

St. Dominic's Catholic Church San Francisco

Planning Funeral and Memorial Liturgies

A guide to help you make decisions



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San Francisco, CA 94115

From the Pastor:

Arranging Funerals and Memorials

The sadness of death should give way in our liturgy to the promise of resurrected life. Our celebration of a person's life should reflect our conviction that in Jesus Christ we have life beyond life.

St. Dominic's is pleased to offer its parishioners and friends the complete rites as a means of consolation for the living and grace-filled assistance for the deceased. These rites, which include a funeral Mass and the possibility of a vigil in the church or funeral home, are most properly celebrated in the parish church of the deceased, in the presence of their faith community.

All remains are treated with the same honor; and the Church takes very seriously its responsibility to offer corporal works of mercy. We are now able to offer a niche in our Columbarium where the cremated remains may be placed for eternity. Committals of cremated remains at the Columbarium can take place at the end of a funeral service or as a separate prayer service of committal if the funeral has already taken place.

Funerals at St. Dominic's are therefore limited to Catholic parishioners and to those with significant ties to the parish.

Funerals are normally held at Monday to Friday at times depending on clergy and church availability. A vigil is normally held the afternoon or evening before, at the church or at the funeral home.

The first step to take when planning a funeral liturgy is to consult one of our Dominican Priests. This may be done by contacting the main office.

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Fr. Michael Hurley, O.P.

SERVICES WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER YOU

The most common form of Catholic funeral has the following elements:

1. Vigil service with either the body or cremated remains present.
2. Funeral Mass or service with either the body or cremated remains present.
3. Graveside service with burial of the body or cremated remains *or*
4. Placing of cremated remains in St. Dominic's Columbarium

Another option is a memorial Mass or service with no remains present. These can take place close to the time of death or at some convenient time for the gathering of friends and family.

VIGIL SERVICES

1. Prayer service (*suitable for congregations of mixed faiths*)
2. Prayer service with rosary – see below (*suitable for congregations of mixed faiths*)
3. Rosary alone – usually five decades of the rosary. (*suitable where most of the congregation are Catholic*).

The vigil service may be held at the funeral home, the church or at a private home. This could mean that you decide to have it at the home of the deceased.

Vigils may be led by a priest or deacon.

The vigil is the best time to have memorials, eulogies, as well as secular music and readings, such as poems.

VIGIL SERVICE WITH ROSARY

Introductory Rites

This includes prayers and an introduction from the priest or deacon.

Meditations

These commonly include a short reading from scripture to illustrate a decade of the rosary followed by the praying of that decade. There are usually three or four meditations.

Homily and Reflections

Here the priest or deacon will preach a suitable homily based on the life of the deceased in relation to the gospel. Reflections, other readings and eulogies may follow.

Concluding Prayers

Prayers conclude the vigil service.

FUNERAL MASSES

1 Funeral Mass with body or cremated remains present.

The funeral Mass is held at the church. At the entrance to the church the remains are sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall, a reminder of baptism. When the procession reaches the front of the church an open bible and a crucifix, symbols of Christian faith, may be placed on the casket.

An urn of cremated remains may be carried in procession or placed on a table at the front of the church before the service begins.

A flag may be placed on a casket after communion

Immediately following the service the urn of cremated remains may be placed in a niche in the St. Dominic's Columbarium.

2 Memorial Mass (no remains present)

The memorial Mass is held in church just like a funeral Mass, but no remains are present. The opening of Mass is like a more usual Mass with an Opening Song, Greeting and Penitential Act.

COMMITTAL PRAYER SERVICE

In cases where a funeral service has already taken place we offer a simple prayer service for committal of cremated remains at the Columbarium.

OUTLINE OF A FUNERAL MASS

Introductory Rites*

At the entrance to the church the remains are sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall, a reminder of baptism. When the procession reaches the front of the church an open bible and a crucifix, symbols of Christian faith, are placed on or near the casket or urn.

The Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Psalm (usually sung)
- [Second Reading (optional)]
- Gospel Reading
- Homily
- The Universal Prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The Offertory* (*Bread and wine are brought to the altar*)
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer and The Peace
- Communion*

Final Commendation and Farewell

- The remains are sprinkled with holy water and honored with incense and the pall is removed.
- The service may continue at a cemetery for interment of a casket or at the Columbarium for committal of cremated remains.
- An Urn of cremated remains may be placed in the Columbarium with appropriate prayers.

