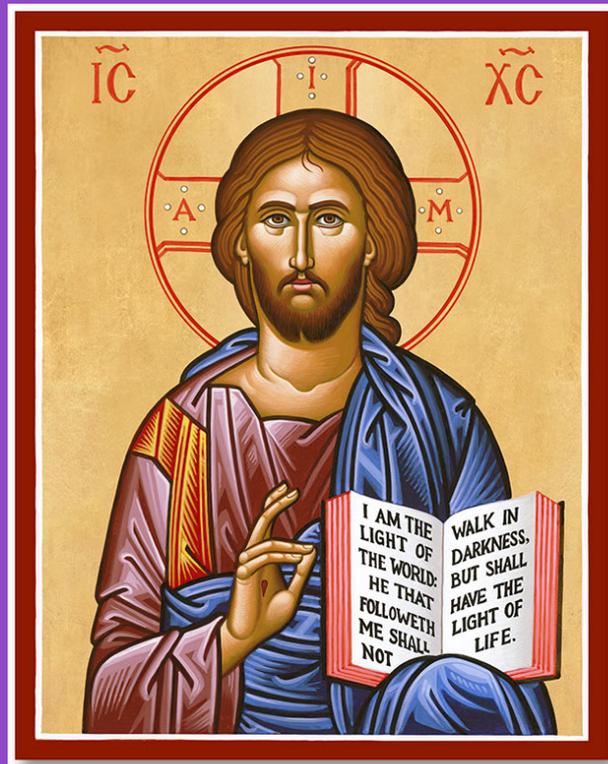


Prayer at the Place of Burial



For use by Lay Prayer Leaders

During this time of pandemic, it may not be possible for priests or deacons to lead prayer at the graveside or place of committal.

This rite has been prepared for use by a lay prayer leader, including a funeral director, so that the dead may receive a Christian burial and their family members may receive the consoling support of the prayer of the Church.

This rite may also be used for the burial of the ashes.

*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.
(Psalm 23)*

INVITATION

When family members have gathered at the place of committal, the prayer leader begins:

In the Name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**

Our brother/sister N. has gone to his/her rest in the peace of Christ.
May the Lord now welcome him/her to the table of God's children in heaven.
With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist him/her with our prayers.
Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day
with our brother/sister; together may we meet Christ Jesus when he who is our
life appears in glory.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

The prayer leader says:

Let us listen to the words of Scripture:

'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom
prepared for you since the foundation of the world.' (Matthew 25:34)

(Pause)

A. PRAYER OF COMMITTAL

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend to Almighty God our brother (sister) N.,
and we commit his (her) body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him (her) and keep him (her),
the Lord make his face to shine upon him
(her) and be gracious to him (her),
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him
(her) and give him (her) peace. **R. Amen.**

OR

B. PRAYER OF COMMITTAL OF THE ASHES OF THE DECEASED

Faithful God,
Lord of all creation,
you desire that nothing redeemed by your Son
will ever be lost,
and that the just will be raised up on the last day.
Comfort us today with the word of your promise
as we return the ashes of our brother/sister to the earth.
Grant N. a place of rest and peace
where the world of dust and ashes has no dominion.

Confirm us in our hope that he/she will be created anew
on the day when you will raise him/her up in glory
to live with you and all the saints
for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

In trust let us turn in prayer to God, the source of our hope. *(Pause)*

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of N. and comfort all who mourn at this time.

May we know the prayerful and loving support of the Christian community as we look forward to the day when we can join together in prayer once more. Be with all those bringing healing to the sick and all those working in health and governance to overcome this pandemic.

Bless them and grant them the wisdom we need.

Lord, hear us.

R. Lord, graciously hear us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The prayer leader invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

Where desired, the Hail Mary, Hail, Holy Queen, or a decade of the Rosary may follow.

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her Son was dying,
help all who mourn for N. and accompany all of us in our time of need.

BLESSING

The prayer leader invokes God's blessing and signs himself or herself with the sign of the cross, saying:

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us
and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**

Eternal rest grant unto him (her), O Lord.
R. And let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

May he (she) rest in peace. **R. Amen.**

May his (her) soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **R. Amen.**

The prayer leader then concludes:

Go in the peace of Christ. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Excerpts taken from the *Order of Christian Funerals*

Prepared by the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin (March 2020)