures   
   where he gives me repose.  
   Near restful waters he leads me,   
   to revive my drooping spirit.
2. He guides me along the right path;  
   He is true to his name.  
   If I walk in the valley of darkness  
   no evil would I fear.  
   You are there with your crook and your staff;  
   with these you give me comfort
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
    in the sight of my foes.  
   My head you have anointed with oil;  
   my cup is overflowing.
4. 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.

**5**

**A reading from the book of Lamentations** 3:17.26

*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 24:6-7. 17-18. 20-21 v.1Alt V.3

Priest: To you, 0 Lord, I lift up my soul.

Or Those who hope in you, 0 Lord,   
 shall not be disappointed.

1. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
   and the love you have shown from of old.  
   In your love remember me,  
   because of your goodness, 0 Lord
2. Relieve the anguish of my heart  
   and set me free from my distress.   
   See my affliction and my toil  
   and take all my sins away.
3. Preserve my life and rescue me.  
   Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.  
   May innocence and uprightness protect me:  
   for my hope is in you, 0 Lord.

**6**

**A reading from the prophet Daniel**

*Those who lie sleeping in the dust will awake*

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:

`At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who) mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 41:2. 3. 5. v.3

Priest: My soul is thirsting for God,  
 the God of my life.

1. Like the deer that yearns   
   for, running streams,  
   so my soul is yearning  
    for you, my God.
2. My soul is thirsting for God,  
   the God of my life;  
   when can I enter and see  
   the face of God?
3. These things will I remember  
   as I pour out my soul:  
   how I would lead the rejoicing crowd  
   into the house of God,  
   amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,  
   the throng wild with joy.

7

**A reading from the second book of Maccabees** 12:43-45

A *fine and noble action, in which he took account of the resurrection.*

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:8. 10. 13-18. P2 v.8. Alt R; Ps 36:39

Priest: The Lord is compassion and love.

Or The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

1. The Lord is compassion and love,  
   slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
   He does not treat us according to our sins no  
   repay us according to our faults.
2. As a father has compassion on his sons,   
   the Lord has pity on those who fear him;  
   for he knows of what we are made,  
   he remembers that we are dust.
3. As for man, his days are like grass;  
   he flowers like the flower of the field;   
   the wind blows and he is gone  
   and his place never sees him again.
4. But the love of the Lord is everlasting  
   upon those who hold him in fear;

his justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep his covenant in truth.

**FIRST READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT**

In the Easter Season

1

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** 10:34-43

*God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

“The truth I have now come to realise,' he said, '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 Judaea; 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 afterwards 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.'

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*Shorter form*

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** 10:34-36. 42-43

*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive or dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise,' he said, '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, 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.'

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 62:2-6.8-9. Ph v.2

Priest: For you my soul is thirsting,   
O Lord, my God. God,

1. You are my God, for you I long;  
   for you my soul is thirsting.  
   My body Pines for you  
   like a dry*,* weary land without water.
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
   to see your strength and your glory  
   For your love is better than life,  
   my lips will speak your praise.
3. So I will bless you all my life.  
   in your name I will lift up my hands.  
   My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
   my mouth shall praise you with joy.
4. You have been my help;  
   in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
   My soul clings to you;  
   your right hand holds me fast.

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse** 14:13

*Happy are those who die in the Lord!*

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.'

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  Ps 129. v.1. Alt. cf. v.5

Priest: Out of the depths, I cry to you, 0 Lord.

Or I wait for the Lord,

I count on his word.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, 0 Lord,   
   Lord, hear my voice!  
   0 let your ears be attentive  
   to the voice of my pleading.
2. If you, 0 Lord, should mark our guilt,  
    Lord, who would survive?  
   But with you is found forgiveness:  
    for this we revere you.
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
   I count on his word.  
   My soul is longing for the Lord  
   more than watchman for daybreak.
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
   and fullness of redemption,  
   Israel indeed he will redeem  
   from all its iniquity.

