

*The Parishes of Naas,  
Sallins and Two Mile House*



*Funeral Readings*



# *Funeral Readings*

## **To those who are bereaved**

We want you to know that your sorrow and grief is shared by the whole Parish Family. We will support you in every possible way. We will also pray for you and with you. There are two possible ceremonies in the Church.

## **Reception of the Remains at the Church**

If the funeral takes place to the Church on the eve of the Requiem Mass there will be a Reception ceremony, consisting of Readings from Scripture and prayers for the deceased and their family.

## **Funeral Mass**

The Funeral Mass has a clear message of hope. In this book there are a selection of scripture readings to choose from. Select those that have a special meaning for you. Some members of the family may like to read these scripture passages. However, if reading is too difficult or too emotional, please feel free to ask some friends of the family or a neighbour.

## **What to choose when planning the Funeral Mass**

1. Procession with symbols to represent the life of your loved one. *(optional)*.
2. First Reading from Old Testament. See Nos 1-5 on pages 5 and 6.
3. Second Reading from the New Testament. See Nos 1-6 on pages 8 to 10.
4. Prayers of the Faithful. Choose 4/5 prayers from page 13.
5. Offertory: Bread and Wine *(only)*.
6. One person to deliver a word of thanks of 2/3 minutes in duration or read a post communion reflection from page 14 or 15. *(optional)*.

## **Music**

If you request a choir, please discuss options with the Funeral Director. If you wish to engage your own organist, musician or singer you are welcome to do so.

Appropriate music and hymns associated with the Liturgy work best in the setting of the Church and the Mass. Popular songs are often obviously out of place and are best left to other occasions during the funeral rite – they may be played before leaving the home or funeral home, at the graveside or at a reception that may follow the burial.

## **Webcam in Our Lady and St David's, Sallins and Two Mile House Churches**

If you have family, relatives or friends who cannot attend the funeral reception or Requiem Mass they may appreciate joining the ceremonies via our live stream on the internet. This can be accessed by visiting the Naas Parish website at [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie).

## *Concluding Words of Thanks from the Family*

Some people have enquired about the eulogy at Funerals in the Church.

A family Eulogy is most appropriately given at a graveside when the prayers of committal have been concluded. Sometimes, on the occasion of a funeral in the Church, a family member or friend have asked to speak at the end of the Funeral Mass. Being such a sensitive time for families, we have agreed to the request. It should convey words of thanks and appreciation for those who have attended the Funeral Mass, rather than a Eulogy of the deceased.

In the past, some people have made the mistake of making the eulogy into an obituary and speaking too long.

For this reason, should a family member/friend wish to speak in the Church we request that the content be shown to the Priest or Deacon beforehand. We also suggest that it should not be more than two or three minutes in duration.

As part of his homily, the Priest will include appropriate references to the life of the deceased. We trust that these suggestions will be accepted in the spirit in which they are offered.

With grateful thanks,

The Parish Team (Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House)

*For God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him, shall have*

*Eternal Life*



# *Readings from the Old Testament*

(Choose one Reading)

## 1. A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-9

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 experienced punishment as men 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.

When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they. They shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever. 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.**

## 2. A reading from the book of 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; a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted.

A time for killing, a time for healing; a time for knocking down, a time for building. A time for tears, a time for laughter; a time for mourning, a time for dancing. A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up; a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing. A time for searching, a time for losing; a time for keeping, a time for throwing away. A time for tearing, a time for sewing; a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking. A time for loving, a time for hating; a time for war, a time for peace.

**The word of the Lord.**

### 3. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (41:10, 44:22, 49:15-16)

Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice. For I am the Lord, your God, who grasps your right hand. It is I who say to you: Fear not, I will help you. I have brushed away your offences like a cloud, your sins like a mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. Can a mother forget her infant? Be without tenderness for the child in her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palm of my hand I have written your name. Yes, in joy you shall depart, in peace you shall be brought back.

The word of the Lord.

### 4. 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 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 hope for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

### 5. A reading from the Prophet Micah (6:8)

Now listen to what the Lord is saying. Stand up and let the case begin in the hearing of the mountains and let the hills hear what you say. What is good has been explained to you, this is what the Lord asks of you: only this; to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.

The word of the Lord.

# *Responsorial Psalm (Ps 26)*

(This psalm is only read when a psalm is not sung by the cantor/choir)

The response is: The Lord is my light and my help

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink?

**Response**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple.

**Response**

O, Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face.

**Response**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord!

**Response**

*I am the way  
and the truth  
and the life.*

# *Readings from the New Testament*

(Please choose one)

## 1. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 13:4-14)

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear. When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete, as complete as God's knowledge of me. Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

**The word of the Lord.**

## 2. A reading from the first letter of St. John (1 Jn 3:1-3)

Think of the love that the Father has shown us by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refuses to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

**The Word of the Lord.**



### 3. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rm14:7-9)

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.

The word of the Lord.

### 4. A reading from St. Paul to the Thessalonians (Thes 4:13-18)

We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, 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 the same for those who have 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.

