



CHURCH OF ST. CRONAN
BRACKENSTOWN PARISH

FUNERAL LITURGY

THE WORD OF GOD

We want you to know that your sorrow and grief is shared by the parish community at this time. On an occasion like this there is little we can say. However we will support you in every possible way. In praying for your loved one who has died we will also pray for you at this particularly sad time.

At Mass we listen to the Word of God. The readings at a Funeral Mass remind us that at the centre of our faith is the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The readings strengthen our hope of being gathered together in God's kingdom and they encourage us to witness to the Christian way of life. The readings tell us of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will be no more. A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the funeral will provide the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes.

Running Order of Readings at Funeral Mass

1. First Reading (Choose one from the three listed)
2. Responsorial Psalm (usually sung)
3. Second Reading (Choose one from the three listed)
4. Gospel (Read by Priest)
5. Homily (Short talk given by Priest)
6. Prayer of the Faithful
7. Communion Reflection (Choose one from the three listed)
8. Speaking on behalf of the family

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Choose One of the following

(1)

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 experienced punishment as people 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

(2)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

4: 7 – 10, 13 – 15

The virtuous ones, 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 grey hair for anyone, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

They have sought to please God, so God has loved them.

Coming to perfection is so short a while, they achieved long life; their soul being pleasing to the Lord, He has taken them quickly.

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

(3)

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

3:17 – 8

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 and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Choose One of the following

(1)

PSALM 22

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(2)

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 refuge
May innocence and uprightness protect me:
For my hope is in you, O Lord.

Response

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(3)

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

NEW TESTAMENT

Choose One of the following

(1)

A reading from the first letter of St. John

3:1-2

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.

(2)

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

8:14-23

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a child God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into our lives again; it is the spirit of slaves bringing fear into our lives again; it is the spirit of children, and it makes us cry out 'Abba, Farther!' The spirit himself and our spirit bare united witness that 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 word of the Lord.

(3)

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

13: 1 – 8, 13

If I have all the eloquence of people 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 that 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 is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, o trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

In short, there are three things that last, and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Please choose 4 – 6 of the following

1. In Baptismreceived the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.
Lord, hear us.
2. Our bother/sisterwas nourished at the table of the Saviour. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.
Lord, hear us.
3. 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.
4. We pray for all those who care for the sick and the dying especially those who cared for during his/her illness.
Lord, hear us.
5. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.
Lord, hear us.
6. For the family and friends of Who miss him/her that they may find strength and consolation in the love and support of the community.
Lord, hear us.

REFLECTIONS (Optional)

Choose One of the Following

(1)

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 not one but 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, so he asked the Lord, "How come that
during the most difficult times in my life, you left me on my
own?"

And the Lord answered,
"My friend, during your trials and suffering,
When you see only one set of footprints,
Those footprints are mine,
It was then that I carried you."

(2)

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 could
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 and spar
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 take the glad shout,
“There! She comes!”

And that is dying.

(3)

All Is Well

Death is nothing at all;
I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I, and you are you;
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by my old familiar name,
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone;
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed
At the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word it was.
Let it be spoken without effect,
Without the ghost of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was;
There is absolutely unbroken continuity.

What is this death but a negligible accident;
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
Somewhere very near,
Just around the corner.
All is well.

Funeral Liturgy Sheet
Please give to the Priest before the Mass

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading	Number	Reader
Psalm (usually sung)	Number	Reader
Second Reading	Number	Reader
Gospel		Priest

Prayer of the Faithful

Reader 1	Reader 2	Reader 3
Reader 4	Reader 5	Reader 6

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Bread

Wine

Communion Reflection (Optional)

Number

Reader

Speaking on behalf of the Family

Memory Table

Gift:

Presented by:

Meaning:

Gift:

Presented by:

Meaning:

Gift:	Presented by:
Meaning:	
Gift:	Presented by:
Meaning:	
Gift:	Presented by:
Meaning:	
Gift:	Presented by:
Meaning:	