**Hymns and solos may be inserted at these points*

You may wish to think of people from your family and friends who can:

- Read the 1st reading
- Read the 2nd reading (optional)
- Read The Universal Prayer
- Bring forward the gifts of bread and wine

Readings at Mass

We encourage family members and friends to take part in the Liturgy of the Word by reading the First Reading and Second Reading (optional) and the Prayer of the Faithful. Copies of the authorized readings are included at the back of this booklet. Other readings may be included in a vigil service.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Eulogies and Words of Remembrance

Normally individual remembrances should be reserved for the vigil service the afternoon or evening before the day of the Funeral Mass or for a reception following. **At the discretion of the Pastor, one message may be read at Mass (by one person) of four to six minutes duration.** This is best read from a script, and it is very helpful if a copy of this is available to the celebrant before the day of the Mass. Other eulogies may be given after the blessing of the Mass.

When words of remembrance are included within the funeral Mass, they should focus on the deceased's journey of faith and Christian virtues. This address should: -

- Be given by one speaker;
- be brief, lasting not more than 4-6 minutes;
- be written out;
- express Christian values and a belief in the hope of eternal life; and,
- avoid any expression that would not be appropriate within the context of prayer.

Financial considerations

Funerals and Memorials are a special ministry of the Church and one where we meet families at defining moments of faith. No one will be denied the services of the Church for financial reasons; if the fees are burdensome, please speak with the priest. The stipend for a priest is at your discretion, but we would recommend \$200. This beautiful building is very expensive to maintain and we rely on the goodness of our parishioners and friends to keep it open. As a guideline we would hope that you could consider a church gift starting at a figure equivalent to 10% of the cost of the funeral and associated reception. The recommended minimum donation for use of the church is \$500. They should be paid on or before the day of the funeral.

Which part of the church

For congregations of up to 100 you may like to consider using our intimate and beautiful Lady Chapel. For congregations of over 100 people the nave and High Altar are most appropriate. The location in church makes no difference in the content of the funeral rites.

Displays and photographs

We welcome displays of photographs and memorabilia at the entrance to the church or Lady Chapel. A framed portrait may be displayed on an easel near the altar.

Flowers

We welcome flowers and wreaths as part of the funeral celebration. During Lent we do not use flowers on the altar, but they can be displayed around the casket and at the communion rail. Flowers are not displayed at the Columbarium.

Columbarium

If you are interested in a niche for placing cremated remains in our Columbarium, please make an appointment to discuss this with Judie Doherty, Michael Rossi or any Parish Priest.

Memorial Gifts

You may wish to encourage friends and family to make Memorial Gifts to St. Dominic's Church. These gifts are received in the name of the one who has died, and the immediate family is notified of these gifts. Memorial gifts may be used for the general needs of the church, or may be

designated for one or more specific purposes, such as church restoration, community service, the Columbarium or the music program. If you wish to have Memorial Gifts made to St. Dominic's Church, it will be indicated in the funeral program.

Consolation Ministry

We have a ministry dedicated to providing companionship to you during this sad time. Please contact the parish office (415) 567-7824.

MUSIC

Music is an important part of ritual, and we encourage families to make full use of the Church's rich tradition and the parish's musical resources.

Music before and after the Mass

Music for all liturgies is under the direction of the Director of Music and Liturgy, Simon Berry*. Organ music can provide a quiet and prayerful atmosphere at the beginning of the service, when mourners are likely to be upset and in need of a calming atmosphere. At the end of the Mass, when the cortège leaves the church for the final resting place, it is good to have some uplifting and reassuring music.

Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs

During a liturgy that lasts around 60 minutes, it is good to allow everyone present to participate in the singing. The hymns, psalms and spiritual songs that are chosen need to be familiar to a good number of the congregation so that the singing is strong. Our hymnal contains many fine items from which you may wish to choose. There may be material not included in our resources that you wish to use. In this case, we will need to arrange for the words to be printed. In all cases, you should talk with Mr. Berry as soon as you are able.

Soloists and Choirs

Many people like to have a solo sung. We recommend that one of our skilled cantors lead the singing of the Psalm and the Eucharistic music, and sing one or more of the many appropriate solos that you may choose. It is also possible for one of our choirs to sing, or for a group of professional singers to be hired. Our Director of Music will be pleased to advise you on this and help with choices.

Music fees are \$225 for our organist and \$200 for the cantor. These fees may be paid through the funeral home or by a family member directly to the musicians. They should be paid on or before the day of the funeral.

Recorded Music

We recognize the importance of certain recorded songs. Recorded music may be proper at a vigil service or at a reception but not during Mass.

