

## GUIDELINES FOR FUNERALS

These Guidelines for Funerals are intended to assist families who are arranging a funeral for their loved ones and for local Undertakers. If you are unsure, on any details please contact the priest conducting the funeral

### 1. Type of Funeral.

- **Requiem Mass.** This is the normal service for a Catholic who has died, and takes place in either
  - a. St Margaret's Church, 79 Barking Road, Canning Town, London E16 4HB,
  - b. The Convent Chapel, Bethel Ave, London E16 4JU
  - c. St Anne's Church, Berwick Road, Custom House, London E16 3DR

Holy Mass is celebrated and takes the form of the traditional funeral rites and customs of the Catholic community.

- **Funeral Service.** This is not a Mass but follows the normal service for a Catholic who has died, but without the rite of Holy Communion. Funeral Services normally take place in a Cemetery Chapel or Crematorium.

### 2. Order of Service: Whether you decide to have a booklet printed or not the Order of Service for a Catholic Funeral are as follows:

#### REQUIEM MASS:

a. **Reception of the Body into the Church the Night before.** The family may wish to follow the tradition of having the body lay in the Church overnight, before the Requiem Mass the following day. The body is normally brought to the Church around 4.30pm and a short service of welcome and prayer (Approx. 10-15 minutes) takes place. There is also an opportunity for going to Confession.

b. **The Requiem Mass | Standard Order of Service.**

\* indicates a choice to be made

#### Opening Hymn \*

- See Guidelines for Music for a Funeral below

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer

#### First reading\*

- From the Scriptures. See Appendix One for list of readings

#### Responsorial Psalm \*

- See Appendix Two for list of Responsorial Psalms

## **Gospel**

- Selected by the Priest

## **Homily:**

- Given by the Priest

## **Bidding Prayers: \***

- These may be made up by the family and a selection of Prayers is given in Appendix Three.

## **Offertory Hymn \***

- See Guidelines for Music for a Funeral below

## **Rite of Communion**

### **Communion Hymn \***

- See Guidelines for Music for a Funeral below
- See Guidelines for reception of Holy Communion below

## **The Eulogy \***

- See Guidelines for a Eulogy below

## **The Committal**

## **Final Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn | Music** See Guidelines for Music for a Funeral below

### **3. The Funeral Service | Order of Service**

#### **Opening Hymn \***

- See Guidelines for Music for a Funeral below

#### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

#### **First reading\***

- From the Scriptures. See Appendix One for list of readings

#### **Responsorial Psalm \***

- See Appendix Two for list of Psalms

## **Gospel**

- Selected by the Priest

## **Homily:**

- Given by the Priest

## **Bidding Prayers: \***

- These may be made up by the family and a selection of Prayers is given in Appendix Three

## **The Eulogy \***

- See Guidelines for a Eulogy below

## **The Committal**

## **Final Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn | Music**

**Music.** As the Requiem Mass and the Funeral Service are religious services, the music chosen must be appropriate for the occasion.

- The Music for the Requiem Mass must be religious hymns or Music. It is possible after discussion with the priest to choose an appropriate piece of music that reflects the life of the deceased or the family. This would be played at the end of the Mass.
- The Music for the Funeral Service, is a little more flexible. Normally there is space for three or four pieces of music in a funeral service. At least two must reflect the religious nature of the service, and one or two other appropriate pieces of music that reflects the life of the deceased or family may be played.
- The Parish Organist, David Wood will play for Requiem Masses, and you should book him through your Undertakers.
- Recorded music may be used, and you should arrange this through the Undertaker. Recorded Music is used mainly at the Crematorium or Cemetery Chapels and they have a vast range of pre-recorded music. Please speak to the Priest to let him know the music you wish to have played at both a Requiem Mass and a Funeral Service.

**Ways your family may be involved:**

- Reading the scriptures
- Reading a poem
- Giving the Eulogy
- Reading the Bidding Prayers at Mass
- Bringing up the gifts at the Offertory at Mass
- Carrying the coffin

**The Eulogy:**

These are the words of Tribute that may be read by a member or friend of the family at both the Requiem Mass and the Funeral Service. Because of time restrictions at the cemetery or crematorium only **ONE** Eulogy should be given. Any further tributes should be written in the Service book or read at the graveside.

Here are a few tips

- Write down what you want to say
- Avoid wandering from the text when you are speaking
- Realise that reading a Eulogy is a very emotional task and be very difficult.
- A good Eulogy should be no longer than 5 minutes

- Sometimes a poem that speaks of the person's life can be just as effective as a Eulogy.

**The reception of Holy Communion:**

This only takes place at a Requiem Mass. The practice of the Church is the only Catholics may receive Holy Communion. If you have not been to Communion for a long time and wish to receive at the Requiem Mass, you are warmly invited to go to the priest for Confession. All others are most welcome to come up to the priest for a blessing, and this is shown by crossing their arms across their chest.

**Live Streaming**

This is available is freely available an all three Churches. Go to the Parish website and follow the YouTube link. Because of the advances in Live Streaming live filming and photography is not allowed during Mass.

The Requiem Mass or Funeral Service has a clear message of hope. Below you will find a selection of bible readings and prayers to choose from. Pick those that have a special meaning for you. Some members of the family may be composed enough to do the readings but, if you feel unable in the circumstances, the priest will read them for you.

Music can be provided at all funeral Masses and services. At a Requiem Mass some of the family may like to bring up the gifts - this may be less demanding than reading.

