

# **A BOOKLET TO ASSIST THOSE PREPARING A REQUIEM CEREMONY**

It exists purely to assist and should not be seen as definitive. In the end the requiem ceremony is the creation of the family who plans a final farewell for their loved one.

This booklet includes:

1. The Entrance Into the Church	.....	2
2. The Opening Prayer	.....	4
3. The Readings	.....	5
4. The Prayers of the Faithful	.....	14
5. An Ending for your Booklet	.....	18
6. The Use of a Photo	.....	22
7. A Sample Booklet	.....	23

## **ENTRANCE INTO THE CHURCH**

There are two ways which the Requiem ceremony can commence - both involve the greeting of all present, especially the family; the blessing of the coffin and an invitation to pray.

The first ceremony (or rite) commences with the coffin in place in the sanctuary. The second ceremony begins at the back of the Church. Both beginnings have their merits.

Both beginnings can include a **ceremony of the placing of symbols**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE RITE WHICH TAKES PLACE WITH THE COFFIN IN PLACE IN THE SANCTUARY</b></p>
--

**THE RITE OF WELCOME**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN**

**INTRODUCTION & GREETING**

*John Smith welcomes all to this last sacrament in the life of his mother.*

**THE RITE OF BLESSING**

*This rite takes place in the sanctuary of the Church. The ceremony begins our Mass. As a reminder of Shona's Baptism the coffin is sprinkled with holy water.*

Cel: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Cel: Blest be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, a gentle Father and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows.

*[Sprinkling of the coffin with Holy Water]*

Cel: In the waters of Baptism, Shona died with Christ and rose with him, and was clothed in new life. May Christ who claimed you in Baptism, enfold you in his love and bring you to eternal life and joy. God of life and love, you have made the cross of Christ a sign of victory for us, and you have marked us as yours in his resurrection. Help us to receive and understand your Gospel that we may find light in our darkness, strength in our weakness. May Shona, whom you have called to yourself, share the blessings of the Kingdom you have prepared for us all. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**OPENING PRAYER**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE RITE WHICH TAKES PLACE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH</b></p>
--

## THE RITE OF WELCOME

*This rite takes place at the entrance to the Church. The ceremony begins our Mass. In the ceremony the mortal remains of Bob are brought to the Parish Church of St. Mary's, North Sydney. This will be the last entrance that Bob Smith will make into a church in the company of his family. Together they are greeted by the ministers. As a reminder of Bob's Baptism the coffin is sprinkled with holy water.*

Cel: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Cel: Blest be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, a gentle Father and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows.

*[SPRINKLING OF THE COFFIN WITH HOLY WATER]*

Cel: In the waters of Baptism, Bob died with Christ and rose with him, and was clothed in new life. May Christ who claimed you in Baptism, enfold you in his love and bring you to eternal life and joy. God of life and love, you have made the cross of Christ a sign of victory for us, and you have marked us as yours in his resurrection. Help us to receive and understand your Gospel that we may find light in our darkness, strength in our weakness. May Bob, whom you have called to yourself, share the blessings of the Kingdom you have prepared for us all. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*Bob's coffin is borne into the Church in the company of his family. During the procession to the altar the choir will sing the Entrance Hymn, Pie Jesu.*

## OPENING PRAYER

# THE PLACING OF SYMBOLS

## THE PLACING OF SYMBOLS

*The ritual provides this opportunity for symbols and signs to be placed on the coffin that sum up Bob's life:*

<b>wife</b>	Bob's Rosary Beads	Bob's love of his faith
<b>son</b>	SAC Touring Choir pennant	Bob's love of music
<b>workmate</b>	Test tubes Cricket bat	Bob's workplace Bob's enjoyment of his sons leisure.
<b>Friend 1</b>	Manuscript	Bob's love of writing
<b>Friend 2</b>	Car racing manual	Bob's love of motor cars

## **THE WORDS IN TRIBUTE**

At some time during the Mass the family will select a speaker to speak words of tribute to the dead person. In composing your ceremony you might want to carefully consider where the words of tribute will occur.

The traditional opportunity is after the Post Communion Prayer before the Final Commendation and Farewell.

Increasingly, now, this tribute is being placed at the very beginning of the ceremony.

- e.g.
1. Entrance
  2. Celebrant's welcome and Blessing of the Casket
  3. Family welcome
  4. Words of tribute

From the very beginning we know the estimation of the person whose life we have come to celebrate. It allows the person who is speaking the words of tribute to sit back after his words and enjoy the ceremony.

