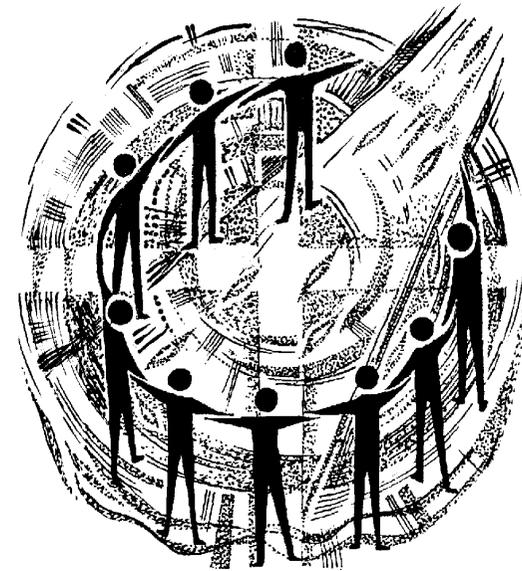


*I am the Resurrection
and the Life*



**Manual
For Funeral Ministry**

**For use of
Funeral Ministry Teams**

Minister:

Let us go in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

.

A Deacon says:

May the peace of God which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Deacon: And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, the So, †
and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Minister: Almighty God and Father,
by the mystery of the Cross, you have made us strong, by the sacrament
of the resurrection, you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly on your
servant(s) now freed from the bonds of mortality and count them (him/
her) among your saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING OF A TOMBSTONE

The minister says the following prayer:

O God,
By whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,
bless this gravestone
with which we mark the resting place of (name...).
May he/she have everlasting life and rejoice in heaven with your saints
for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The minister sprinkles the tombstone with holy water.

CONCLUDING RITE:

Minister: Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Minister: May they rest in peace

ALL: Amen

Minister: May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God rest in peace.

ALL: Amen

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THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL

The Christian Funeral has three distinct yet linked stations. These are:

STATION 1:

The Wake Service in the Home of the Deceased.

STATION 2:

The Funeral Liturgy in the Parish Church of the Deceased

STATION 3:

The Burial Service in the Cemetery.

The Committal Ceremony in the Crematorium

The Interment of Ashes in the Parish Garden of Remembrance.

The Purpose of the Manual:

This Manual may be useful when Lay Ministers conduct funeral services. If you are in possession of a good ritual, please refer to this. However many older rituals do not have adaptations for cremations and interment of ashes. It is hoped that the suggestions in this manual may be helpful to you

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of quiet reflection may follow.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

While the following litany is recited, the minister may sprinkle the grave(s) with Holy Water. It may be left till the end of the litany.

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Holy Mother of God,	Pray for them.
Saint Michael,	Pray for them.
Saint John the Baptist,	Pray for them.
Saint Joseph,	Pray for them.
Saint Peter,	Pray for them.
Saint Paul,	Pray for them.
Saint Andrew,	Pray for them.
Saint Stephen,	Pray for them.
Saint Anne,	Pray for them.
Saint Joachim,	Pray for them.
Saint John Bosco,	Pray for them.

(the names of the patron Saints may be included)

All holy men and women,	Pray for them.
Christ, pardon all their faults,	Lord hear our prayer.
Christ, remember the good they have done,	Lord hear our prayer.
Christ, receive them into eternal life,	Lord hear our prayer.
Christ, comfort all those who mourn,	Lord hear our prayer.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister: With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption, let us pray together as Jesus has taught us,

All: Our Father....

APPENDIX D

VISITING A CEMETERY BLESSING A TOMBSTONE

GREETING:

A deacon greets the people in the following words:

The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

A Lay minister greets the people in the following way:

Praise be to God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

The minister continues:

My dear friends, we gather today to pray for..... (our brothers and sisters), whose body (bodies) rest there. They (he/she) have (has) passed from death to life in the company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life. Purified now of their (his/her) faults, we pray that God may welcome them (him/her) among all the saints of heaven.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Minister: Brothers and sisters, let us listen to the words of the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

“We do not want you unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen sleep. Indeed I tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

STATION 1

WAKE SERVICE IN THE HOME OF THE DECEASED

The Wake Service usually takes place in the home of the deceased on the evening before the Funeral. It can take place at a more convenient time before the day of the funeral.

Make sure that the following are available:

- ⇒ A Candle and matches. A suitable table and cloth can be arranged with the family.
- ⇒ Sufficient copies of the Wake Service.
- ⇒ Hymn sheets/books.

INTRODUCTION

Hymn followed by a Decade of the Rosary .

Leader:

In name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Good evening family and friend of (N...) our late brother/sister. On behalf of our Parish and our parish priest... and the members of our parish Funeral Ministry, we deeply sympathize withon the passing of our late brother / sister (name).

We will start the service by asking (name) to light the candle.

