

THE FUNERAL MASS of:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Celebrant: _____

On: _____

At: _____

Funeral Liturgy

Evening of Removal to the Church

Two family members / friends place the pall and crucifix on the coffin.

1. _____
2. _____

Readings - proclaimed by one or two readers:

1. _____
2. _____

Prayers of the Faithful - read by one person or more:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Offertory Gifts: _____

Communion Reflection: _____

Removal of Pall:

1. _____
2. _____

Music/Cantor: _____

*A Note from your Priest &
the Parish Liturgy Group*

Dear Friends,

This is a sad time for you and your family. It is hard to lose someone we love. The people of this parish community wish to support and console you in your loss. As you grieve and cope, we wish to assure you of our prayerful support and sympathy during this time.

The ministry of the priest at the time of a funeral is one aspect of our parish community's support for you. He is there to support you and assist you in preparing for the funeral liturgy, in leading times of prayer and in presiding at the funeral mass.

You will mourn and remember your loved one in different ways – you will have your own quiet private moments, but there will also be more public times for you, as you accompany the body of your loved one from their place of death to their final resting place.

Through the Funeral Liturgy, the Lord fills us with his grace and peace. He walks with us through the journey of grief. Participating in the Liturgy can help us to understand God's enduring love and care even in the midst of death. May all our dead find peace and happiness in the presence of God.

God Bless

Fr. Declan O'Connor P.P.

*'Comfort your family in their loss and sorrow. Be our refuge
and our strength, O Lord'* (Prayer for Mourners)

The following pages give you a brief outline of what happens in the Church - and what is in accordance with the guidance of '*best practice*' of the **Kerry Diocesan Liturgy Committee, John Paul 11 Pastoral Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry**

What happens at the Church?

1. The Reception of the Body at the Church.

The prayers and symbols used at this reception recall the dignity of each Christian given to them at their baptism linking the journey into and from our earthly life.

Holy water is sprinkled as a remembrance that in the waters of baptism we were born into the faith life of the community and received the promise of eternal life.

The **Paschal candle**, blest and lit on Holy Saturday night, is placed at the head of the coffin symbolising Christ's abiding presence among us, his victory over death in which we share through our baptism.

The **funeral pall**, a large white cloth which covers the coffin, is a reminder of the baptismal robe symbolising new life in Christ. It is also a reminder that before God all are equal.

The **cross or bible** is placed on the coffin also, clear symbols of our Christian identity.

It is customary that two members of the family place the pall, and cross or bible on the coffin when it is in place near the Altar. All other emblems; flags, jerseys etc., are removed at the church door and may be replaced again upon leaving the church.

2. The Funeral Mass

This is the central liturgical celebration for the deceased. It is our faith expression in the death and resurrection of Christ, which is our prayer and hope for our loved one. We also pray for the consolation of those who mourn. It follows a similar structure to a Sunday Mass.

- **Introduction:**
- ***The Liturgy of the Word***
 - *Old Testament Reading
 - Psalm (*usually sung*)
 - *New Testament Reading
 - Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)
 - Gospel
 - Homily
 - *Prayer of the faithful
- *Family members or friends may proclaim these readings and prayers, however there is no pressure on any family member should they feel too distressed.*

- ***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

At the presentation of gifts (the offertory), the bread and wine is given that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. Nothing else is presented at this time

- *Two family members / friends usually bring the gifts.*
- *After Communion, the pall and cross are removed by two family members.*

3. Final Commendation & Farewell

This is the final leave-taking of our loved one by the community. We entrust them to the Lord and implore the choirs of angels to escort them to where we all will one day meet again in the joy of God's Kingdom. Again the body is sprinkled with holy water and **incense** is used to honour the body which through baptism became a living temple of God's presence. It also signifies the prayers for the deceased rising to heaven. The choir sings the Song of Farewell as we take our loved one to their place of burial.

Music

There is a long-standing and valued tradition of having some singing and music at our funeral liturgies. This is usually done in consultation with the Funeral Director and the Parish Office. It is important that it is appropriate and we are always willing to help you with the selection should you need it.

Personal emblems and symbols

Should you wish, though not imperative, you may include some symbols of the life and interests of your loved one. These may be brought at the reception of the body in the evening or at the beginning of the funeral Mass, and will be placed respectfully in a suitable place.

A communion reflection, again, not imperative, maybe read by a family member / friend after communion.

MASS ONE

First Reading

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

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment will 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15(16):5-11

Response:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me. R

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand,
I shall stand firm. R

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. R

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. R

Second Reading

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

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 an advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

MASS TWO

First Reading:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast 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 rejoice that he has saved us
This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps41 (42):2.3.9.12

Response:

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

Like a deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. R

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

By day the Lord will send
his loving kindness;
by night I will sing to him,
praise the God of my life. R

Second Reading:

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1-4

In this life we have the privilege of being God's children. In the next life it will be even better, we shall see Him face to face.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord.

MASS THREE

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:3-6.10

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then will the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

Response:

Hope in the Lord both now and for ever.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. R

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. R

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. R

Second Reading:

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:14-18

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs of Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

The Word of the Lord.

MASS FOUR

First Reading:

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.11

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91 (92):2-6.13-16

Response:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. R

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works,
how deep are your designs. R

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.
Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God. R

Second Reading:

A reading from the Book of Revelation 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.

The Word of the Lord.

MASS FIVE

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 9:2.6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty god, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 22(23)

Response:

The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

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. R

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. R

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R

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. R

Second Reading

A reading from the apocalypse of St. John 21: 1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling of God is with me. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'

The Word of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (1)

Priest:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we pray:

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

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

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

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

3. For the family and friends of _____ that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

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

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

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

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

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

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Priest:

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (2)

Priest:

Surrounded by the sorrow of death, let us turn to Christ, who alone has the words of eternal life.

