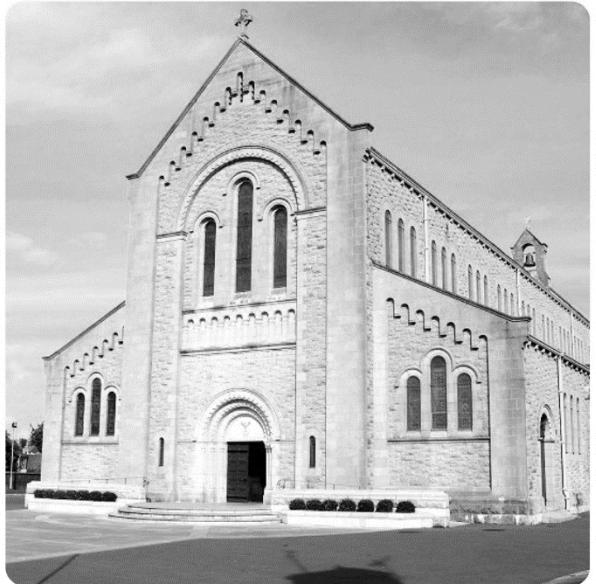


*St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish
Armagh*



Funeral Mass

A God who cares

*“The tides obey my voice,
and the seasons do my will.
I care for every living thing
in sea, in air, on land.
Be not fearful of the past,
nor anxious for tomorrow.
Your name is forever branded
on the palm of my hand.”*

**The priests of the Parish offer our sincere sympathy and prayers
to you at this time.**

The time of a death in a family is a difficult period when we are always thankful for the support of friends and relatives. Such a time is also a challenge to our faith - a faith that we take for granted until something happens to make us question. In the death situation the Church's Funeral Rites are a help. One such help in a time of grief is the reading of the Sacred Scripture. In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God.

A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the Funeral Rites will provide the family and community opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes. The sequence is First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading. The Prayers of the Faithful are given after the gospel and homily.

Music

Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from scripture. At funerals only approved Music and Hymns are to be used.

Light for the Journey

We place a lit Paschal Candle near the coffin for the funeral celebration. It is the great sign of the Resurrection of Christ. At a funeral the Paschal Candle reminds us of Christ's continual presence among us, his victory over sin and death, and our share in the victory because of our baptism.

See the back pages for further useful information.

First Readings

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-6. 9

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 annihilation;
but they are in peace.
If they experience punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessing 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.
The Word of the Lord

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-9

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 people
and the shroud enwrapping all nations.
He will destroy Death forever.
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.
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7-15

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.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is shut out from peace;
I have forgotten happiness.
And now I say, "My strength is gone,
that hope which came from the Lord."
Brooding on my anguish and affliction is gall and wormwood.
My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me.
This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope:
the favours of the Lord are not all past,
his kindness are not exhausted;
every morning they are renewed;
great is his faithfulness.
"My portion is the Lord" says my soul "and so I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who trust him,
to the soul that searches for him.
It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the prophet Daniel

12:1-3

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:
“At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince,
who mounts guard over your people;
There is going to be a time of great distress,
unparalleled since nations first came into existence.
When that time comes, your own people will be spared,
All those whose names are found in the Book.
Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake,
some to everlasting life,
Some to shame and everlasting disgrace.
The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven,
and those who have instructed many in virtue,
as bright as stars for all eternity.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

35:3-6.10

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts, “Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the
tongues of the dumb sing for joy. They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and
sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord



A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

2:1-9

My Son, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal. Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes. Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days. Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and chosen men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust him and he will uphold you, follow and straight path and hope in him. You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not turn aside in case you fall. You who fear the Lord, trust him, and you will not be balked of your reward. You who fear the Lord hope for good things, for everlasting happiness and mercy.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 21:1-7

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, “You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone”. Then the one sitting on the throne spoke; “Now I am making the whole of creation new”, he said. “I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he a son to me.”

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-36, 42-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and the household: “The truth I have now come to realise,” he said, “is that God does not have his favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him”.

“It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ—but Jesus Christ

is Lord of all men, and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.”

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-8

For everything there is a reason, and a time for every matter under heaven;
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time break down, and a time to build up,
A time to weep, and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn, and a time to dance,
A time to throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together.
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.
A time to seek, and a time to lose,
A time to keep, and a time to throw away,
A time to tear, and a time to sew,
A time to love, and a time to hate,
A time for war and time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Responsorial Psalm 102:8.10.