We light this candle, Lord Jesus, as a sign of your presence. We know you are here for you told us that “Wherever two or more are gathered in my name I am there in the midst of them.”

God, our Father, you gave us Jesus, a light for us to follow. We share this light, for the Spirit of Jesus lives in each of us. Help us to let this light shine out to everyone we meet so that as a people, your people, we may be a light to all the world, calling others to you. They will know we are your followers by our love for you and for each other.

Amen.

I SHALL SEE GOD

A Biblical Wake Service

Hymn

GREETING

Leader:

Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation. (2 Cor. 1.3)

All:

As we have shared much in the suffering of Christ, so through Christ do we share abundantly in his consolation. (2 Cor. 1.5)

PRAYER

Leader:

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, you willingly gave yourself up to death so that all people might be saved and pass from death into a new life. Listen to our prayers, look with love on your people who mourn and pray for their deceased brother/sister (N...). Lord Jesus you alone are holy and compassionate: forgive our brother/sister (N...). his (her) sins. By dying you opened the gates of life for those who believe in you, do not let our brother /sister be parted from you, but by your glorious power give him/her light, joy, and peace in heaven where you live for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

Hymn

FIRST READING *“Flesh and Blood Cannot Inherit the Kingdom of God”* (1 Cor. 15.50)

Reader:

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-8)

All:

APPENDIX C

Alternative Prayers of the Faithful

In baptism (name) received the light of Christ Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer**

Our brother/sister (name), was nourished at the table of the Saviour. Welcome him (her) into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer**

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer**

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer**

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.

Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayers for the Mourners

General

Lord God, you are attentive to the voice pleading. Let us find in your Son comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt, and courage to live through this hour. Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

A child:

Lord God, from whom human sadness is never hidden you know the burden of grief that we feel at the loss of this child.

As we mourn his/her passing from this life, comfort us with the knowledge that (name,) lives now in your loving embrace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

My soul weeps for sorrow; strengthen me according to your words.

(Ps. 119.28)

Reader:

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men and women, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as a sacrificial offering he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble. They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. The Word of the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

FIRST RESPONSE The Consolation of Isaiah

Leader:

Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice. (Is. 41.10)

All:

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (Ps 116.15)

Leader:

For I am the Lord, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, "Fear not, I will help you." (Is 41.13)

All:

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Leader:

I have brushed away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like a mist;

return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Is 44.22)

All:

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Leader:

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name. (Is. 49.15-16)

All:

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Leader:

Yes, in joy you shall depart, in peace you shall be brought back. (Is 55.12)

All:

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Hymn

SECOND READING “*Death is Swallowed Up in Victory*” (1 Cor. 15.54)

Reader:

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (Jn. 20.11-18)

All:

You have the words of eternal life. (Jn. 6.68)

Reader:

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain. “Woman,” they asked her, “why are you weeping?” She answered them, “Because the Lord has been taken away, and I do not know where they have put him.” She had no sooner said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there. But she did not know him. “Woman,” he asked her, “why are you weeping? Who is it you are looking for?” She supposed he was the gardener, so she said, “Sir, if you are the one who carried him off, tell me where you have laid him and

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A child who died before baptism

O Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding, listen to the prayers of your faithful people: that those weighed down by grief at the loss of this (little) child may find reassurance in your infinite goodness. And the gift of eternal life We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

A stillborn child

Lord God, ever caring and gentle, we commit to your love this little one, quickened to life for so short a time. Enfold him/her in eternal life. We pray for his/her parents who are saddened by the loss of their child. Give them courage and help them in their pain and grief.

May they all meet one day in the joy and peace of your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

One who died accidentally or violently

Lord our God, you are always faithful and quick to show mercy. Our brother/sister (name...), was suddenly (and violently) taken from us.

Come swiftly to his/her aid, have mercy on him/her, and comfort his/her family and friends by the power and protection of the cross. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

One who died by suicide

Almighty God and Father of all, you strengthen us by the mystery of the cross and with the sacrament of your Son’s resurrection. Have mercy on our brother/sister (name...). Forgive all his/her sins and grant him/her peace. May we who mourn this sudden death, be comforted and consoled by your mercy, your power and your protection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Several persons

O Lord, you gave new life to (Name...) and (Name...), in the waters of baptism; show mercy on them now, and bring them to the happiness of life in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ of Lord.

All: Amen.

APPENDIX B

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Please Note: Do NOT read out the titles of these prayers.