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse** 20:11— 21:1

*The dead were judged according to what they had done in their lives.*

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.

**This is the** **word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 142:1-2\_ 5-8. 10. v.1

Priest: Lord, listen to my prayer.

1. Lord, listen to my prayer:  
   turn your ear to my appeal.

You are faithful, you are just; give answer.

Do not call your servant to judgement

1. For no one is just in your sight   
   I remember the days that are past:  
   I ponder on all your works.  
   I muse on what your hand has wrought  
   and to you I stretch out my hands.  
   Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.
2. Lord, make haste and give me answer:  
   for my spirit fails within me  
   In the morning let me know your love  
   for I put my trust in you.
3. Teach me to do your will

for you, O Lord, are my God.

Let your good spirit guide me

in ways that are level and smooth.

4

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse** 21:1-7

*There will be no more death.*

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 Iam making the whole of creation new,' he said. '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.'

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 121.13 v.1. Alt. cf. v.1

Priest I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
 `Let us go to God's house.'

Or Let us go to God's house, rejoicing.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
   let us go to God's house.'  
   And now our feet are still standing  
   within your gates, 0 Jerusalem.
2. Jerusalem is built as a city  
   strongly compact.  
   It is there that the tribes go up,  
   the tribes of the Lord.
3. For Israel's law it is,  
   there to praise the Lord's name.  
   There were set the thrones of judgement  
   of the house of David.
4. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
   `Peace be to your homes!  
   May peace reign in your walls,   
   in your palaces, peace!'
5. For love of my brethren and friends  
   I say: 'Peace upon you!'  
   Forlove of the house of the Lord  
   I will ask for your good.

**Examples of Second Readings**

**1**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans** 5:5-11

*Having died to make us righteous, is it Likely that he would now* *fail to save us from God's anger?*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**2**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans** 5:17-21

*However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater.*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

3

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans** 6:3-4. 8-9

*Let us live* a *new life.*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised 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 realise 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*Shorter for*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Let us live a new life.*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised 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.

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.

**This is the word of the Lord**

4

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans** 8:14-23

*We wait for* our *bodies to be set free.*

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 givingbirth; 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

5

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans** 8:31-35.37-39

*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord**

6

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

*Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

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

**This is the word of the Lord.**

7

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul** 15:20-28

**to the Corinthians**

*All men will be brought to life in Christ.*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Shorter form

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul 15:20-23**

**to the Corinthians**

*All men will be brought to life in Christ.*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**8**

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians** 15.51-23

Iwill 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

9

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** 15.51-57

*Visible things last only for* a *time, but the invisible are eternal.*

We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**10**

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** 5:1. 6-10

*We have* an *everlasting home in heavens.*

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 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

11

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**  3:20-21

*He will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body*

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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

12

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul** 4:13-18

**to the Thessalonians**

*We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

13

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy** 2:8-13

*If we die with him, then we shall live with him.*

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 isa saying that you can rely on:

If we havedied 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.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

14

**A reading from the first letter of St John** 3:1.2

*We shall see him as he really is.*

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

**This is the word of the Lord.**

15

**A reading from the first letter of St John** 3:14-16

*We* have *passed* out *of death and into life because we love our brothers.*

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.

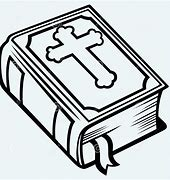
This has taught us love—

that he gave up his life for us;

and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

# **Appendix B Gospels Readings**



**Gospels for**

**Funeral Masses**

**GOSPEL**   
1

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 25:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed.

says the Lord;

take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you  
since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 5:1-12

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

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 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth;

for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 11.25-30

*Come to me, and I will give you rest.*

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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

3

**Gospel Acclamation** cf Phil 3:20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our homeland is in heaven,

and from heaven comes the Savior we are waiting for,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 25:1-13