***Simon Berry, Director of Music and Liturgy
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MUSIC FOR FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL MASSES

The songs at funerals a memorials should be of a religious nature.

The most commonly requested hymns and songs

Amazing Grace

I am the bread of life

On eagle's wings

O God our help in ages past

The King of love my shepherd is

Jerusalem my happy home

How lovely is your dwelling place

How great thou art

Litany of the Saints

Mine eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord.

Danny Boy/Londonderry Air – *we have a hymn text that fits this tune and is very suitable.*

Precious Lord

Be not afraid

Make me a channel of your peace (*Prayer of St. Francis*)

You Are Mine

Be Thou My Vision

Other hymns and songs may be requested.

Solos

I Know that my redeemer liveth from *Messiah* (Handel)

Laudate Dominum (Mozart)

In Paradisum (Chant)

Healer of our every Ill (Haugen)

Pie Jesu from *Requiem Mass* (Fauré)

Ave Maria (Schubert)

Ave Maria (Gounod)

The Lord's Prayer (Malotte) [not a liturgical setting of the prayer]

Panis Angelicus (Franck)

Nunc Dimitis (Burgon)

Bag Pipes

Bag pipes are sometimes culturally important. As they are instruments designed to be played outdoors we welcome their use on the steps of the church before or at the end of a service or to lead a procession out of church. We have a very skilled bagpiper who can be hired to do a very good job.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

This is a short list of the most appropriate readings for Mass. There are more readings in the appendix.

1. Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Then Job answered and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

2. Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6. 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The words in italics may be omitted

But 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, 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 sacrificial offerings 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.* Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

3. Wisdom 4:7-14

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported--snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord

4. Isaiah 25: 6. 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord

PSALMS (*sung, between the readings*)

1. Psalm 23

R/. *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul. R/.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage. R/.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. R/.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come. R/.

2. Psalm 25

R/. *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.*

Remember that your compassion, O LORD;
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD. R/.

Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins. R/.

Preserve my life, and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you,
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O LORD. R/.

3. Psalm 27

R/. *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? R/.

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:
to dwell in the house of the LORD

all the days of my life,
that I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple. R/.
Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me and answer me.
Your presence, O LORD, I seek!
Hide not your face from me. R/.
I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted and wait for the LORD! R/.

5. Psalm 63

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. R/.
Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
for your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you. R/.
Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. R/.
You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me. R/.

6. Psalm 103

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. R/
As father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.. R/.
But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant
and remember to fulfill his precepts.. R/.

9. Psalm 130

R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication. R/.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered. R/.

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the Lord. R/.

For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;
and he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities. R/.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

2. Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

4. Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4. 8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

The words in italics may be omitted

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. *For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin.* If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord

5. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

6. Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

7. Romans 14:7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So (then) each of us shall give an account of himself (to God).

The Word of the Lord

7a. Communal Praying of St. Paul

Reader Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand,

ALL and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

Reader Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

**ALL God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners
Christ died for us.**

(Romans 5:1-7)

Reader What then shall we say to this?

ALL If God is for us, who can be against us?

Reader He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, ...

**ALL ... will he not also give us everything else
along with him?**

Reader Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

ALL It is God who acquits us.

Reader Who will condemn?

ALL It is Christ Jesus who died, and was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who intercedes for us.

Reader What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

ALL I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor any other creature
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:31 ff.)

9. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

10. 2 Corinthians 5:1. 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

11. Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord

12. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, 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 with 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 together with them 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

14. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord

18. Revelation 21:1-5. 6-7

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL READINGS

1. Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

4. Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

11. John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowd: “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day.”

12. John 6:51-58

Jesus told the crowd: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

13. John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27

The words in italics may be omitted

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

14. John 11:32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?” So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

15. John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26

The words in italics may be omitted

Jesus told his disciples: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. *“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? Father, save me from this hour”? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”* Then a voice came from heaven, *“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”* The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, *“An angel has spoken to him.”*

16. John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where (I) am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Please add personal intentions as you desire.

Priest: *Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:*

Reader In baptism N. 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 N. was nourished at the table of the savior. 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 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.

For the mourners: The friends and Family of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

Lord in your mercy:

All Hear our prayer.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope that we may love in the expectation of your Son's coming.

Lord in your mercy:

All Hear our prayer.

Priest: *Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, bear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

APPENDIX OF ADDITIONAL READINGS

Old Testament Readings

5. Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: the favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; it is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

6. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

[I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:] “At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord

7. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

Psalms

4. Psalm 42

R/. Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God; my soul longs for you, my God.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God? R/.

I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival. R/.

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
and bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place. R/.