One who worked in the service of the Gospel

Faithful God, we humbly ask your mercy for your servant (name...), who worked so generously to spread the Good News: grant him/her the reward of his/her labours and bring him/her safely to your promised land. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A Baptised Child

To you, O Lord, we humbly entrust this child, (Name...) so precious in your sight. Take him/her into your arms and welcome him/her into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

A Young Person

Lord God, source and destiny of our lives, in your loving providence you gave us (Name...). Give him/her a place in your kingdom, where hope is firm for all who love and rest is sure for all who serve. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

One who died after a long illness

Most faithful God, lively is the courage of those who hope in you. Your servant (Name...) suffered greatly but placed his/her trust in your mercy. Confident that the petition of those who mourn pierces the clouds and finds an answer, we beg you, give rest to (Name...). Do not remember his/her sins but look upon his/her sufferings and grant him/her refreshment, light, and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

One who died suddenly

Lord, as we mourn the sudden death of our brother/sister (name...), show us the immense power of your goodness and strengthen our belief that (name), has entered into your presence.

I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned to him and said, “Rabbuni!” (meaning “Teacher”). Jesus then said: “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Rather, go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God!’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” she announced. Then she reported what he had said to her. This Gospel of the Lord.

All:

He has robbed death of its power and has brought life and immortality into clear light through the gospel. (2 Tm. 1.10)

Hymn

SECOND RESPONSE Psalm 116. 1-9

Leader:

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice in supplication. Because he has inclined his ear to me the day I called.

All:

And from my flesh I shall see God. (Jb. 19.26)

Leader:

The cords of death encompassed me; the snares of the nether world seized upon me; I fell into distress and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the Lord, “O Lord, save my life!”

All:

And from my flesh I shall see God.

Leader:

Gracious is the Lord and just; yes our God is merciful. The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me.

All:

And from my flesh I shall see God.

Leader:

Return, O my soul to your tranquility, for the Lord has been good to you. For he has freed my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

All:
And from my flesh I shall see God.

Leader:
I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

All:
And from my flesh I shall see God.

BRIEF REFLECTION THE LIFE OF...(Name)

Leader:
My brothers and sisters, let us have brief reflection on the life of ... as a gesture of consolation to his/her family. I invite those present to share a few brief recollections of the life of (N...)

Hymn

Conclude the reflection with a hymn.

PROFESSION OF FAITH “Creed of the Resurrection”
Leadership roles are shared among the Funeral Team or with others present

1 Leader:
We would have you clear about those who sleep in death, otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. (1 Thes. 4.13)

All:
If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of men. (1 Cor. 15.19)

2 Leader:
“I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.” (Jn. 12.24)

All:
He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself. (Phil. 3.21)

APPENDIX A

Prayers for the Dead and for Mourners

The following prayers for the dead and for mourners are a selection for use in the various funeral rites.

Prayers for the Dead

General

God of faithfulness,
In your wisdom you have called your servant (name...). out of this world:
Release him/her from the bonds of sin,
And welcome him/her into your presence,
So that he /she may enjoy eternal light and peace
And be raised up in glory with all your saints.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

O God,
To whom mercy and forgiveness belong,
Hear our prayers on behalf of your servant (name...)
Whom you have called out of this world;
And because he/she put his/her hope and trust in you,
Command that he/she be carried safely home to heaven
And come to enjoy your eternal reward.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,
Hear our prayers for your servant (Name...),
Whom you have summoned out of this world.
Forgive his/her sins and failings
And grant him/her a place of refreshment, light, and peace.
Let him/her pass unharmed through the gates of death
To dwell with the blessed in light,
As you promised to Abraham and his children for ever.
Accept (Name...) into your safe-keeping
And on the great day of judgment
Raise him/her up with all the saints
To inherit your eternal kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

All:

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

11. Dismissal. Blessing and Final Hymn.

Note: A priest or deacon will impart the blessing

A Lay Minister simply makes the sign of the cross.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Leader:

In the hope of the resurrection, let us leave our brother/sister (Name...) to rest in peace in this garden. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Or

Let us live in the hope of the glorious coming of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. May God himself give our brother/sister (name...) the fullness of his peace.

Hymn:

A hymn may be sung to conclude the rite.

3 Leader:

“It is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of what he has given me; rather that I should raise it up on the last day.” (Jn. 6.39)

All:

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him. (1 Thes. 4.14)

4 Leader:

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” (Jn 14.2)

All:

Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever. (2 Cor.5.1)

5 Leader:

“I am going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be.” (Jn.14.3)

All:

Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly. (1 Thes. 4.17)

6 Leader:

I wish to know Christ and the power from his resurrection; likewise to know how to share in his sufferings by being formed into the pattern of his death. (Phil 3.10)

All:

If we have died with him we shall also live with him. (2 Tm. 2.11)

7 Leader:

In baptism you were not only buried with him but also raised to life with him because you believed in the power of God who raised him from the dead. (Col. 2.12)

All:

God who raised up the Lord, will raise us also by his power. (1Cor. 6.14)

8 Leader:

Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again. (1 Cor. 15.22)

All:

Just as we resemble the man from earth, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. (1 Cor. 15.49)

9 Leader:

I consider the suffering of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us. (Rom. 8.18)

All:

What we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (Jn. 3.2)

10 Leader:

Your life is hidden now with Christ in God. When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with him in glory. (Col. 3 3-4)