*The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

4

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 25:34

Alleluia., alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed,

says the Lord;

take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you. since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 25:31-46

*Come, you whom my Father has blessed.*

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. Than 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 clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "1 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 l 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** 2 Tim 2:11 -12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we have died with Christ, then we shall live with him; if we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark** 15:33-39;16:1-6

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

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, lama 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 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

*Shorter form*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark** 15:33.39

*Jesus gave* a *loud cry and breathed his last.*

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, lama 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 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 11:25-26

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:

whoever believes in me will never die. Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** 7:1117

*Young man., I tell you go get up.*

Jesus went to a town called Main, 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.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Phil 3.20

Alleluia., alleluia!

Our homeland is in heaven,

and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

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

12.35-40

*Stand ready.*

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 table and wait on them. It may he 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Apoc 14:13

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy ae those who die in the Lord!

Now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them. Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** 23:33. 39-43

*Today you will be with me in paradise.*

When the soldiers 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Apoc 1:5-6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ is the First-born from the dead;

to him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

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

23:44-46. 50. 52-53. 24:1-6

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

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.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

*Shorter form*

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

23:44-46. 50. 52-33

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

Itwas 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 Icommit my spirit'. With these words he breathed his last.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**.

10

**Gospel Acclamation**  Jn3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much that he gave his only

everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** 24:13-35

*Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and enter into his glory?*

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples 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 recognising 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 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 recognised 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 recognised him at the breaking of bread.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

*Shorter form*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** 24:13-16. 28-35

*Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory*

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples 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 recognising him.

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 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 recognised 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 recognised him at the breaking of bread.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 25:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed,

says the Lord;

take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for

you since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 5:24-29

*Whoever listens to 'my words and believes has passed from death to life.*

Jesus said to the Jews:

I tell you most solemnly,

whoever listens to my words,

and believes in the one who sent me,

has eternal life;

without being brought to judgement he has passed from death to life,

I tell you most solemnly,

the hour will come \_ in fact it is here already —

when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,

and all who hear it will live.

For the Father, who is the source of life, has made the Son. the source of life;

and, because he is the Son of Man, has appointed him supreme judge.

Do not be suprised at this,

for the hour is coming

when the dead will leave their graves at the sound of his voice;

those who did good

will rise again to life;

and those who did evil, to condemnation. I can do nothing by myself;

I can only judge as I am told to judge, and my judging is just,

because my aim is to do not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 6:39

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,

that I should lose nothing

of all that he has given to me,

and that I should raise it up on the last day. Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 6.27-40

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, and shall raise him upon the last day.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

'Al! 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 me,

And that I should raise 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**.

13

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread

which has come down from heaven,

says the Lord.

Anyone who eats this bread

will live for ever.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 6:51-58

A*nyone who eats this bread has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

Iam the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live forever;

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 inyou.

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;  
riot like the bread our ancestors ate:  
they are dead,  
but anyone who eats this bread will live forever.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**.

14

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 11.25

Alleluia, alleluia:

I am the resurrection and the life,   
says the Lord,

whoever believes in me will never die.  
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 11:17-21

*I am* *the resurrection and the life.*

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus 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 sympathise 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 and the life.

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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

*Shorter form*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 11:21-27

*I am* *the resurrection and the life.*

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 and the life.

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:

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much

that he gave his only Son;

everyone who believes in him has eternal life.   
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 11:32-45

*Lazarus, come out.*

Mary the sister of 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.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Apoc. 14:13

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are those who die in the Lord!

Now they can rest for ever after their work

since their good deeds go with them.   
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 12:23..28

*If a wheat grain dies, it yields a. rich harvest.*

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

A voice came from heaven, have glorified It, and I will glorify It again.’