## **THE OPENING PRAYER**

Below I have laid out three prayers that have been used. The first one is by far the most frequent.

### OPENING PRAYER

Father, God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy for us you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Show compassion to your people in their sorrow as they farewell their husband, father, brother and friend, Tom, knowing how much he deserves the reward of being with you. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

### OPENING PRAYER

To you, O Lord.  
we humbly entrust Christopher  
so precious in your sight  
Take Christopher into your loving arms,  
where there is no sorrow, no weeping nor pain,  
but the fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
for ever and ever.

All: Amen

### THE OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord,  
You gave us the gift of Your daughter Helen to inspire us  
to live life to the full, and not to draw back even in the face of great suffering.

In the midst of our sadness for  
our beloved wife and mother, our daughter and sister,  
our aunty and cousin, our support and friend,  
may we be also reminded of the great joy that  
You brought into our lives through her tireless love.  
May Jo and Bill and Jimmy and all the family  
take enduring consolation in the grace she was for every one of us,  
and the memories she has left us as her legacy.  
We pray that death will not steal her special grace from our lives,  
nor our grief overshadow the memories of  
her faithfulness to You and those she loved.  
This is our prayer and we make it through Christ  
who is Our and Helen's Risen Lord  
and who lives and reigns now forever and ever. Amen.

## READINGS FOR REQUIEMS

Listed below are some readings which might be appropriately used at Requiems. They are not exhaustive. The ideal readings are those which have meant much to the family before the bereavement.

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### READING

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*“The Lord God will destroy death for ever.”*

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet 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 we rejoice  
that he has saved us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### READING

## **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

Theme: “ *...those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed.* ”

Israel, why then do you complain  
that he, the Lord, doesn't know your troubles  
or care if you suffer injustice?  
Don't you know?  
Haven't you heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God;  
he created all the world.  
He never grows tired or weary.  
No one understands his thoughts.  
He strengthens those who are weak and tired;  
Even those who are young grow weak;  
Young men can fall exhausted.  
But those who trust in the Lord for help  
will find their strength renewed.  
They will rise on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary;  
they will walk and not grow weak.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING

## **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

*"The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest."*

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.  
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,  
nor number of years the true measure of life;  
understanding, this is man's grey hairs,  
untarnished life, this is ripe old age  
He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;  
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.  
He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding  
or treachery seduce his soul;  
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,  
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.  
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;  
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,  
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.  
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;  
it does not enter their heads  
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,  
and protection, his holy ones.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING

**A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

Theme: *"..grace and mercy await those he has chosen."*

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,  
their leaving us, like an annihilation;  
but they are in peace.  
If they experienced punishment as we 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.  
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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING

**A Reading from the Book of Job**

*"I know that my redeemer lives."*

And Job said:  
But as for me, I know that my redeemer lives and that he will stand upon the earth at the last day. And I know that after this body has decayed, these very eyes shall see God. Then God will be at my side. Yes, I shall see God, not as a stranger but as a friend. In this lies my hope and my salvation.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**READINGS FOR THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

PSALM 1

**Response to the Psalm:** *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 you give me repose.  
Near restful waters you lead me  
to revive my drooping spirit.

**Response:**

You guide me along the right path;  
you are true to your 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.

**Response:**

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

**Response:**

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.

**Response:**

PSALM 2

**Response to the Psalm:** *I have called you by name and you are my own.*

I have called you by name and you are my own.  
When you pass through deep waters,  
I am with you,  
when you pass through rivers,  
they will not sweep you away;  
walk through fire and you will not be scorched,  
through flames and they will not burn you,  
For I am the Lord, your God,  
the holy one of Israel, your deliverer.

**Response:**

Have no fear for I am with you;  
I will bring your children from the East  
and gather you all from the West.  
I will say to the North, "Give them up!"  
and to the South, "Do not hold them back!"