All:

We do not fix our gaze on what is seen but on what is unseen. What is seen is transitory; what is unseen lasts forever. (2 Cor. 4.18)

11 Leader:

They shall see him face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. (Rev. 22.4)

All:

Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. (1 Cor. 13.12)

12 Leader:

Eye has not seen ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Cor. 2.9)

All:

We walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor. 5.7)

Leader:

Lord God, You always listen to sincere prayers. We have celebrated the funeral rite of our brother/sister and now we ask you to grant him/her a share in that blessed reward which you have prepared for all the saints, through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen

Let us pray for the bereaved. O Lord Jesus Christ, God of all consolation, who was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus, look now with compassion on your servants who are sorely grieved by their loss. Strengthen in their hearts the spirit of faith to accept this cross from your loving hands. Give to their troubled hearts and to the hearts of all the light of hope. May they so live that one day they may be united again in the kingdom of your love.

All:

Amen

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her Son was dying, help those who mourn for (name). May she give them the comfort of her own faith and by her prayers lead them on to the happiness of heaven, through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May he/she rest in peace.

All:

Amen

10. Closing Prayer.

All join in praying the "Hail, Holy Queen"

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy.

Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.

To thee do we send up our sigh, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.

Turn, then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of pity towards us,
and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus.

10. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for our brother/sister to our Lord Jesus Christ, who 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.”

Lord, you wept at the death of Lazarus, your friend: comfort us in our sorrow.

We ask this in faith.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

You raised the dead to life: give our brother/sister eternal life.

We ask this in faith.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our brother /sister was washed clean in baptism and anointed with the oil of salvation: give him/her fellowship with all your saints.

We ask this in faith..

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

He/she was nourished with your body and blood: grant him/her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this in faith.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of our brother/sister. Let our faith be our consolation and eternal life our hope.

We ask this in faith.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

Our Father...

The minister sprinkles Holy Water on the place where the ashes have been buried saying:

Eternal rest give unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him/her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

13 Leader:

Then I saw new heavens and a new earth, The former heavens and the former earth had passed away. (Rev 21.1)

All:

What we await are new heavens and a new earth where according to his promise, the justice of God will reside. (2 Pt 3.13)

14 Leader:

I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride, prepared to meet her husband. (Rev 21.2)

All:

For here we have no lasting city; we are seeking one which is to come. (Heb. 13.14)

15 Leader:

He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain. (Rev. 21.4)

All:

Thanks be to God who has give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15.57)

Hymn and Additional Prayer for the deceased and his/her family

PRAYER

Leader:

Let us pray.

Father, we entrust our bother (sister) to your mercy. You loved him (her) greatly in this life: now that he (she) is freed from all its cares, give him (her) happiness and peace for ever. The old order has passed away: welcome him (her) now into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus, your Son, and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

Leader:

Let us bow our heads and pray together in the way Jesus taught us.
OUR FATHER...

We will close the service with a blessing and final hymn.

THE BLESSING

Leader:

The Lord bless you and keep you!

All:

Amen

Leader:

The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

All:

Amen

Leader:

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

All:

Amen

Leader:

May the soul of ... and the souls of all those who have departed this life, rest in peace

All:

Amen

The Sign of the Cross.

Hymn.

Leader:

Thank the family in these or similar words:
..... Name of the Family, we thank you for accepting us into your home to pray with you tonight. We thank all the family members, friends and neighbours who have come to be with us this evening.

Thank you and God bless you.

May God give him/her a merciful judgment and forgive all his/her sins. May Christ the Good Shepherd lead him/her safely home to be at peace with God our Father. And may he/she be happy for ever with all the saints in the presence of the eternal King.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

The urn is sprinkled with Holy Water.

6. Procession to the Garden Of Remembrance

The urn is carried by a member of the family and all process to the Garden of Remembrance in silence or singing a hymn.

7. Opening & Blessing the Grave

- ◆ A member of the Family may wish to open the grave.
- ◆ if the grave is already opened: the ashes are placed in the earth
- ◆ Where the ashes are deposited in a communal receptacle called a Columbarium):

8. Prayer of blessing over the grave or the Columbarium

Leader:

Lord Jesus Christ

By the three days you lay in the tomb

You made holy the resting places of all who believe in you;

And even though they lie in the earth

They trust that they like you will rise again.

Give our brother/sister peaceful rest in this garden

Until that day when you,

The resurrection and the life,

Will raise him/her up in glory

To the perfection and the company of the saints.

Then may he/she see the light of your presence, Lord Jesus,

In the kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

9. Interment of the Ashes

A member of the family now pours the ashes directly into the hole or the Columbarium (and begins to fill in the earth).

While this is being done say the prayers as at a burial in the cemetery.

A lay minister will do so in these or similar words:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Or

Blessed be the God of all consolation, who has shown us his great mercy.
Blessed be God now and for ever.