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

*Shorter form*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 12:23-26

*If* a *wheat grain dies, it yields* a *rich harvest.*

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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,

that whoever believes in the Son

shall have eternal life,

and that I shall raise him up on the last day.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 14:1-6

*There are many rooms in my Father's house.*

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 he 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

18

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,   
that I should lose nothing

of all that he has given to me,

and that I should raise it up on the last day.  
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 17:24-26

*I want them to be with me where I am.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

`Father,

I want those you have given me

to be with me where Iam,

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 Ihave 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 11:25.26

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life,   
says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** 19:17-18.25-30

*Bowing his head he gave up his spirit.*

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, `Woman, this is your son'. Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said:

'I am thirsty'.

A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished'; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during sabbath — since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity — the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it — trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth — and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture:

Not one bone of his will be broken;

and again, in another place scripture says:

They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus —though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews -- asked Pilate' to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well — the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time — and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about a hundred pounds.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

**Appendix C  
Bidding Prayers (General Intercessions)**



*Please select any 4 or 5 of the intercessions from A or B. You may of course compose your own intercessions, but these should be discussed with the minister before the funeral takes place.*

A

For **N,** who .in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

For the family and friends of our brother/sister, N, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

B

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our** prayer,

That those in public office may promote justice and peace.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

That God may deliver the soul of his servant, N, from punishment and from the powers of darkness.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offences.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

That God may establish him/her in light and peace.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

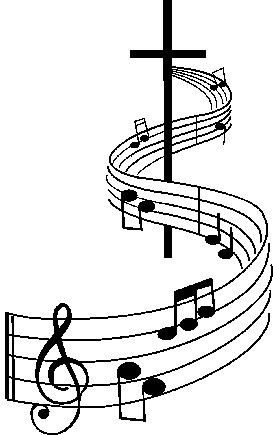
That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this Ife.

Lord, **in** your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer.**

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed.

Lord, in your mercy; **Response: Hear our prayer,**

# **Appendix D Recommended Hymns**



**Recommended Hymns**

Key

En – Entrance

Ex – Exit

P – Psalm

O – Offertory

C – Communion

\* - Hymns which are more familiar to Catholics

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Hymn No: | |  |
| 907 | Abide with me | (Ex) |
| 846 | Amazing Grace | (En, C) |
| 685 | All things bright and beautiful | (En, Ex) |
|  | Be not afraid | (En, Ex \*) |
| 720 | Be still for the presence of the Lord | (O, C, \*) |
| 948 | Because the Lord is my shepherd | (p \*) |
| 910 | Christ be beside me | (En, Ex) |
| 934 | Dear Lord and Father of Mankind | (En, Ex) |
| 960 | Guide me, o thou Great Redeemer | (En, Ex) |
| 862 | He who would valiant be | (En, Ex) |
|  | How Great thou Art | (En, Ex) |
| 865 | I the Lord of Sea ad Sky | (En, Ex) |
| 866 | I will be with you wherever you go | (O, C \*) |
| 956 | I watch the Sunrise | (C \*) |
| 725 | Immortal, Invisible, God only wise | (En, Ex) |
| 969 | Lord of All Hopefulness | (En, Ex) |
| 801 | Love Divine, All Love Excelling | (En, Ex) |
| 898 | Make me a Channel of your Peace | (C \*) |
| 445 | May flights of Angels | (Ex) |
| 671 | Morning has Broken | (En, Ex) |
| 945 | Now thank we all our God | (En, Ex) |
| 967 | O the love of my Lord | (O,C \*) |
| 952 | On Eagles Wings | (En, Ex, C \*) |
| 832 | One bread, One body | (C \*) |
| 807 | Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven | (En, Ex, P) |
| 788 | Praise to the Holiest in the Height | (En, Ex) |
| 938 | Soul of my Saviour | (C \*) |
| 663 | Sweet Sacrament Divine | (C \*) |
| 951 | Shepherd me, O God (requires soloist or choir) | (P \*) |
| 679 | The Day thou gavest Lord has ended | (Ex) |
| 806 | The Lord’s my Shepherd | (P) |
| 804 | The King of love my shepherd is | (P) |
| 880 | Tell Out my Soul, The Greatness of the Lord | (En, Ex) |
| 627 | This is my body | (C \*) |
| 287 | Thine be the Glory | (Ex) |

