A serene landscape photograph featuring a sunset over a large body of water. The sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, casting a bright, shimmering reflection down the center of the lake. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. In the background, dark silhouettes of mountains are visible against the bright sky. The foreground is dominated by the dark, intricate branches of evergreen trees, which frame the scene on the left and bottom edges.

Parish of  
**Larkhill - Whitehall - Santry**

*Preparing the  
Christian Funeral*

**The Parish Community of  
Larkhill, Whitehall and Santry**

**offers sincere sympathy to**

**the \_\_\_\_\_ Family**

**on the death of**

---

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
trust in God still and trust in me.”***  
**(John 14:1)**

**This booklet is presented to your family  
with the compliments of the  
Priests and Funeral Ministry Team  
to assist you in your bereavement  
and in preparing the Christian Funeral.**

# *Dear Friends*

*The priests of the parish, together with the Funeral Ministry Team, extend sincere sympathy to you in your bereavement. The death of a loved one, whether sudden or following an illness, is always traumatic. It leaves us emotionally drained and saddened. However, in the midst of grief and confusion, practical arrangements have to be made for a funeral, and liturgies need to be planned.*

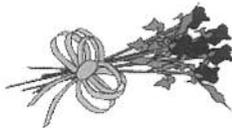
*The officiating priest and members of the Funeral Ministry Team are available to provide you with whatever advice and help you need in preparing the Funeral Liturgy. In this booklet you will find all that is appropriate for the preparation for the funeral ceremonies.*

*We hope that you find the booklet useful and we assure you of our caring assistance at this sad time.*

*May the Lord grant eternal rest to your departed loved one, and may He console you in your loss.*

*Sincerely*

*The Priests of the Parish and the Funeral Ministry Team.*



# *When a loved one dies*

The reception of the body at the church normally takes place on the evening before the funeral Mass. This ceremony has great significance because the church is the place where the community of faith gathers for worship. It is the place where people enter into new life through baptism and participate in the Eucharist. It is now the place where the community gathers to greet the deceased as one of their own.

The rite of reception of the body begins with the remains being met at the door and sprinkled with holy water, followed by the procession into the church and an opening prayer. Their purpose of this rite is to proclaim our hope in the resurrection and to offer support to those who mourn. The service ends with prayers of intercession, the Our Father, a decade of the Rosary and a concluding prayer.

## *Christian Symbols*



**The Paschal Candle** is placed close to the coffin. It reminds us of Christ's presence with us and his victory over death, a victory we share through our baptism.



**Holy Water** is sprinkled on the coffin when it is received at the church and at the end of the funeral Mass. It reminds us of our baptism and the baptism of our deceased loved one.



A **Pall** is placed on the coffin by family members or friends when it is received at the church. It is a large white cloth covering the coffin during the liturgy. It reminds us of the white robe that is put on the newly baptised to symbolise his/her new life in Christ. The pall is removed by family members before the final farewell prayers. "Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgement seat of Our Lord Jesus Christ so that you may have everlasting life".



A **Bible** is placed on the coffin. It reminds us that Christians are called to live by the Word of God and that by being faithful to that Word we gain eternal life.



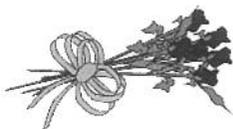
**Incense** is used to honour the body of the deceased who through Baptism became a living temple of God's presence. It is also a symbol of the community's prayers for the deceased rising up to heaven and a sign of farewell.

## *The Funeral Mass*

The funeral Mass is the central liturgical celebration for the deceased. You will already have chosen the readings and prayers of the faithful. You should try, if possible, to include appropriate singing and sacred music for the occasion.

After the Mass has finished there is the final commendation - the beginning of our farewell to our deceased loved one. The focus is on letting go, but also on hope, as we look forward to the promise of eternal life.

The coffin is sprinkled with holy water and incense. The song of farewell is then sung and is a high point as it expresses our hope that Christ will take our deceased loved one to himself and that we will one day be reunited in the heavenly kingdom.



# *Old Testament Readings*

## **Choosing the Readings**

The first reading is usually chosen from the Old Testament, and the second reading from the New Testament

The Responsorial Psalm comes after the first reading.

If you wish you may choose Bible readings and a Psalm other than those contained in this booklet.



## **1** *A reading from the book of Wisdom*

The virtuous 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;

Understanding - this is a person's grey hairs,

Untarnished life - this is ripe old age.

Coming to perfection in so short a while, they achieved  
long life;

Their souls being pleasing to the Lord, He has taken  
them quickly from the wickedness around them.

Yet people look on, un-comprehending;

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.

## **2** *A reading from the book of Wisdom*

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God.  
no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise they did appear to die,  
Their going was like a disaster,  
Their leaving us, like annihilation;  
but they are at peace.

If they experienced 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.

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

On this mountain,  
and 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 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 have waited for salvation;  
We exult and we rejoice  
that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

#### **4 *A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes***

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.