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God! R/.

7. Psalm 116

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord and just;
yes, our God is merciful R/
The Lord keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me. R/
I believed, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;
I said in my alarm,
“No man is dependable.” R/
Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant,
you have loosed my bonds. R/

8. Psalm 122

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
“We will go up to the house of the LORD.”
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem. R/.
Jerusalem, built as a city
with compact unity.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD. R/.
According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David. R/.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings. R/.
Because of my brothers and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will pray for your good. R/.

10. Psalm 143

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer;
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;
And enter not into judgment with your servant,
for before you no living man is just. R/.
I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all your doings;
the works of your hands I ponder.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like parched land.
Hasten to answer me, O Lord;
for my spirit fails me.
At dawn let me hear of your mercy,
for in you I trust.
Teach me to do you will,
for you are my God.
May your good spirit guide me
on level ground.

New Testament Readings

1. Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 or 10:34-36. 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The words in italics may be omitted

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, *what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.* He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

3. Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

8. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24. 25-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will (also) be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

10a. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

13. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord

15. 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The Word of the Lord

16. Revelation 14:13

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord

17. Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Readings

3. Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

5. Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 or 15:33-39

The words in italics may be omitted

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." (*continues over...*)

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

6. Luke 7:11-17

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

7. Luke 12:35-40

Jesus told his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

8. Luke 23:33, 39-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The gospel of the Lord.

9. Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6 or 23:44-49

The words in italics may be omitted

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

17. John 17:24-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

HOW TO WRITE A GOOD OBITUARY OR EULOGY FOR DELIVERY IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholic funeral services are some of the most formal events in our lives. What is said or written about a person should be more formal, therefore, than speeches at weddings, *roasts* or other celebrations. The combination of a printed obituary and a brief spoken eulogy is the most effective way of delivering both facts and the essence of a person. It is of course not possible to cover someone's entire life.

Obituaries are primarily printed materials. An obituary should be more about how someone lived than the fact that they died. They can be for newspapers, websites or part of a program at services.

An obituary should have three distinct parts:

1. Facts such as name, age, date and cause of death, details of education and work.
2. Narratives that celebrate the person's life;
3. Names of surviving family and close friends.

The writer's task is to focus on the person's life and not on his or her grief. The best obituaries capture the essence of the deceased person. What things brought them joy? What memorable things did they do or enjoy? Listeners will want to learn about a person's background or recent life; details of family homes, schools, colleges and occupations are all interesting to someone.

A **eulogy** should be different from an obituary. It should be less focused on facts than on details about the essence of the person being remembered. Ideally the listener should come away with a distinct impression of how the deceased made an impact on the world.

The duration is crucial. We encourage a eulogy of between four and six minutes, and no more than ten minutes. There should be only one eulogist. More than one person may contribute material, but one person should deliver it. Siblings can stand together in support of one another whilst one of them delivers the message.

The focus should be on the essence of the person, and on what the living can take away.

What to ensure:

Ensure that the chosen speaker is an excellent public orator who can speak slowly and clearly and without undue emotion. Ensure that he or she has a few minutes in the church to become familiar with its acoustical properties and microphone.

Ensure that the eulogist is reading from a script printed in 18 point font. This script should be offered to the celebrant or staff member requesting it before the service begins, so that they can learn as much as possible about the deceased, and also check its duration and suitability for a church service.

Ensure that life's joys and sorrows are included. Illnesses, changes in family structures and job losses all shape us, and we learn from them in the same way that we do from successful relationships and jobs.

What to avoid:

Avoid long stories where the set-up is longer than the punch-line. Jokes are best reserved for a reception.

Avoid recounting and reflecting on things shift the focus from the deceased.

Others may speak after the service, either at a reception venue or in the church only if there is nothing immediately following the funeral service.

FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHEET

Location of Vigil Service	Home <input type="checkbox"/> (Address...)	
	Funeral Home <input type="checkbox"/> (Address...)	
	Main Church <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Lady Chapel <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mass	Funeral <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Funeral with committal of cremated remains <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Memorial (no remains present) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location of Mass	Main Church <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Lady Chapel <input type="checkbox"/>	

Will there be viewing of the body before the Mass? Yes No

Graveside Service Cemetery Address

SELECTIONS FOR THE MASS

Opening song

1st reading

reader's name

Psalm

(2nd reading) *optional*

reader's name

Gospel reading (*read by priest*)

(Eulogy) *optional*

The Universal Prayer *reader's name*

Music at the offertory

Music at communion

Music at the end of Mass (*usually instrumental music is best here*)