**All Hymns can be found in the Laurette Hymn book in the Church.**

# **Appendix E Eulogy**



**Keep the eulogy between 5-10 minutes long.**

**Suggestions on what to say-**

1. A brief overview of the person`s life including key milestones.

2. Your favourite memories with them including a specific anecdote or two.

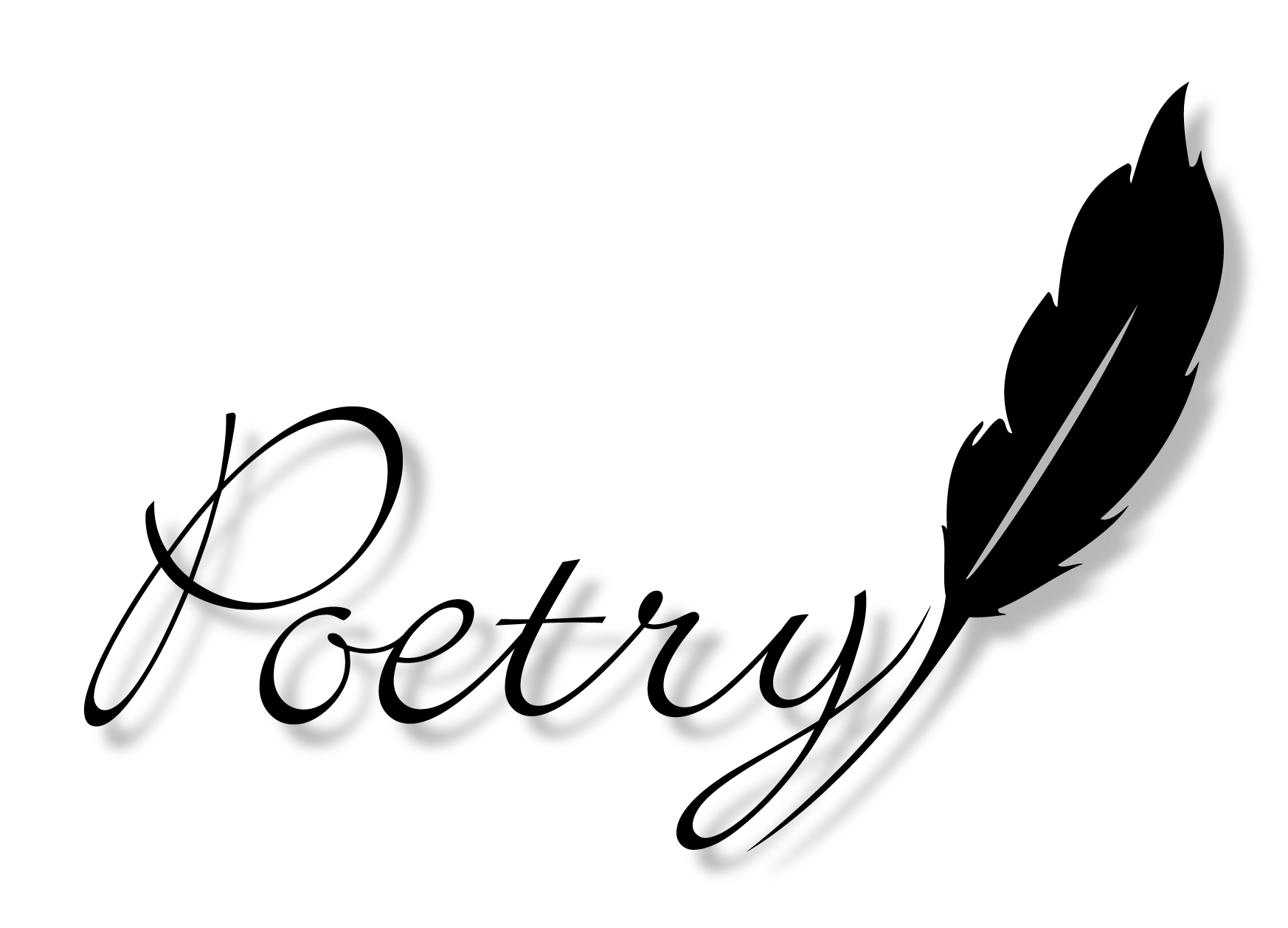
3. Details about their relationships with close family and friends.