All: Amen

Leader:

Let us recollect ourselves once more as we gather in this holy place as we prepare to lay the ashes of our brother/sister in our Garden of Remembrance. (Pause)

3. Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us Pray.

Lord God, through the death and resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ you have redeemed us and turned our death into a gateway to your eternal kingdom. Receive now our offering of our brother's/sister's ashes as we reverently commit his /her soul once again to your loving and merciful care. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

4. Reading of the Word

These can be selected from the readings for funerals.

The sequence is:

- ◆ 1st Reading
- ◆ Responsorial Psalm or appropriate Hymn
- ◆ Gospel acclamation
- ◆ Gospel Reading

5. Prayer of Final Commendation and Farewell

Leader:

It is with faith in Jesus Christ that we reverently bring the ashes of our brother/sister (name) to be their final resting place in our Garden of Remembrance. Let us pray with confidence to God that he will raise up our brother/sister to the perfection and the company of the saints.

**STATION 2
THE FUNERAL LITURGY IN CHURCH**

The Funeral Liturgy outside Mass

A funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be held for a number of reasons. One of those is that sometimes a priest is not available to preside at the liturgy. In such circumstances the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be presided at by a deacon, or be led by a lay minister.

RECEPTION AT THE CHURCH

The bringing of the body of the deceased to the church by family and friends may take place at the beginning of the principal funeral liturgy (or, for example, if the body is brought to the Church the night before, at a Vigil of Prayer).

Make sure the deceased's feet are facing the Altar when entering the Church.

Greeting

A deacon greets the mourners at the door of the church in these or similar words:

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

A lay minister will do so in these or similar words:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Or

Blessed be the God of all consolation, who has shown us his great mercy.
Blessed be God now and for ever.

All: Amen

The Deacon or Funeral Leader now prays:

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

(Psalm 41)

**INTERMENT OF ASHES
IN THE PARISH GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE**

Lord, you have redeemed your people
by your precious blood.
Come, we implore you, to our aid.

Lord, save your people
And bless your inheritance.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
May your mercy always be with us, Lord
for we have hoped in you.

(Christian Name of the deceased),
may Christ who was crucified for your sake,
free you from torments;
may Christ, who died for you
deliver you from eternal death;
may Christ, the Son of the living God,
set you down in the fresh beauty of his paradise
and may he, the Good Shepherd,
claim you as one of his flock;
may he forgive you all your sins
and grant you a place among the elect at his own right hand.
There may you ever behold him face to face
and ever stand before him
enraptured by the beauty of Truth itself
and, placed in the ranks of the blessed,
may you delight in the vision of God
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Minister now sprinkles the coffin with Holy Water, saying:
Eternal rest give unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual, light shine on him/her.
May he/she rest in peace.
Amen.

Viewing:

A period for viewing now takes place by arrangement with the family of the deceased.

Closing the Coffin after the viewing:

Outline of the service:

NOTE:

It is not permitted to bury the urn or the plastic bag containing the ashes.
(This applies to recently established Gardens of Remembrance in the Archdiocese of Cape Town)

Have a suitable screwdriver handy to loosen the screws of the urn beforehand if possible. This will avoid any awkwardness at the interment of the ashes.

The Interment of Ashes can take place after Sunday or Weekday Mass. It can also take place privately. The Priest, Deacon or Funeral Minister usually conducts the ceremony.

If the ceremony is conducted by a Funeral Minister a Communion Service is not held and the interment is conducted as follows:

1. Entrance Procession
2. Greeting
3. Opening Prayer
4. Reading of the Word
5. Prayer of Final commendation and farewell
6. Procession to the Garden of Remembrance
7. Opening and Blessing the Grave
8. Interment of the Ashes
9. Closing Prayer
10. Blessing & Final Hymn

1. Entrance Procession

As the urn is brought into the Church an entrance hymn is sung (from the Hymnal)

The Urn is placed on a stand with the Easter Candle lit beside it.

2. Greeting

A **deacon** greets the mourners at the door of the church in these or similar words:

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother/sister (name) in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he/she will rise with him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon (name) in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and with our brother/sister for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

7. Blessing & Recessional Hymn:

The leaders concludes the ceremony as follows:

Leader:

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's Blessing
May the God of all consolation ease our pain and sorrow.

All: **Amen**

Leader

May the God of all mercies grant our brother/sister eternal rest.

All: **Amen**

Leader:

May the God of all hopefulness fulfil our deep desire to be re united with our brother/sister in the kingdom of your glory.

All **Amen**

Leader:

May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us.

All: **Amen**

Leader:

Let us go in the peace of Christ

All: **Thanks be to God**

A closing hymn is sung (from the Funeral Leaflet)

Before closing the coffin the minister now sprinkles the body of the deceased with holy water, a sign of baptism and of the everlasting life in Christ it offers.