1. For _____ who has passed from this life, may he / she now enjoy the lasting peace of heaven.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

2. For the family of _____ who are mourning at this time, that in this time of sorrow and sadness, the Lord may be their strength and consolation.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

4. For those who may be worried or anxious at this time, that they may trust in God to care for them in all their needs.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

4. For those whom we have been asked to pray for, that the Lord may give them his joyful peace.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

5. For the sick, those at home and in hospital, that they may find strength in the power of the cross and find hope in their faith.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Priest:

Father, your Son alone has the words of eternal life. He came that we might have life and have it to the full. Help us to listen to his voice, and to act on his words, so that we may come to the glory of your kingdom, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever, Amen.

Communion Reflections

1. Death is Nothing

"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 still are.

Call me by my old familiar name,

Speak to me in the easy way that 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 the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without the ghost of a shadow in it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
What is death but a negligible accident?
Why should I be out of your mind
because I am out of sight?
All is well.
Nothing is past, nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before."

2. Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamt that he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed the scenes of his life. For each scene he noticed not one but two sets of footprints in the sand. He understood immediately that one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord. But then he noticed a curious thing. At the lowest and saddest times in his life there was only one set of footprints. This bothered him, so he asked the Lord: 'How come that during the most difficult times in my life, the very times when I most needed you, you left me on my own?'. Then the Lord replied: 'My friend, during your trials and sufferings, when you see only one set of footprints, those footprints are mine. It was then that I carried you'.

3. Journey of Life

For each of us life is like a journey. Birth is the beginning of this journey and death is not the end but the destination. It is a journey that takes us
from youth to age
from innocence to awareness
from ignorance to knowledge
from foolishness to wisdom
from weakness to strength and often back again
from offence to forgiveness
from loneliness to friendship
from pain to compassion
from fear to faith

from defeat to victory and from victory to defeat until, looking backward or ahead, we see that victory does not lie at some high point along the way, but in having made the journey, stage by stage.

4. Your Stay Was So Short

My little one, down what centuries of light did you travel to reach us here, your stay so short-lived; in the twinkling of an eye you were moving on, bearing our name and a splinter of the human cross we suffer; flashed upon us like a beacon we wait in darkness for that light to come round, knowing at heart you shine forever for us.

5. Go Peacefully

Go peacefully amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrendering what you believe in, be on good terms with all persons. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. And be careful not to be taken in, for the world is full of trickery; but let this not blind you to what good there is: many people strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Above all, be at peace with God, and whatever your labours and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. For, in spite of all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

6. *Gentle Lord*, surround us with your tender care and comfort us in our sorrow, for we grieve at the loss of this little child. As you have welcomed N. into heaven, washed in the water of rebirth, so call us one day to be united with him / her and share forever the joy of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. Trust in Christ

Our span of life is brief and our hold on it precarious. The years scurry along like dead leaves blown in the wind. I sometimes wonder where I'm going and what is the meaning of my life. I wonder especially what the future holds. But then I remember that Christ came on earth; that He made

Himself my companion on the road of life, and that this road leads to the Father's kingdom. So I say to my soul: 'Go out into the darkness and put

your hand in the hand of Christ, your Brother. That will be to you better than a light, and safer than a known way’.

8. A Simple Life but Close to God

It is a simple life we lived here, but nobody could say it was comfortable. Often during life I have known God’s holy help, because I was often in the grip of sorrow from which I could not escape. When the need was greatest, God would lay his merciful eye on me, and the clouds of sorrow would be gone without a trace. In their place would be a spiritual joy whose sweetness I cannot describe here. There are people who think this island is a lonely place, but the peace of the Lord is here. We helped each other, and lived in the shelter of each other. But now my life is spent, like a candle, and my hope is rising everyday that I’ll be called into the eternal kingdom. May God guide me on this long road I have not travelled before. I think everything is a folly except for loving God.

9. Gone Only From Our Sight

I am standing on the seashore. Suddenly a ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts out for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she is only a ribbon of white cloud just above where the sea and sky mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says: “There! She’s gone!” Gone where? Gone from my sight – that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her and just at the moment when someone at my side says: “There! She’s gone!” there are other voices ready to greet her with a glad shout: “Here! She comes! ”And that is dying.

10. Remembering

Everybody loves to be remembered. If we want to be remembered we have a duty also to remember. Memory is a powerful thing. Wrongly used, it can bring death rather than life. Rightly used it is a form of immortality. It keeps the past alive. Those we remember never die. They continue to walk and talk with us. Their influence is still felt among us. There is nothing stronger or more helpful than a good remembrance.

11. *Courage is like a Rock*

Courage is like a rock, strong and firm,
not easily yielding to sea or rain;
layer after layer of strength.
Courage is like a hand reaching out
to touch another with hope;
It has fruits of love and support
that affect the lives of others.

Courage is like Jesus, who compares himself to a rock and to a tree which bears fruit in plenty.

To be courageous, standing out in word and deed, is to share in the life and the goodness of Christ and in the hope and joy of God.

12. To you, O Lord,

we humbly entrust this child,
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. Amen.

Useful Phone Numbers:

Listowel Parish Office 068- 21188

O'Carroll's Funeral Home, Listowel 068-21449

Lyons Funeral Home, Derry 068-21272

Lyons Funeral Home, Finuge 068-40222

Accord Bereavement Counselling 066-7122280

South-West Counselling Centre, 064-6636416
Killarney

Living Links Kerry (support services for families or individuals bereaved through suicide.) 087 0505660

Suicide Bereavement Support 087-7986944