



A service for those unable to attend a funeral

Before the service begins

Spend a little time reflecting on your memories of your loved one whose funeral you are going to celebrate. If you are with others you might like to share these memories.

Sign of the cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Invitation to prayer

My brothers and sisters, we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us pray, asking God to gather N. to himself.

Opening prayer

Almighty God and Father,
It is our certain faith that your Son, who died on the cross,
was raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery your servant N.,
who has gone to his/her rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading

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 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial psalm

Psalm 22(23)

We all say this together:

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.
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.

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

Gospel

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Take some time to reflect on a word or phrase from the readings that struck you.**
- **How do the readings connect with your loved one's life?**
- **If you are with others you might like to share your thoughts.**

Intercessions

Trusting in God, and with hope in our hearts, let us bring before him all our prayers.

We give thanks to God for N.,

for his/her life and for the love he/she gave to all the family and for all the happy memories.

May N. now enjoy the company of the angels and saints in heaven.

Lord, hear us.

R. Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for N.'s family and friends and for everyone who will miss him/her.

May we all be comforted in our loss.

Lord, hear us.

R. Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19:

those who are sick, those working to help them,

those who are suffering from fear, anxiety and loneliness.

May we all find courage and hope.

Lord, hear us.

R. Lord, graciously hear us.

All say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Commendation

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!
Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!
R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the most high.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of N. your servant;
in the sight of this world he/she is now dead;
in your sight may he/she live for ever.
Forgive whatever sins he/she committed through human weakness
and in your goodness grant him/her everlasting peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

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

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

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

Concluding prayer

Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voice of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb.

Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May the Love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes;

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Archdiocese of
Liverpool