R The Lord is compassion and love.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R**

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for He knows of what we are made,
He remembers that we are dust. **R**

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind that blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again. **R**

But the love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children when they keep his covenant
of truth. **R**

Responsorial Psalm 22.

R 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 he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me to revive my dropping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his 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. **R**

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

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever. **R**
Responsorial Psalm 102:8.10.

R My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God. **R**

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
When can I enter and see the face of God? **R**

These things I will remember as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God,
Amid the cries of gladness and thanks giving, the throng wild with joy. **R**

Responsorial Psalm 129.

R **Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.**
I wait for the Lord, I count on his word.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I can count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. **R**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R**

Responsorial Psalm 9.

R **How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth.**

Your majesty is praised above the heavens; on the lips of children and of babes
You have found praise to foil your enemy, to silence the foe of the rebel. **R**

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars
which you arranged,
What is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you care
for him. **R**

Yet you made him less than a god; with glory and honour you crowned
him,
Gave him power over the works of your hand, put all things under his feet.
R

All of them sheep and cattle, yes even the savage beasts,
Birds of the air, and fish that make their way through the waters. **R**

Second Readings

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

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, not 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.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

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.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 4:6-8

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. **The Word of the Lord**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. – Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:1.6-10

We know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 12:31-13:1-7

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 speak 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 without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St John

4:7-12.17

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. Love will come to its perfection in us when we can face the day of Judgement without fear; because even in this world we have become as he is.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

4:13:18

We want you to be quite certain, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be that same for those who died in Jesus; God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God; the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in

Christ, will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord



Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1

Priest: For our brother / sister, _____, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live in death and whoever believes in me shall never die”.

1. Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; drawn near to us who mourn for _____, and dry the tears of those who weep.
R. Lord, hear us.
2. Lord, you wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort all of us in our moments of sadness and pain.
R. Lord, hear us.
3. Lord, you raised the dead to life; we ask you to give to our brother / sister the fullness of eternal life.
R. Lord, hear us.

4 Lord, you promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring _____, to the joys of heaven and may he / she enjoy eternal happiness and peace.

R Lord, hear us.

5 We remember all who are in need and we pray especially for those who are ill. May the Lord grant them healing and strength.

R. Lord, hear us.

6 For all our loved ones who have died and especially the deceased members of the _____ family. Lord grant all of them the fullness of new life and happiness in the kingdom of heaven.

R Lord, hear us.

Priest: God of holiness and power, accept our prayers on behalf of your servant _____, do not count his / her deeds against him / her, for in his / her heart he / she desired to do your will. As his / her faith united him / her to your people on earth, so may your mercy join him / her to the angels in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Option 2

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

1 For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he / she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

R: Lord, hear us.

2 For the family and friends of our brother sister _____ that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus **R: Lord, hear us**

3 For our deceased relatives and friends and especially the deceased

members of the _____ family. May they be enjoying deep peace now in their heavenly home forever.

R: Lord, hear us

4 For those who nursed _____ in his / her illness. That all of them will be rewarded for their gentleness and care.

R: Lord, hear us.

5 For those who are ill at this time, remembering especially those who will die this day. We pray that our God of strength and compassion will be with them in their hour of need.

R: Lord, hear us

6 For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

R: Lord, hear us.

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.

R Amen.

General Prayers

For the Deceased

God of loving kindness, listen favourably to our prayers: strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the dead and our hope that your servant _____ will also rise again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen**

For the Mourners

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround the family of _____ with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

For all the Dead

Risen Christ, because of your infinite love, you were obedient even to death on a cross, bring to life all who are sleeping in peace. Keep all the dead in your care; those who have loved and those no one remembers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Eternal rest grant unto him / her, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him / her.

May he / she rest in peace. **R. Amen**

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

Useful Information

Month's Mind Mass

We suggest that a member of the family contact the Parish Office in the weeks after the Funeral Mass to arrange the Month's Mind Mass. The date of the Mass is normally scheduled one month after your loved one has passed away e.g. 1st January = 1st February Month's Mind Mass, however, you may change the date if you wish.

Payment

The Parish Office will be in touch in the coming weeks in relation to cemetery/burial expenses. Payments must be made directly to the Parish Office and not to any third parties.

Blessing of the Graves

The annual Blessing of Graves in the Parish takes place in the different Parish Cemeteries during the month of June each year. Dates are available in advance on the Parish website/Facebook Page and in the Parish Bulletin.

Remembrance Service

A special Remembrance Service is celebrated in November each year for all those who have died in our Parish community during the previous year. The date is publicised in advance of the celebration.