Response:

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

Response:

Bring everyone who is called by my name,  
all whom I have created,  
whom I have formed,  
all whom I have made for my glory

Response:

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

### **READING**

#### **A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians**

*"Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body."*

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **READING**

#### **A reading from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans**

*"Nothing can really come between us and the love of Christ."*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing, therefore, can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, nor any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING

**A reading from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans**

*"Let us walk in the newness of life."*

You have been taught that when we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised, we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ, we shall return to life with him: Christ as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no more power over him any more.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING 2 SHORT VERSION

**A reading from the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians**

*"Love is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes."*

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING 2 LONG VERSION

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.**

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but am speaking without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but am without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away everything that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to be burnt, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence; and it is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins - but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end. This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

READING

**This Reading is a reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans**

Theme: *"Alive or dead we belong to the Lord."*

The life and death of each of us  
has its influence on others;  
if we live, we live for the Lord;  
and if we die, we die for the Lord,  
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.  
This explains why Christ both died and came to life,  
it was so that he might be Lord  
both of the dead and of the living.  
This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

READING

**This Reading is a Reading from the Book of the Apocalypse.**

Theme: *"Happy are those who die in the Lord."*

I, John, heard a voice from heaven. It said to me: Write this down. "Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy, indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest forever, after their work, since their good deeds go with them."

This is the word of the Lord.

### **ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

No. 1

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord;  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.  
Alleluia!

No. 2

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we die with Christ, we shall live with Him,  
and if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him.  
Alleluia!

No. 3

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are those who have died in the Lord,  
Let them rest from their labours,  
For their good deeds go with them.  
Alleluia!

No. 4

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are those who have died in the Lord,

Let them rest from their labours,

For their good deeds go with them.

Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL**

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according To John**

Theme: *"There are many rooms in my Father's house."*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

## **READING**

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

*"Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

There was a lawyer who to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, "Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

He said to him, "What is written in the Law? What do you read there?"

He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

"You have answered right," said Jesus. "Do this and life is yours."

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus replied, "A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the brigands?"

"The one who took pity on him" he replied.

Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same yourself."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

READING

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.**

*"And from that hour the disciple took her into his home."*

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman this is your son." Then to the disciple he said, "This is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

READING

**This Reading is a reading from the Gospel according to Mark.**

Theme: *"The kingdom of God belongs to little children."*

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Some Secular Readings

### Dirge without Music

in

*The Buck in the Snow and Other Poems*

by Edna St. Vincent Millay

Harper and Row Publishers

I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground.

So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:

Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned

With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.

Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.

Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.

A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,

A formula, a phrase remains, - but the rest is lost.

The answer quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the love,-

They are gone. They have gone to feed the roses. Elegant and curled

Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not approve.

More precious was the light in your eyes than all roses in the world.

Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave

Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;

Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.

I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.

### Sonnet XXX

by William Shakespeare

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought

I summon up remembrance of things past,

I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,

And with old woes new wail my dear times' waste;

Then can I drown an eye, unus'd to flow,

For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,

And weep afresh love's long since cancell'd woe,

And moan the expense of many a vanish'd sight:

Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,

And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er

The sad account of fore-bemoanéd moan,

Which I new pay as if not paid before.

But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,

All losses are restor'd and sorrows end.

**from**  
*Letters and Papers from Prison*  
**by Dietrich Bonhoeffer**  
**Macmillan Publishing Company**

Nothing can make up for the absence of someone whom we love, and it would be wrong to try to find a substitute; we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bonds between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn't fill it, but on the contrary, keeps it empty and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain.

**On Joy and Sorrow**  
**from**  
*The Prophet*  
**by Khalil Gibran**  
**Knopf**

Then a woman said, Speak to us of Joy and Sorrow.  
And he answered:  
Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.  
And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears.  
And how else can it be?  
The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.  
Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?  
And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood that was hollowed with knives?  
When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.  
When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.  
Some of you say, "Joy is greater than sorrow," and others say, "Nay, sorrow is the greater."  
But I say unto you, they are inseparable.  
Together they come, and when one sits alone with you at your board, remember that the other is asleep upon your bed.  
Verily you are suspended like scales between your sorrow and your joy.  
Only when you are empty are you at standstill and balanced.  
When the treasure-keeper lifts you to weigh his gold and his silver, needs must your joy or your sorrow rise or fall.

### **The Book of the Dead**

As each day ends may I have lived,  
That I may truly say:  
I did no harm to human kind,  
From truth I did not stray;  
I did no wrong with knowing mind,  
From evil I did keep;  
I turned no hungry person away,  
I caused no one to weep.

