

## ***Readings for Christian Funerals***

A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for a funeral Mass gives the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes. Here is a suggested selection of readings from both the Old and New Testaments that are proposed by the Church for use at Catholic funerals. Other scriptural passages can be used, but should be discussed with the celebrant.

### **Running Order of Readings at a Funeral Mass**

1st Reading (Old Testament, except in Easter - New Testament)
Responsorial Psalm (Usually Sung)
2nd Reading (New Testament)
Gospel (Read by Priest/Deacon)
Homily (Short reflection given by Priest/Deacon)
Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions - 5 max)

*For a **Funeral Mass**, the first reading is usually chosen from the Old Testament (the New Testament during in the Easter Season). The Responsorial Psalm is normally sung, but is recited otherwise. The second reading is from the New Testament. The Gospel is read by the priest. These resources are also used when choosing scripture readings for a funeral service without Mass.*

### **Summaries of Various Funeral Readings**

#### **Old Testament**

**Job 19:1.23-27**      *I know that my Avenger (Redeemer) lives....*

**Deuteronomy 34:1-9**      *Moses died, his eyes undimmed, his vigour unimpaired.*

**Wisdom 3:1-6.9**      *The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them ...they are in peace.*

**Wisdom 4:7-15**      *The virtuous ones, though they die before their time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**      *There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven: A time for giving birth, a time for dying...*

**Isaiah 25:6-9**      *On this mountain... He will destroy death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek...*

**Isaiah 49:13-16.**      *See I have carved you on the palm of my hands.*

**Lamentations 3:17-26**      *My soul is shut out from peace... It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.*

#### **New Testament**

**Apocalypse 14:13**      *Happy are those who die in the Lord their good deeds go with them.*

**Apocalypse 21:1-5**      *He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness.*

**1 John 3:1-2**      *Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us. We shall see him as he really is.*

**Romans 6:3-9**      *Death has no power over Him any more*

**Romans 8:14-23**      *If we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.*

**Romans 8:31-35.37-39**

*Nothing ... can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 14:7-12** *Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

**Philippians 3:20-21** *For us, our homeland is in heaven*

**Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*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.*

**Timothy 4:6-8** *I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith.*

**Corinthians 15:20-23** *The Risen Christ is the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep.*

**Corinthians 5:1,6-10** *We have an everlasting home in the heavens.*

**1 Peter 1:3-9** *Blessed be God...who in his great mercy has given us a new birth...by raising Jesus Christ from the dead....*

Gospels

**Matthew 5:1-12** *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

**Matthew 11:25-30** *Come to me, and I will give you rest.*

**Matthew 25:1-13** *The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.*

**Matthew 25:31-46** *Come, you whom my Father has blessed.*

**Mark 15:33-39;16:1-6**

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

**Luke 7:11-17** *Young man, I tell you to get up.*

**Luke 12:35-40** *Stand ready.*

**Luke 23:33.39-43** *Today you will be with me in paradise.*

**Luke 23:44-46:50.52-53.24:1-6** *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

**Luke 24:13-35** *Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and enter into his glory?*

**John 5:24-29** *Whoever listens to my words and believes has passed from death to life.*

**John 6:37-40** *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

**John 6:51-58** *Anyone who eats this bread has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

**John 11:17-21** *I am the resurrection and the life.*

**John 11:32-45** *Lazarus, come out.*

**John 12:23-28** *If a wheat grain dies, it yields a rich harvest*