Prayer:

In the water of baptism (name) died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he (she) now share with him eternal glory.

Prepare pall bearers for procession into the church—give a sign to the organist to start the entrance. All stand.

Entrance Procession :

The coffin will proceed carried forward in procession, preceded by the minister. It is brought to the place reserved for it, usually before the altar, where it stands close to the Easter candle, a sign of Christ with us, our hope and Light of the World.

Entrance Hymn.

During the entrance hymn the coffin is led in by the ministers and the pall bearers.

Tributes and Thanks by members of the family or friends:

It is recommended that

- ⇒ Tributes and Thanks :these should take place before the Requiem Service.
- ⇒ These should be limited to one of each.
- ⇒ They should take no longer than 5 minutes each.

The Requiem Service

Sign of the Cross;

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Then start the service by greeting the family with the words “on behalf of our (name of your Parish) Parishioners and our Parish Priest. (name) We deeply sympathize with (name) family and friends of our late brother or sister (name).”

Placing of Christian symbols

A pall, a reminder of the white garment given at baptism and a baptism candle may now be placed over the coffin. On it may be placed Christian symbols, such as a Bible, or a crucifix, which recall to mind key aspects of Christian faith and life, or a particular ministry the deceased exercised in the parish community. This may be done by family or friends.

The Pall: (Recalling the Baptismal Robe):

Reverently remove the flowers from the coffin and place them before the Ambo (Lectern).

At his/her baptism ... was clothed in the garment of innocence and named as a son/daughter of God. As we drape his/her coffin with this symbol of his/her baptism, we pray that ... may share in the eternal life promised to him/her on the day of his/her baptism.

The Baptism Candle:

At his/her baptism ... was presented with a candle, lit like this one from the Easter Candle, the symbol of our faith in the resurrection of Christ. We pray that he/she, who was enlightened by the light of faith in the Risen Lord, may see the light of glory in the Kingdom of God.

Book of the Gospels or Bible

In life (name) cherished the Gospel of Christ. May Christ now greet him (her) with these words of eternal life:
Come, blessed of my Father!

Cross

In baptism (name) received the sign of the cross, May he (she) now share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

Invitation to reverence:

There are a number of sacred moments in each of our lives. One of these are the moment of our birth, when we meet our parents and family members face to face for the first time. The other sacred moment is when we die. This is the sacred moment when we meet God face to face. Our brother/sister is in that time now. In order to preserve the sacredness of this time, could you please switch off all cell phones, so as to allow no other sounds other than those of prayer and God's word to be spoken. Many thanks for your kindness and consideration in this regard.

All: Amen

Leader:

Let us recollect ourselves once more as we gather in this holy place where our brother's/sister's body will be prepared for its final resting place.
(Pause)

3. Opening Prayer

Let us Pray.

Lord God, through the death and resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ you have redeemed us and turned our death into a gateway to your eternal kingdom. Receive now our offering of our brother's/sister's body as we reverently commit his/her soul to your loving and merciful care. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**All:
Amen.**

4. Reading of the Word

Usually there is only a 1st Reading and Gospel Reading.

If time allows only one reading this MUST be Gospel Reading. These can be selected from the readings for funerals. The sequence is:

1st Reading

Responsorial Psalm or appropriate Hymn (from the Funeral, Leaflet)

Gospel acclamation

Gospel Reading

5. Committal

Sprinkle the Coffin with Holy Water.

Ask the Undertaker to ring the bell to alert the Crematorium Staff to begin lowering the lift.

Stand by the lift as it is lowered.

Use the Sample Intercession Prayers (Appendix B) as the Lift is lowered.

Conclude these with the recitation of the "Our Father"

Minister:

Let us now pray together in the words Jesus gave us:
OUR FATHER...

6. Closing Prayer: Presiding Minister:

Hymn: A hymn may be sung to conclude the rite.

COMMITTAL SERVICE AT THE CREMATORIUM

NOTE: This service only takes place when the family have arranged with the Crematorium authorities to hold a committal service. Usually it is requested that the service be no longer than 30 minutes. This service may replace a service in Church if the family request this for their own (private) reasons.

Outline of the service:

1. Entrance Procession
2. Greeting
3. Opening Prayer
4. Reading of the Word
5. Committal
6. Closing Prayer
7. Blessing & Final Hymn

1. Entrance Procession

As the coffin is brought into the Crematorium Chapel an entrance hymn is sung (from the Funeral Leaflet)
The coffin is placed on the lift.

2. Greeting

A **deacon** greets the mourners at the door of the church in these or similar words:

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

A **lay minister** will do so in these or similar words:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Or

Blessed be the God of all consolation, who has shown us his great mercy.
Blessed be God now and for ever.

