

Catholic Funeral Mass Template

Introduction

- This template provides an outline of a funeral booklet based on the Catholic Order of Christian Funerals approved for use in Australia (Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, 1989) and the revised Roman Missal (London: Catholic Truth Society, 2010) approved for use across the English-speaking world.
- This booklet was set up for those who are not familiar with the Catholic Funeral Mass. Alternative liturgical prayers to the ones provided here, in addition to scripture readings, can be located in the Order of Christian Funerals (1989) or Roman Missal (2010), and Lectionary for Mass (1981), respectively, or other liturgical preparation resources that are available via Liturgical Offices and Catholic Bookshops around Australia. Please consult with your priest celebrant.
- In the outline, the word Name should be replaced by the deceased person's name and the relevant references to his/her and brother/sister should be included where indicated.
- The pages are set up so that they can be printed firstly on A4 size paper and then reduced. Size 18 font for headings and Size 16 font for prayer texts reduce to a readable size on an A5 size order of service.
- Read through the template carefully to ensure that you can follow the overall structure and content.
- Please discuss the content of the template/booklet with the priest celebrant (and musicians) before it is printed.

Front Cover

Funeral Mass

or

Mass of Christian Burial

[Photo or Christian symbol]

In loving memory of

Name

Date of birth – Date of death

FUNERAL MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING (at the door of the church) (stand)

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

All: And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

PLACING OF THE PALL

ENTRANCE PROCESSION (and hymn)

(Print either the words of a hymn or the number of a hymn in the parish hymn book.)

[ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (if hymn is not sung)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.]

PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Book of the Gospels or Bible

Priest: In life Name cherished the Gospel of Christ.

May Christ now greet him/her with these words of eternal life:

All: Come, blessed of my Father!

Cross

Priest: In baptism Name received the sign of the Cross.

All: May he/she now share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

Rosary Beads

Priest: In life Name prayed the mystery of Christ through the Rosary.

All: May Christ now welcome him/her to the throne of grace.

COLLECT

Priest: Almighty God and Father,

it is our certain faith

that your Son, who died on the Cross, was raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Grant that through this mystery

your servant Name, who has gone to his/her rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING (sit)

A Reading from . . .

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (sung)

Reader: recites the response

All: repeat the response

Reader: recites the verses

All: recite the response after each verse, etc.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung; stand)

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[or, during Lent, Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!]

Cantor: sings the verse

All: all repeat the Alleluia or Lenten acclamation

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N. . . .

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

HOMILY (sit)

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL/GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (stand)

Introduction

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

Reader: For Name who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For Name who was nourished at the table of the Saviour. That he/she may be welcomed into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the family and friends of Name that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Conclusion

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. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS (bread and wine)

(hymn, choral or instrumental music)

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father. (stand)

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Priest: As we humbly present to you
these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
for the salvation of your servant Name,
we beseech your mercy,
that he/she, who did not doubt your Son
to be a loving Saviour,
may find in him a merciful Judge.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. (sung)
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (kneel)

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, (sung)
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again

AMEN (sung; stand)

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

DOXOLOGY

For the kingdom,
the power and the glory and yours
now and for ever.

RITE OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

THE FRACTION (BREAKING) OF THE BREAD

Lamb of God

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. (kneel)

COMMUNION PROCESSIONAL HYMN

(The psalm/hymn can be led by a cantor. Print either the words or the psalm/hymn number in the parish hymn book)

[COMMUNION ANTIPHON (if no psalm/hymn is sung)]

All: Let perpetual light shine upon them,
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them,
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful.]

[POST-COMMUNION HYMN]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (stand)

Priest: Lord God, whose Son left us,
in the Sacrament of his Body,
food for the journey,
mercifully grant that, strengthened by it,
our brother/sister Name may come
to the eternal table of Christ.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE (sit)

A member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance
of the deceased before the final commendation begins; there is never to be a eulogy
[OCF (1989) 170, 27].

INVITATION TO PRAYER (stand)

Priest: Before we go our separate ways, let us take our leave of brother/sister Name.
May our farewell express our affection for him/her;
may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope.
One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ,
which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

SILENCE

SIGNS OF FAREWELL

(sprinkling and incensing of the coffin)

SONG OF FAREWELL (sung)

Priest/Cantor: Saints of God, come to his/her aid!

Hasten to meet him/her angels of the Lord!

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

Priest/Cantor: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
All: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Priest/Cantor: Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
All: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Priest: 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 have 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.
All: Amen!

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Priest: In peace let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.
(The symbols of the Christian life are now removed from the coffin by those who placed them.)

RECESSIONAL HYMN/MUSIC

THANK YOU

We (names of family/friends), would like to thank you for your presence here and for the love and sympathy you have offered us. Family and friends are welcome to join with us.....

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