*(Egyptian Book of the Dead c. 4500BC)*

### **Nothing Gold Can Stay**

Nature's first green is gold,

Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost

### **The Rubaiyat**

Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend,  
Before we too into the Dust descend;  
Dust into Dust, and under Dust, to lie,  
Sans Wine, sans Song, sans Singer, and – sans End!

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

Alas, that Spring, should vanish with the Rose!  
That Youth's sweet-scented Manuscript should close!  
The Nightingale that in the Branches sang,  
Ah, when, and whither flown again, who knows.

*Omar Khayyam*

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

*[THESE PRAYERS HAVE BEEN COMPOSED FOR THE REQUIEM CEREMONIES OF SPECIFIC PEOPLE THEY ARE OFFERED FOR YOUR GUIDANCE]*

I COULD WELL UNDERSTAND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE YOUR OWN.

*The prayers have been divided up into five categories. Of course the bulk of the prayers come from category 1. Have no worries about adapting or combining prayers:*

- 1. For the Person who has died:*
- 2. For the Immediate Family of the person who has died:*
- 3. For those present today - at the service:*
- 4. For those who have died and gone before us:*
- 5. For those who have supported:*

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father where he intercedes for all who love him. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his. Let us come in trust to the gentle Lord who gave all of us the gift of life.



***For the Person who has died:***

1.1.: Father, so often your ways are beyond our understanding. As we entrust Michael to your care, strengthen our faith and trust through Christ our Lord. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

1.2.: For our great friend, Michael, that he may receive the happiness of eternal life, promised in his baptism into Christ's Church, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

1.3.: Lord, we remember Michael in all the vigour, energy and vitality of his life. May the special memories of Michael live with us and sustain us as we mourn his loss. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

1.4.: Lord you are the God of the living and the dead we ask you to take into your loving care our friend Michael. Give him the rewards of his work and his life. Welcome him into paradise so that he might be with you and your Father and the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

1.5.: For my friend and yours, that our Saviour God may receive Michael into the happiness of eternal life, promised in his baptism into Christ's Church, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

1.6.: We pray for Michael who began his life of faith in the Sacrament of Baptism, may he live with you forever with the communion of Saints. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

1.7.: Lord, we give You deep thanks for the gift of Michael's precious years of life. May he now rest in eternal peace with You free from all pain and suffering. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

1.8.: Lord, we thank You for what You have given us in Michael. We thank You for what he has been to us. We ask now for a quiet heart knowing that neither life nor death can separate us from Your love. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

1.9.: Lord, we remember Michael not only for what he has meant for us and our friends but for what he has been for the poor, the needy and the distressed. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

1.10.: Father, we give thanks to-day for the life of Michael and for all that he has meant to each one of us. May he rest, Lord, in your eternal peace. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

***For the Immediate Family of the person who has died:***

2.1.: We pray in a special way today for Michael's family, Mary, Paul, Chris and . May they continue to grow as the thoughtful and caring people that he knew and believed them to be. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

2.2.: For those who mourn his loss, especially ..... , and for all his family and his many friends, that grief might be lightened by the risen Christ and his promise to unite us again in our heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

2.3.: Console, with your strength and peace, the relatives and friends of James. We remember especially ..... and all their family. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2.4.: Lord, be with Edna, Mary and John, Paul, Simon, Michael and Judd. May their knowledge of Bill's love and large heartedness sustain them in their deep loss. May their loving memories of a devoted husband, father and grandfather be both a comfort and a model to them now and in the time ahead. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

***For those present today - at the service:***

3.1.: Lord we pray for all who are present today to join with us to pray for Michael and his family. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

3.2.: For all here today who have come to bid farewell to one who will always be companion and friend. That the promises made by the Lord in his passion and resurrection will bolster our little faith so that we might truly proclaim our belief in the resurrection of all the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

3.3.: Lord, we pray for all who are present today who came to farewell Michael. Remember those who have died and may they all rest in peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

***For those who have died and gone before us:***

4.1.: Lord, Michael's faith in you was boundless. Unite him now, in endless joy with his dearly loved mother, X, and father, Y, his brothers, A and B and his sister C, in the joys of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

4.2.: Lord, Michael's faith in you was boundless. Unite him now, in endless joy with his dearly loved mother and father, , in the joys of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

4.3.: Give eternal life to all the faithful departed. In this ceremony we especially remember her beloved wife, A, her brothers and her sister who have gone before her to welcome Diana to her eternal reward. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