Prayer for the Dead:

The following prayer for the dead is said by the leader, Other forms are to be found in the Altar Missal in the Masses for the Dead . (See also Appendix A)

PRAYER FOR THE DEAD:

Leader:

O God, almighty Father, our faith professes that your Son died and rose again; mercifully grant, that through this mystery, your servant . . . , who has fallen asleep in Christ, may rejoice to rise again through him. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All: **Amen**

Please be seated for the readings of the Word of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Members of the family may read the 1st and 2nd readings. It is important that the Word of God is proclaimed properly, hence it may be advisable for the Word to be proclaimed by members of the parish Proclaimers of the Word.

Leader:

We listen to readings from scripture which remind the Church of its faith. The Church believes that it is Christ himself who speaks when the Word of God is proclaimed.

First Reading—Refer to the Lectionary for Funerals.

The first is usually selected from the Old Testament or from the writings of the apostles.

At the end of the reading the reader says:

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm is the congregation's response to the first reading, a response of faith and trust.

The psalm is led by a reader or cantor and usually the whole congregation will join with them in singing or saying a response (chorus) after each verse.

The reader or cantor will begin with this verse which the congregation repeats.

A suitable hymn *containing the same sentiments* as the psalm may be sung

Some options with **Responses:**

Psalm 22

All: the Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 26

All: The Lord is my light and my help.

Psalm 62

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

Psalm 121

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

Psalm 129

All: Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.

Second Reading: Refer to the Lectionary for Funerals.

There may be a second reading, if so this is always a non-Gospel reading from the New Testament.

At the end of the reading the reader says:
The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Ask the congregation to stand, for the gospel and sing the Alleluia or the Lenten Acclamation.

Gospel:

The Gospel is always proclaimed by a Deacon or if he is not present by a member of the Parish Proclaimers of the Word.

The minister reads a passage from one of the Gospels, concerning the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.—**Refer to the Lectionary for Funerals.**

After the flowers have been placed on the grave, the minister brings the burial service to a conclusion with the following prayers:

Leader:

Lord God, You always listen to sincere prayers. We have celebrated the funeral rite of our brother/sister and now we ask you to grant him/her a share in that blessed reward which you have prepared for all the saints, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us pray for the bereaved. O Lord Jesus Christ, God of all consolation, who was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus, look now with compassion on your servants who are sorely grieved by their loss.

Strengthen in their hearts the spirit of faith to accept this cross from your loving hands. Give to their troubled hearts and to the hearts of all men the light of hope. May they so live that one day they may be united again in the kingdom of your love. **Amen**

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her Son was dying, help those who mourn for (name). May she give them the comfort of her own faith and by her prayers lead them on to the happiness of heaven,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him/her may he/she rest in peace. **Amen**

Sprinkle water after the flowers have been laid.

Leader:

May his/her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen

DISMISSAL

In the hope of the resurrection, let us leave our brother/sister (name), to rest in peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Or

Let us live in the hope of the glorious coming of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. May God himself give our brother/sister (name) the fullness of his peace.

The Minister then leads the congregation in the following Prayers of the Faithful:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for our brother/sister to our Lord Jesus Christ, who 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."

Lord, you wept at the death of Lazarus, your friend: comfort us in our sorrow.

We ask this in faith. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

You raised the dead to life: give our brother/sister/ eternal life.

We ask this in faith. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Our brother/sister was washed clean in baptism and anointed with the oil of salvation: give him/her fellowship with all your saints.

We ask this in faith. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

He (she) was nourished with your body and blood: grant him/her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this in faith. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of our brother/sister. Let our faith be our consolation and eternal life our hope.

We ask this in faith. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

Our Father...

Where it is the custom, some earth is scattered on the coffin. The minister says:

Eternal rest give unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him/her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

According to custom the grave is filled in by members of the family and friends.

Hymns may be sung or a decade of the Rosary may be said while the grave is being filled in. This may be led by members of the congregation.

Before reading the Gospel a **deacon** says:
The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to (name).

All: Glory to you, Lord.

A **lay minister** (Proclaimer of the Word) will introduce the Gospel reading in this way:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to (name).

All: Glory to you Lord.

At the end of the reading the minister will say:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause for a few moments after Gospel Reading.

Reflection:

By a Deacon:

A deacon may give the homily, bearing in mind the directions given below for a lay minister.

By a Lay Funeral Minister:

A **lay minister (who is suitably trained for this)** may now reflect on the meaning that the readings we have just listened to have for Christian faith and life. This reflection must not be a eulogy. It should offer members of the family and community consolation and strength to face the death of one of their members with a hope of forgiveness and resurrection nourished by the saving word of God.

Prayers of the Faithful:

(See Appendix C for an alternative form (Page 44))

The minister begins:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

For (name) 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:

All: Hear our prayer

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/ she may be raised up on the last day.

Lord, in your mercy:

All: 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:

All: 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:

All: Hear our prayer

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

Lord, in your mercy:

All: 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:

STATION 3

**THE BURIAL SERVICE
AT THE GRAVESIDE**

Call to recollection:

The presiding Minister says:

Dear family and friends, let us recollect ourselves as we gather round the in this place where many of our family and friends lie at rest waiting on the final call of the Lord. We will now bless the grave in which our brother/sister's body will be laid to rest.