4. Any significant accomplishments related to career, interests or hobbies.

5. Poems, stories or songs written by the departed or liked by the departed.

6. Favourite words by authors or poets they admired.

# **Appendix F Poems**



**TO THE LIVING, I AM GONE**

To the living, I am gone   
To the sorrowful, I will never return   
To the angry, I was cheated   
But to the happy, I am at peace   
And to the faithful, I have never left   
I cannot speak, but I can listen   
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard   
So as you stand upon the shore   
Gazing at the beautiful sea,   
Remember me as you look in awe at a mighty forest   
And its grand majesty, remember me   
Remember me in your hearts,   
In your thoughts, and the memories   
Of the times we loved, the times we cried,   
The battle we fought and the times we laughed   
For if you always think of me,   
I will have never gone.

*Anonymous*

**I Am There**

Look for me when the tide is high,  
And the gulls are wheeling overhead.

When the autumn wind sweeps the cloudy sky  
And one by one the leaves are shed.

Look for me when the trees are bare

And the stars are bright in the frosty sky.   
When the morning mist hangs on the air   
And the shorter darker days pass by.

I am there, where the river flows

And the salmon leap to a silver moon.

Where the insects hum and the tall grass grows

And the sunlight warms the afternoon  
I am there in the busy street

I take your hand in the city square

In the market place where people meet,  
In your quiet room - I am there.

I am the love you cannot see  
And all I ask is - look for me.

*Iris Hesselden*

**THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE**

I will arise and go now, and go to lnnisfree,   
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;   
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,   
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,   
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;   
There midnight's all a-glimmer, and noon a purple glow,   
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day   
I hear the water lapping with low sounds by the shore;   
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,   
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

*By William Butler Yeats*

**God’s Garden Poem**

God looked around his garden   
And found an empty place   
He looked down upon his earth   
And saw your loving face

He put his arms around you   
And lifted you to rest   
His garden must be beautiful   
He always cakes the best

He knew that you were suffering   
He knew you were in pain   
He knew that you would never   
Get well on earth again

He saw your path was difficult   
He closed your tired eyes   
He whispered to you "Peace be thine"   
And gave you wings to fly.

When we saw you sleeping   
So calm and free of pain   
We would not wish you back on earth   
To suffer once again

You've left us precious memories   
Your love will be our guide   
You live on through our memories   
You're always by our side

it broke our hearts to lose you   
But you did not go alone   
For a part of us went with you   
On the day that God called you home

**DESIDERATA**

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,

and remember what peace there may be in silence.   
As far as possible, without surrender,

be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly;

and listen to others,

even to the dull and the ignorant;

they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons;   
they are vexatious to the spirit.   
If you compare yourself with others,   
you may become vain or bitter,   
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.   
Neither be cynical about love,   
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment,   
it is as perennial as the grass.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,   
be gentle with yourself.   
You are a child of the universe   
no less than the trees and the stars;   
you have a right to be here.   
And whether or not it is clear to you,   
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God,   
whatever you conceive Him to be.   
And whatever your labours and aspirations,   
in the noisy confusion of life,   
keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,   
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

*Max Ehrmann, 1927*

**I'm Free Now**

Don't grieve for me now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and I left it all.

I could not stay another day  
to laugh, to live, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I've found my peace at the close of the day.