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

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of fearful heart  
“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come and save you”.

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame will leap like a deer,  
and the tongues of the dumb will sing for joy.  
And the ransomed of the Lord will return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will be upon their heads;  
they will obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The word of the Lord.

## **6 A reading from the book of Lamentations**

The favours of the Lord are not all past,  
his kindnesses 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.

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

Thus says the Lord:

You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off. Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

All who are incensed against you will be ashamed and disgraced; those who strive against you will be as nothing and will perish. For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you “Do not fear, I will help you”. Your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

# *Psalms*



## PSALM 23

### ***Response:***

***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 drooping spirit.

### ***Response***

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.

### ***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 24

### ***Response:***

***To you O Lord, I lift up my soul***

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

### ***Response***

Relieve the anguish of my heart  
and set me free from my distress.  
See my affliction and my toil  
and take all my sins away.

### ***Response***

Preserve my life and rescue me.  
Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.  
May innocence and uprightness protect me,  
for my hope is in you, O Lord.

### ***Response***

## PSALM 26

### ***Response:***

***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***

## PSALM 41

### ***Response:***

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

Like a deer that yearns  
For running streams;  
So my soul is yearning  
For you, my God.

### ***Response***

My soul is thirsting for God  
The God of my life;  
When can I enter and see  
The face of God?

### ***Response***

Why are you cast down my soul?  
Why groan with me?  
Hope in God;  
I will praise Him still,  
My saviour and my God.

### ***Response***

## PSALM 102

### ***Response:***

***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.

### ***Response***

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

### ***Response***

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

### ***Response***

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 in truth.

### ***Response***

# *New Testament Readings*

Choose one of the readings in this section



**1 *A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans***

Do you know that all of us  
Who have been baptised into Christ Jesus  
Were baptised into his death.  
Therefore we have been buried with Him  
By baptism into death, so that  
Just as Jesus was raised from the dead  
By the glory of the Father  
So we too might walk in newness of life.  
But if we have died with Christ,  
We believe that we will also live with Him.  
We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,  
Will never die again.  
Death no longer has dominion over Him.

The word of the Lord.

## **2 *A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians***

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus  
Will raise us also with Jesus  
And will bring you with us also into His presence.  
So we do not lose heart.  
Even though our outer nature is wasting away  
Our inner nature is being renewed day by day.  
For this slight momentary affliction  
Is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory  
Beyond all measure, because we look not  
At what can be seen, but at what cannot be seen.  
For what can be seen is temporary  
But what cannot be seen is eternal.  
For we know that the earthly tent we live in  
Is destroyed, we have a building from God,  
A house not made with hands,  
Eternal in the heavens.

The word of the Lord

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

We do not live to ourselves  
And we do not die to ourselves  
If we live, we live to the Lord  
And if we die we die to the Lord.  
So then, whether we live or whether we die  
We are the Lord's.  
For to this end, Christ died and lived again  
So that He might be Lord of both the living and the dead.  
The word of the Lord

#### **4 *A reading from the first letter of St. John***

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children;

and that is what we are.

Because the world refused 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.

#### **5 *A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans***

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son and daughter of God.

The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit which makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well; heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory. I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us.

The word of the Lord.

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

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 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.

## **7 *A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy***

Be careful always to choose the right course;  
be brave under trials;  
make the preaching of the Good News your life's work,  
in thoroughgoing service.

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 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 to me on that Day; and not only to me but all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The word of the Lord.

## **8 *A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians***

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 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. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

## **9 *A reading from the book of Apocalypse***

I, John, heard a voice from Heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says: now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The word of the Lord.

# *The Prayer of the Faithful*

Choose or compose the prayers of intercession  
which come after the homily.

In these prayers we pray for the deceased,  
his/her family and friends,  
and also for all the dead and those who mourn them.

We also remember the needs of the wider community.



## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

You may choose FOUR of the following, or you may compose your own.

1. .... was welcomed into the Christian family through the sacrament of Baptism and received the light of Christ.  
Now that her/his life on earth has ended may she/he now be welcomed into the company of the saints in her/his eternal home.

**Lord hear us.**

2. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the Kingdom.  
Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

**Lord hear us.**

3. The family and friends of ..... seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

**Lord hear us.**

4. We remember all who are sick whether at home or in hospital - may they realize through their sufferings that God cares for them in a special way and is close at hand.

**Lord hear us.**

5. We remember with gratitude the staff of  
..... Hospital who cared for .....  
May God reward them for their kindness and compassion.

**Lord hear us.**

6. We pray especially today for friends who,  
over the years, through their friendship,  
have been a great source of strength and comfort.

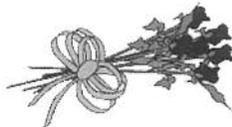
**Lord hear us.**

7. For all here present; that the Lord may  
teach us how to live joyfully in this world  
without losing sight of the world to come.