### 5. A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy (2 Tim 4:6-8)

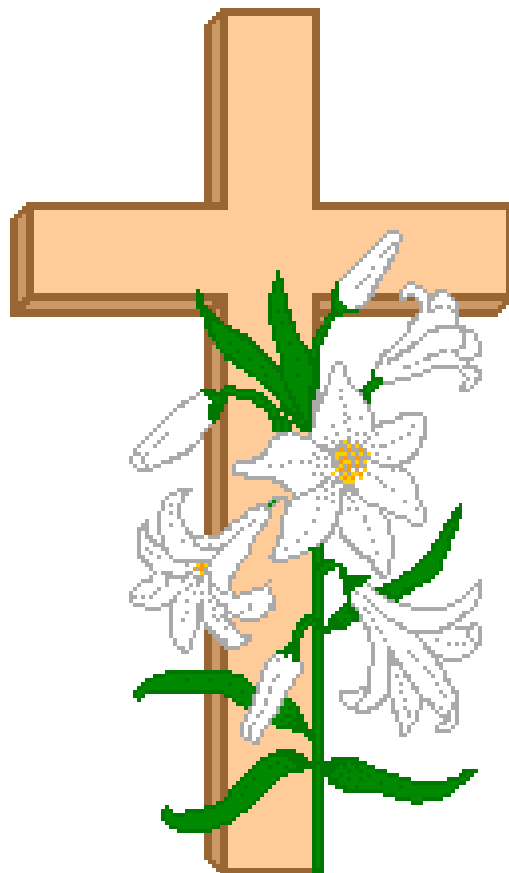
As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
(Phil 1:3-11)

I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped me. I am quite certain that the one who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the day of Jesus Christ comes. It is only natural that I should feel like this towards you all since you have shared my life. You have a permanent place in my heart, and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception, so that you can always recognize what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless and prepare you for the day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.



# *The Holy Gospel*

**(Please note the Priest or Deacon reads the Gospel)**

## Gospel 1

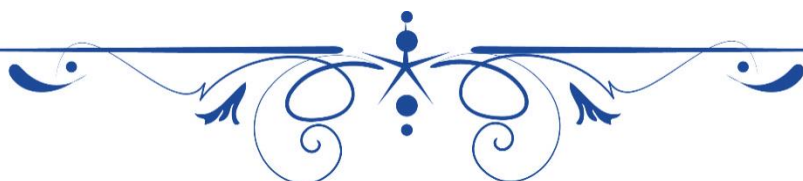
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:  
(24:13-16. 28-35)

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



## Gospel 2

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:  
(11:25-30)

Jesus exclaimed, I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.

The Gospel of the Lord

## Gospel 3

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:  
(14:1-6)

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Those who die go no further  
than God, and God is very near.*

## *Prayers of the Faithful*

Let us pray for the whole Church, that we may be prepared for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next.

**Lord, hear us.**

God is full of mercy and compassion. May He forgive ..... any sins he / she committed through human frailty.

**Lord, hear us.**

For the sorrowing family, relatives and friends of ....., that they may find strength and consolation in their faith and in the love and support of the community.

**Lord, hear us.**

God of all consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light in time of darkness, and faith in time of doubt.

**Lord, hear us.**

For our departed relatives and friends and all who were close to us in this life. Lord, reward them for their goodness.

**Lord, hear us.**

Let us pray for all those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for ..... during his / her illness.

**Lord, hear us.**

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her son was dying, help those who mourn and be with all of us in our time of need.

**Lord, hear us.**

Let us pray for all here present, that our memory of ..... whom we loved may inspire us with a renewed love for our fellow men and women.

**Lord, hear us.**

# *Communion Reflections*

## **1. Death is not the End**

Death is nothing at all, I have only slipped away into the next room. Whatever we were to each other, that we still are. Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effort. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is absolutely unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well. Nothing is past; nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as it was before, only better, infinitely happier and forever, we will all be one together with Christ.

## **2. Peace at last (Cardinal Newman)**

May the Lord support us all the day long,  
Till the shades lengthen, and evening comes  
And the busy world is hushed,  
And the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then in his mercy, may he give ..... a safe lodging  
A holy rest, and peace at last.  
Amen.

## **3. Footprints in the Sand**

One night a man had a dream. He dreamt that he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed the scenes of his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. He understood immediately that one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord. But then he noticed a curious thing. At the lowest and saddest times in his life there was only one set of footprints. This bothered him, and so he asked the Lord: How come that during the most difficult times in my life, the very times when I most needed you, you left me on my own? Then the Lord replied, my friend, during your trials and sufferings,



when you see only one set of footprints, those footprints are mine. It was then that I carried you.

#### 4. Stranger at our side

All through life's day our Risen Lord walks with us. Often, however, he is a stranger to us, for he never forces himself upon us. Before the day's end, we will ask many questions, experience many failures, disappointments and heartaches. And then, suddenly, whether we are young, middle aged or old, we will find that the shadows are lengthening, and night is fast approaching. In that moment we pray, that we will recognise him, the stranger who walked at our side, as our Risen Lord. And he will not vanish from our sight. Instead he will guide us through the dark valley of death to the safety of the Father's house.

#### 5. Gone only from our sight

I am standing on the seashore. Suddenly a ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts out for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she is only a ribbon of white cloud just above where sea and sky mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says: There! She's gone! Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says: There! She's gone! There are other voices ready to greet her with a glad shout: Here she comes! And that is dying.

*I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies,  
he will live.*