If parting has left a void  
Then fill it with memories of joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
ah yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life has been full, I've savoured much  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me,  
God wanted me now, he set me free.

I'm free now.

**Not, How Did He Die, But How Did He Live?**

Not how did he die? But how did he live?   
Not what did he gain? But what did he give?  
These are the units to measure the worth  
of this man as a man regardless of birth.  
Not what was his station? But had he a heart?   
How did he play his God-given part?  
Was he at hand with a word of good cheer   
to bring back a smile or banish a fear?  
Not what was his church or what was his creed?   
But had he befriended those really in need?   
Not how did the formal obituary run?  
But how many grieved when his life's work was done?

*Rabindranath Tagore.*

**We Seem To Give Them Back To Thee**

We seem to give him back to Thee, 0 God,   
who gavest him to us.

Yet as Thou didst not lose him in giving,

so do we not lose him by his return.

Not as the world giveth, givest Thou, 0 Lover of souls. What Thou givest, Thou takest not away,

for what is thine is ours also if we are Thine.

And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing,

save the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly;

draw us closer to Thyself that we may know ourselves to

be nearer to our loved ones who are with Thee.

And while Thou dolt prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place,

that where Thou art we may be also for evermore.

*Fr Bede Jarrett 0.P*

**I Said to the Man who Stood at the Gate of the Year**

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

`Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown'

And the man replied:

`Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be unto you better than a light, and safer than a known way'.

So I went into the darkness, and taking the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills, and the breaking of the day in the lone East.

May that almighty hand guide you and uphold us all.

*Minnie Louise Haskins*

**Journey & Journey’s End**

O Father, give the spirit power to climb  
To the fountain of all light, and be purified.  
Break through the mists of earth, the weight of the clod,  
Shine forth in splendour, you that are calm weather,  
And quiet resting place for souls.  
To see you is the end and the beginning,  
You carry us, and you go before,  
You are the journey, and the journey’s end.

***Boethius***

**Prayer Of An Unknown Soldier**

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve . . .

I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do great things . . .

I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy...

I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men...

I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life . . .  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything I hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

*Anon.*

**They Softly Walk**

They are not gone who pass

Beyond the clasp of hand,

Out from the strong embrace.

They are but come so close

We need not grope with hands,

Nor look to see, nor try

To catch the sound of feet.

They have put of their shoes

Softly to walk by day

Within our thoughts, to tread

At night our dream-led paths

Of sleep.

They are not lost who find

The sunset gate, the goal

Of all their faithful years.

Not lost are they who reach

The summit of their climb,

The peak above the clouds

And storms. They are not lost

Who find the light of sun

And stars and God.

They are not dead who live

In hearts they leave behind.

In those whom they have blessed

They live a life again,

And shall live through the years

Eternal life, and grow

Each day more beautiful

As time declares their good,

Forgets the rest, and proves

Their immortality.

*Hugh Robert Off*

**I thank thee God, that I have lived**

I thank thee God, that I have lived

In this great world and know its many joys;

The song birds, the strong sweet scent of hay

And cooling breezes in the secret dusk,

The flaming sunsets at the close of day,

Hills, and the lonely, heather-covered moors,

Music at night and moonlight on the sea,

The beat of waves upon the rocky shore

And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy:

The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,

The love of kin and fellowship of friends,

And all that makes life dear and beautiful. .

I thank thee too, that there has come to me

A little sorrow and sometimes defeat,

A little heartache and the loneliness

That comes with parting and the word 'Goodbye',

Dawn breaking after weary hours of pain,

When I discovered that night's gloom must yield

And morning light break through to me again.

Because of these and other blessings poured

Unasked upon my wondering head,

Because I know that there is yet to come

An even richer and more glorious life,

And most of all, because thine only Son

Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me –

I thank thee God, that I have lived

*Elizabeth Craven*

**Death Is Nothing At All**

Death is nothing at all; I have only slipped away into the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone; wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was, let it be spoken without effect, without the ghost of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is absolutely unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near just around the corner . .