## APPENDIX ONE

### FIRST READINGS OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

## Only ONE reading is required

### I Old Testament readings

1. **A reading from the book of Job 19:1. 23–27** This I know: that my Avenger lives. Job said: ‘Ah, would that these words of mine were written down, inscribed on some monument with iron chisel and engraving tool, cut into the rock for ever. This I know: that my Avenger lives, and he, the last, will take his stand on earth. After my awaking, he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God. He whom I shall see will take my part: these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.’
2. **A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1–9** He accepted them as a holocaust. 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.
3. **A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7–15** Untarnished life, this is ripe old age. 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.
4. **A reading from the prophet Isaiah. 25:6–9** The Lord 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

**5. A reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17–26** It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save. 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 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.

**6. A reading from the prophet Daniel 12:1–3** Those who lie sleeping in the dust will awake. 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 written 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.’

**4. A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12:43–45** A fine and noble action, in which he took account of the resurrection. Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

## **II New Testament Readings**

**(Readings 1- 4 are intended for use as the First Reading during the season of Easter, Readings 5-19 are for use at any time of the year)**

**1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34–43** God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘The truth I have now come to realise,’ he said, ‘is that God does not have 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. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses—we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead—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 this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**2. A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 14:13** Happy are those who die In the Lord! 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.'

**3. A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 20:11–21:1** The dead were judged according to what they had done in their lives. I, John, saw a great white throne and the One who was sitting on it. In his presence, earth and sky vanished, leaving no trace. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of his throne, while the book of life was opened, and other books opened which were the record of what they had done in their lives, by which the dead were judged. The sea gave up all the dead who were in it; Death and Hades were emptied of the dead that were in them; and everyone was judged according to the way in which he had lived. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the burning lake. This burning lake is the second death; and anybody whose name could not be found written in the book of life was thrown into the burning lake. Then I 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.

**4. A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 21:1–7** There will be no more death. 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.' 11

**5. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:5–11** Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely, we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

**6. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:17–21** However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When law came, it was to multiply the opportunities of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12

**7. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3–9** Let us live a new life. 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. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin. 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 power over him anymore.

**8. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:14–23** We wait for our bodies to be set free. Everyone moved by the Spirit is a Son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it 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 coheirs 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 whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. 13

**9. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31–35. 37–39** Nothing can 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, 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.

**10. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7–12** 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. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself. 14

**11. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20–28** All men will be brought to life in Christ. 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.

**12. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:51–57** Death is swallowed up in victory. I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of flesh is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**13 A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 4:14–5:1** Visible things last only for a time, but the invisible are eternal. We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God. 15 That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal. For 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.

**14. A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:1. 6–10** We have an everlasting home in heavens. 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.

**15. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:20–21** He will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of 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.

**16. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13–18** We shall stay with the Lord for ever. We want you to be quite certain, brothers, 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.  
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**17. A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 2:8–13** If we die with him, then we shall live with him. Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal—but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it. Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

**18. A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1–2** We shall see him as he really is. 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. **19. A reading from the first letter of St John 3:14–16** We have

passed out of death and into life because we love our brothers. We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our brothers. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your brother is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them. This has taught us love – that he gave up his life for us; and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers.

## APPENDIX TWO

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Choose ONE Psalm

## 1. 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. [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]

## 2. Psalm 129

**Response:  
Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord.**

Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord.  
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 count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord,  
More than watchmen for daybreak. [R]

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
And fullness of redemption.  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
From all its iniquity. [R]

### 3. Psalm 33

**Response:**  
**Taste and see that the Lord is good**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise always on my lips;  
In the lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. [R]

Glorify the lord with me;  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
From all terrors he set me free. [R]

### 4. Psalm 138

**Response:**  
**Lord, you have made me and you know me.**

O Lord, you search me and you know me;  
You know my resting and my rising;  
You discern my thoughts from afar.  
You mark when I walk or lie down;  
All my ways lie open to you. [R]

O where can I go from your Spirit;  
Or where can I fly from your face?  
If I climb to the heavens you are there,  
If I lie in the grave you are there. [R]

If I take the wings of the morning  
And dwell at the sea's furthest end,  
Even there your hand would lead me,  
Your right hand hold me fast. [R]

For it was you who created my being,  
Knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I thank you for the wonder of my being,  
For the wonders of all your creations. [R]

O search me, God, and know my heart.  
O test me and know my thoughts.  
See that I follow not the wrong path  
And lead me in the path of life eternal. [R]

Look towards him and be radiant.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
The Lord is close to the broken hearted;  
Those whose spirit is crushed he will save;  
Those who hide in him  
Shall not be condemned. [R]

## APPENDIX THREE

### Sample Bidding Prayers

**Choose four or five of the following. If you wish, compose some of your own or adapt some of these.**

1. Let us pray for **N**. In baptism he/she died with Christ, may he/she now share in the fullness of his resurrection. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
2. God is full of mercy and compassion. May he forgive **N**. any sins he/she committed through human frailty. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
3. For the sorrowing family, relatives and friends of **N**., that you may find strength and consolation in your Christian faith and in the love and support of this community. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
4. We pray for those who mourn **N**'s death (especially ....); that you may find strength and consolation in the hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
5. 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. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
6. We pray for all those we have loved and have died. Lord give them the reward of their goodness. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
7. We pray for those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for **N**. during his/her illness. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
8. For all parents who grieve over the death of their children; that they may be comforted in the knowledge that they rest in God. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
9. 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. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
10. We pray for those here today, that our memory of **N**. whom we loved inspire us with a renewed love for all our sisters and brothers. **[R] Lord, hear us.**
11. We pray for all of us here today and for all members of our 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. **[R] Lord, hear us.**