The minister then says the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by the three days you lay in the tomb you made holy the garden of all who believe in you: and even though their bodies lie in the earth, they trust that they, like you, will rise again.

Give our brother/sister peaceful rest in this grave, until that day when you, the resurrection and the life, will raise him/her up in glory to the perfection and the company of the saints. Then may he/she see the light of your presence, Lord Jesus, in the kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

Amen.

The body and the grave may be sprinkled with holy water.
Now ask the undertaker to lower coffin.

While the coffin is being lowered into the grave the minister prays:

Since almighty God has called our brother /sister (name), from this life to himself, we commit his/her body to the earth from which it was made. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and we know that he will raise up our mortal bodies to be like in glory.

We commend our brother/sister to the Lord:

May the Lord receive him/her in to his peace and raise up his/her body on the last day.

The Congregation sings a recessional hymn.

NOTE: If a Private Cremation is to take place, instruct the congregation to follow the hearse to the gate of the Church yard as in note 2 below.

The Funeral Ministers team take up their positions in front of the coffin and when the Undertaker is ready, they lead the procession out of the church.

NOTES:

1. It is suitable for the presiding ministers to stand near the hearse and just before the undertaker closes the door, to sprinkle the coffin once more with Holy Water and say a short silent prayer for the happy repose of the deceased.
2. **PRIVATE CREMATION:** If this is to take place, is suitable for the ministers and the mourners to follow the hearse in procession to the gate of the church and wait until the hearse goes out of view. This procession can be in silence or accompanied by a hymn. An announcement to this effect should be made in the Church before the procession out of the Church.

All: Hear our prayer

Prayer for the Mourners (by presiding deacon or lay minister)

Lord God, you are attentive to the voice of our pleading. Let us find in your Son comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt, and courage to live through this hour. Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

If Holy Communion does not take place, the leader invites all to join in reciting the Our Father:

Leader:

Let us bow our heads and pray together in the way Jesus taught us.

OUR FATHER...

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

It is sometimes the case, though rarely, that Holy Communion will be distributed even at a Funeral Liturgy outside Mass. In such a case, after the Lord's Prayer, the Blessed Sacrament (the consecrated Eucharistic Bread, the Body of the Lord, reserved in the Tabernacle from a previous celebration of Mass) is reverently brought to the altar by the Deacon or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

The Deacon or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion conducts the liturgy of Holy Communion according to his/her manual, concluding with a Prayer after Holy Communion.

Prayer of Final Commendation and Farewell:

NOTE: The Sacristan or some of the Funeral Ministers should prepare the thurible and incense during the tribute and word of thanks. When the thurible, Incense and Holy Water are brought forward, the presiding minister asks all to stand.

Presiding Minister:

During this prayer, we will use a number of symbols. These are:

Holy Water: We will sprinkle the remains of our brother/sister with Holy Water to remind us that, through our Baptism, we are all born into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Candle: Reminds us of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and further reminds us that we are called to rise with Him in the fullness of time.

Incense: This symbol has two meanings for us. Incense is offered as a sign of our worship of God. Our brother/sister was created in the image and likeness of God. So we incense his/her remains to show our respect for him/her, even in death.

The second meaning of the incense is seen in the smoke rising like our prayers to God on behalf of our departed brother/sister. It also symbolizes our prayers for the consolation of his/her family and friends in this time of mourning.

The Presiding minister now prays the Prayer of Commendation:

It is with faith in Jesus Christ that we reverently bring the body of our brother/sister (name) to be buried in its human imperfection.. Let us pray with confidence to God that he will raise up this mortal body to the perfection and the company of the saints.

May God give him/her a merciful judgment and forgive all his/her sins. May Christ the Good Shepherd lead him/her safely home to be at peace with God our Father. And may he/she be happy for ever with all the saints in the presence of the eternal King.

Sprinkling with Holy Water and Incensation of the remains:

The presiding minister now places incense in the thurible.
He/she sprinkles the coffin with Holy Water.
He/she now incenses the coffin.

While this is taking place the following responsory may be said or sung:

Response:

Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Leader:

Saints of God, come to his/her aid.
Come to meet him/her, Angels of the Lord

Response:

Leader:

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
May angels lead you to Abraham's side.

Response:

Leader:

Give him/her eternal rest, O Lord,
And may your light shine on him/her for ever.

Response:

Presiding Minister:

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother/sister (name) in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, that he/she will rise with him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon (name) in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain, to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and with our brother/sister for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Baptism Candle on the coffin is now extinguished and handed reverently to the chief mourner in the family.

The Pall is lifted from the coffin and the flowers are replaced on it.

The Presiding minister now invites the pall-bearers to come forward.