.

All is well.

*Canon Henry Scott Holland, 1847 — 1918*

**Footprints In The Sand**

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him, the other the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at his footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times across the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest parts of his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me".

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you".

**l am not there**

Do not stand at my grave and weep   
I am not there. I do not sleep.   
I am a thousand winds that blow.   
I am the diamond glints on snow.   
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.   
1 am the gentle autumn rain.

When you are awakened in the morning's hush   
I am the swift uplifting rush   
of quiet birds in circled flight.   
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.   
I am not there; I did not die.

*(Anonymous)*

**Miss me, but Let me go**

When I come to the end of the road   
and the sun has set for me  
I want no tears in a gloom-filled room.   
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me little, but not too much   
And not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared;  
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take   
And each must go alone;  
It is all part of the Master's plan   
A step on the Road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart   
Go to the friends that we know  
And busy your sorrows in doing good

Miss me, but let me go.

**GO SILENT FRIEND**

Go, silent friend, your life has found its ending;   
To dust returns your weary mortal frame,

God, who before your birth called you into being, Now calls you hence, his accent still the same.   
Go, silent friend, your life in Christ is buried;

For you he lived and died and rose again.

Close by his side your promised place is waiting Where, fully known, you shall with God remain.

Go, silent friend, forgive us if we grieved you;   
Safe now in heaven, kindly say our name.  
Your life touched us, that is why we mourn you;   
Our lives without you cannot be the same

Go, silent friend, we do not grudge your glory;   
Sing, sing with joy deep praises to your Lord.   
You, who believed that Christ would come back for you,

Now celebrate that Jesus keeps his word.

*John L. Bell*

**THE SHIP**

What is dying?

I am standing on the sea shore.

A ship sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean.

She is an object of beauty and I shall stand watching her till at last she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says;

"She is gone"

Gone? Where?

Gone from my sight—that is all.

She is just as large in the masts, hull and spars as she was when I saw her, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to its destination. The diminished size and total loss of sight is in me, not in her;

and just at the moment when someone at my side says;

"She is gone". There are others who are watching her coming, and other voices take up a glad shout

"There she comes!"

--and that is dying".

**How Do I Love Thee? (Sonnet 43)**

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints, - I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,

I shall but love thee better after death.

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

**I have joined old friends in a golden light**

I have joined old friends in a golden light

Beyond yon horizon 'as wondrous bright

It is heavenly bliss without bodily pain

So keep faith and keep strong until we meet again.

*Anon.*

**Heaven's not a rest;**

Heaven's not a rest;  
No! but a battle with new zest,  
untired, with warrior joy, the sharp keen spirit to employ  
on life's new enterprise.  
It's the surprise  
of keen delighted mind  
that wakes, to find  
old fetters gone, shining immortality put on.

*Anon.*

**An Irish Airman foresees his Death**

"Nor law, nor duty bade me fight  
nor public men, nor cheering crowds,  
a lonely impulse of delight  
drove to this tumult in the clouds;  
I balanced all, brought all to mind,  
the years to come seem waste of breath,  
a waste of breath of years behind  
in balance with this life, this death."

*William Butler Yeats*

**Extract from The last letter of Sir Thomas More**

Pray for me as I will for thee   
and all my friends   
that we may meet merrily in heaven

*St. Thomas More*

**If Tears Could Build A Stairway**

If tears could build a stairway,

And memories were a lane,

We would walk right up to heaven

To bring you down again.

No farewell words were spoken,

No time to say good-bye.

You were gone before we knew it,

And only God knows why.

Our hearts still ache in sadness

And secret tears still flow,

What it meant to lose you,

No one will ever know.

When we are sad and lonely,

And everything goes wrong,

We seem to hear you whisper

"Cheer up and carry on."

Each time we look at your pictures,

You seem to smile and say,

"Don't cry, I'm only sleeping,

We'll meet again someday."

NOTES