**Lord hear us.**

8. For all who walk in the darkness of doubt  
and unbelief; that Christ's light may  
shine for them too.

**Lord hear us.**



# *Helpful Information*

## **RUNNING ORDER OF READINGS AT FUNERAL MASS**

1. First Reading (Old Testament)
2. Responsorial Psalm (Possibly Sung)
3. Second Reading (New Testament)
4. Gospel Acclamation (Sung)
5. Gospel (Read by Priest)
6. Homily (Short Talk given by Priest)
7. Prayer of the Faithful

If desired, family mementoes may be placed on a special table before Mass commences.

## **TIPS FOR THE READER**

The following are a few tips which the reader may find helpful:

1. Practice the reading a number of times the night before the Mass.
2. Ensure that you know which reading you are proclaiming.
3. Read slowly and clearly. Try not to rush through the reading.
4. Make sure you have the reading with you when you come to the Church.
5. Speak clearly into the microphone. Stand two inches away from the microphone when you are speaking into it.

## **MUSIC FOR THE FUNERAL MASS**

In keeping with the dignity of the funeral liturgy celebrated in the church, only sacred hymns and music should be chosen.

You might like to choose from the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am the Bread of Life      | <input type="checkbox"/> Bless the Lord My Soul  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abide with me               | <input type="checkbox"/> When Creation was Begun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy God we Praise thy Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Heart of Jesus    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Lord's my Shepherd      | <input type="checkbox"/> How great Thou Art      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christ be Beside me         | <input type="checkbox"/> The Servant Song        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here I am Lord              | <input type="checkbox"/> Be Thou My Vision       |

### **PSALMS (SUNG AFTER THE FIRST READING)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be not afraid                | <input type="checkbox"/> Father, I put my Life into<br>Your Hands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Lord is My Shepherd      | <input type="checkbox"/> Like the Deer that Yearns                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagles' Wings             | <input type="checkbox"/> 'S é an Tiarna m'aoire                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the Shadow of your Wings  | <input type="checkbox"/> Into your hands O Lord                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To you O Lord I Lift my Soul | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd me O God                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd me O God            | <input type="checkbox"/> The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor       |

### **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> He is Lord <u>or</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dying you destroyed our<br>death |
| <input type="checkbox"/> When we eat this bread |   |

### **RECESSIONAL**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May Songs of the Angels<br>Welcome You | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Remember Me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nearer my God to Thee                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Salve Regina      |

Other parts of the Mass such as the Gospel Acclamation, the Holy Holy, the Lamb of God and the Final Commendation may also be sung.

## **AFTER THE FUNERAL**

### **The Month's Mind Mass**

It is traditional in many parishes to have a Memorial or Month's Mind Mass for the deceased in the weeks following the funeral. The Month's Mind is an opportunity to once again commend the deceased to our loving God. It is celebrated in an atmosphere of prayerful remembrance, of gratitude and of hope in the resurrection. The pain of loss is not quite as intense now, and the Memorial Mass helps us to move forward into the future.

### **Other Celebrations**

In the months and years following the death of your loved one, there will be other opportunities to remember and pray for him or her in a special way.

It is a tradition to have an anniversary Mass for the deceased and it is important to book this in good time.

In Holy Child Parish, Whitehall during the months of March, July and November, we have special Masses in memory of those who have died. These will keep the memory of your loved one alive, and will help the process of grieving.

### **Ongoing Support**

The Bethany Bereavement Group provides a support service for the bereaved and should you feel the need for a "listening ear", we would be glad to help you in whatever way we can.

*(See opposite page - useful telephone numbers).*

# *Useful Telephone Numbers*

Fr. Michael Carey, Adm. ....Tel: 837 4887

Fr. Bernard Collier, C.C. ....Tel: 842 8283

Fr. Tom Kearney, C.C. ....Tel: 842 0260

Church of the Holy Child

Sacristy / Parish Office .....Tel: 837 5274

Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball Sacristy .....Tel: 862 0792

Bethany Bereavement

Support Group.....Tel: 837 5482

## **Remembering**

*We all love to be remembered  
But if we want to be remembered  
We have a duty also to remember.  
Memory is a powerful thing  
It is a form of immortality.  
It keeps the past alive  
Those we remember never die.*

PLEASE  
DO NOT REMOVE  
FROM CHURCH

# Parish of Larkhill - Whitehall - Santry



Vision for our Parish: A Family of God's People reaching out to all, encouraging and enabling all, to become good people as God is good."

## **Jesus: Life's Companion**

All through life's day, you walk with us Lord.  
But often we don't recognise you, for we are blinded  
by work and worry, doubt, confusion and fear,  
and so you remain a stranger to us.  
Before the day's end we will ask many questions,  
experience many sorrows and disappointments.  
And then, suddenly, whether we are young, middle-  
aged, or old we will find that night is approaching.  
In that moment we pray, that, like the apostles on the  
road to Emmaus, our eyes will be opened, and we  
will recognise you.  
And you will not vanish from our sight, but stay to  
guide us to the Father's house.