***For those who have supported:***

5.1.: We pray in thanksgiving for the Doctors who cared for Bill in his illness, along with the staff of Clinic 21 of Royal North Shore Hospital and the nurses of the Sydney Home Nursing Service. Continue to bless and support them in the work they are doing. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

5.2.: Lord we give you thanks for all who have given so much support and care for Bill and his family through this period, especially Father X and the Jesuit and Lay staff and students of St. Aloysius, Father Y and the members of this Parish, the Monte Sant Angelo Community and the St. Aloysius' College P & F. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

5.3.: For all who have given so much support and care for Bill and his family over these last months, we ask your enduring blessing. May we all be sustained by the belief in your loving providence for us in all the unexpected events in our lives. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5.4.: We pray in thanksgiving for the staff of the Seaside Nursing Home who cared for her and in her final days were with Mary when you called her to yourself. Continue to bless and support them in the work they are doing for you. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

***The Concluding Prayers:***

6.1.: Each of us has our own prayer to make. Let us, in the quiet of this chapel, pause and offer our own prayers for Bill. (pause for thirty seconds) then ... "let us pray to the Lord".

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Priest: Father you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are not at rest until they rest in you. Hear these prayers we make for your son and servant Billl as we trust in your mercy, through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

## A WORD OF THANKS AT THE END OF THE BOOKLET

Set out below are samples of the way others have concluded:

The Family of X,  
Y, his wife,  
V, F & T, his children  
thank all who have offered  
many gestures of support  
the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement.

---

Bill, his son and daughter-in-law, X,  
and grandchildren,  
S, K, G and P  
and great granddaughter, S.

B, his daughter and son-in-law, K,  
and grandchildren,  
X, Y and Z

Bill, his son and daughter-in-law, X,  
and grandchildren,  
P, Qs and R

Bill, his son and daughter-in-law, K,  
and grandchildren,  
S, T and P

Mary, his daughter,  
and grandchildren,  
X, Y and Z

His sister, L  
and her family.

thank all who have offered

many gestures of support  
prayers and words of consolation and encouragement.

After Requiem Mass,  
all are invited to  
Greg and Kath's home  
at 99 XX Road, Wollstonecraft.

---

The Family of FD,  
thank all who have offered  
many gestures of support  
the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement.

And after the ceremony  
at the Northern Suburbs Cemetery  
there will be a supper at  
F's home,  
21 X Avenue, Willoughby

---

L, R and S  
thank all who have offered  
many gestures of support  
the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement.

---

The Family of Christopher X,  
his parents  
Alex and Margaret,  
his brothers  
Tim and Matt  
thank all who have offered  
many gestures of support

the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement.

And after the ceremony  
at the Northern Suburbs Cemetery  
there will be a supper at  
the Smith Residence,

---

The Family of John Smith,

L, his wife,  
A, B and C, his children  
and all his family  
thank all who have offered  
many gestures of support  
the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement.

After Requiem Mass,  
the family will retire to  
the Northern Suburbs Crematorium  
and then return to the Canisius Room  
to share a cup of tea with their friends.

Those not attending the crematorium  
might like to retire to the Canisius room  
for morning tea  
and to wait the return of the Smiths..

---

The Smith Family  
wish to thank all those  
who attended today's Mass and also those  
who were unable to attend  
but sent their best wishes and sympathy.

Your prayers, kind thoughts and support you have given,  
are greatly appreciated.

Following the Requiem Mass,  
while Bill is privately buried,  
Joel, Matt and Sharon invite you to their home at

69 X Drive  
Forestville

Come for refreshments and the opportunity

to celebrate Bill's life with his family and friends.

---

The Family of Bill,  
Amie, his wife,  
Cheryl & Imogen, his children  
Carmel, his sister and family  
thank all,  
especially their Jesuit friends,  
who have offered  
many gestures of support  
the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement

---

The Family of Bill Smith,  
Sharon, his wife,  
his children  
Joanna, Sally, Jaim and Tony  
thank all who have offered  
many gestures of support  
the promise of prayers and  
words of consolation and encouragement  
at this time of their bereavement.

And after the ceremony  
please come back to  
the Smith Residence,  
1234 xx Avenue, Willoughby

## **THE USE OF A PHOTO IN THE BOOKLET**

With scanning today, it is quite easy to include a good photo in the booklet. Photos with dark backgrounds are difficult to scan.