

# Funeral Services when a Mass is not celebrated

Here are two sample services – A and B - that can be adapted using different prayers, readings, reflections and music.

## A

ALL STAND

### Opening Song Jesus Remember Me (©Taizé)

**All sing:** Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

### Welcome and Introduction

**Leader** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All** Amen.

**Leader** The Lord be with you.

**All** And with your spirit.

### Opening Prayer

Let us pray,  
God of mercy,  
Look kindly on your servant John  
who has set down the burden of his years.  
As he served you faithfully throughout his life,  
may you give him the fullness of your peace and joy.  
We give thanks for John's long life,  
now caught up in your eternal love.  
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus who is our risen Lord now  
and forever. Amen.

ALL SIT

**Reading** Revelation 14:13

Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says;  
now they can rest forever after their work, since their good deeds go  
with them.

**Responsorial Psalm** I Have Found My Peace – Ps.131 (©OCP -Chris Willcock SJ)

**All sing:** In you, Lord, I have found my peace, I have found my peace

ALL STAND

**Gospel Acclamation** Mass of St. Columba (Columba McCann OSB)

**All sing:** Alleluia or Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Glory praise and honour to you.

**Gospel** John 4:1-3

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

ALL SIT

**Homily/Reflection**

**Song** **Do not let your hearts be troubled** (© G.I.A. - David Haas)

**All sing:** Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Have faith in God and faith in me.  
I will go forth to prepare a place for you  
and I'll come back to take you with me  
that where I am you may also be.

**Reflection** **Bede the Venerable**

Christ is the morning star  
who, when the night of this world is past,  
brings to his saints  
the promise of the light of life  
and opens everlasting day.

**Song** **Ag Críost an Síol (Seán Ó Riada)**

Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost an fómhar;  
in iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.  
Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc;  
i líonta Dé go gcastar sinn.  
Ó fhás go haois, ó aois go bás,  
do dhá láimh, a Chríost, anall tharainn.  
Ó bhás go críoch ní críoch ach athfhás,  
i bParthas na nGrást go rabhaimid.

Christ's is the seed, Christ's is the crop,  
in the barn of God may we be brought.  
Christ's is the sea, Christ's is the fish,  
in the nets of God may we be caught.  
From growth to age, from age to death,  
Thy two arms here, O Christ, about us.  
From death to end, not end but growth,  
in blessed Paradise may we be.



ALL STAND

## **Intercessions**

**Leader** God, the almighty Father, raised Jesus his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

For John, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he now be admitted to the company of the saints. Lord in your mercy:

**All say: Hear our prayer**

For the family and friends of John, that they may be consoled in their grief by Jesus who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. Lord in your mercy:

**All say: Hear our prayer**

For those who cared for John in his final illness, that they will be blessed in return for their tender care. Lord in your mercy:

**All say: Hear our prayer**

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. Lord in your mercy:

**All say: Hear our prayer**

For all gathered here to worship in faith, that we may meet together again in God's kingdom. Lord in your mercy:

**All say: Hear our prayer**

**Leader** God our shelter and our strength,  
You listen in love to the cry of your people:  
Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.  
Cleanse them from their sins  
and grant them the fullness of redemption.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Final Commendation and Farewell**

### **Invitation to Prayer**

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother. May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

## **Song of Farewell**

Saints of God, come to his aid! Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!

**Response Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

**Response Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

**Response Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

## **Prayer of Commendation**

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother, John, in the sure and certain hope, that together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise again with Him.

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon John in this life:

they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord,

turn toward us and listen to our prayers:

open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith,  
until we all meet in Christ

and are with you and with our brother forever.

**Response Amen.**

In peace let us bring John to his place of rest.

May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

or

**Song Songs Of The Angels (© G.I A. Bob Dufford)**

**All sing:** May songs of the angels welcome you and guide  
you along your way.

May the smiles of the martyrs greet your own  
as darkness turns into day.

Every fear will be undone and death will be no more.

as songs of the angels bring you home before the face of God.



## B

ALL STAND

**Opening Song** Bless The Lord My Soul (©Taizé)

### **Welcome and Introduction**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Let us pray,  
Lord our God,  
you are always faithful and quick to show mercy.  
Our sister Tracey was suddenly taken from us.  
Come swiftly to her aid. Have mercy on her,  
and comfort her family and friends  
by the power and protection of the cross.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALL SIT

**Reading** Romans 8:37-39

Nothing 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.

**Responsorial Psalm Shepherd Me, O God – Ps.23 (© G.I.A. - Marty Haugen)**

**All sing:** Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.

ALL STAND

**Gospel Acclamation Mass of St. Columba (Columba McCann OSB)**

**All sing:** Alleluia or Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

**Gospel Matthew 11:28-30**

Jesus said '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 in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

**Homily/Reflection**

**Song On Eagles' Wings – Ps. 91(© OCP - Michael Joncas)**

**All sing:** And he will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

**Reflection Guardian of the Grieving (©Joyce Rupp)**

Guardian of the Grieving,  
You do much more than stand there  
Being attentive to heart-sore spirits.  
You lovingly embrace and closely guard  
Those who feel bereft and lonely.  
You vigilantly attend to each one  
Lest they be overtaken by their sadness.  
Your protective gaze of compassion  
Softens the blows of their sorrow.  
Guardian of those who have lost much,  
Watch devotedly over those who mourn.



**Song The Lord of Life (©Liam Lawton)**

**All sing:** The Lord will heal the broken heart  
God will seek the lost and find them.

ALL STAND

**Intercessions**

**Leader** Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

In baptism Tracey received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead her over the waters of death. Lord hear us.

**All:** **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Our sister Tracey was nourished at the table of the Saviour.  
Welcome her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them into the eternal kingdom of peace.  
Lord hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

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.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God,  
giver of peace and healer of souls,  
hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ,  
and the voices 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 your kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Final Commendation and Farewell**

### **Invitation to Prayer**

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our sister.  
May our farewell express our affection for her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

### **Song of Farewell**

Saints of God, come to her aid!  
Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord!

**Response Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.**

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

**Response Receive her soul...**

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine  
upon her.

**Response Receive her soul...**

### **Prayer of Commendation**

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister, Tracey,  
in the sure and certain hope, that together with all who have died  
in Christ, she will rise again with Him.

We give you thanks for the blessings  
which you bestowed upon Tracey in her life:

they are signs to us of your goodness  
and of our fellowship with the saints in  
Christ. Merciful Lord,  
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:  
open the gates of paradise to your  
servant and help us who remain  
to comfort one another with assurances of  
faith, until we all meet in Christ  
and are with you and with our sister  
forever. We ask this through Christ our  
Lord.

**R. Amen.**

In peace let us bring Tracey to her place of  
rest. May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome  
you and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

**Song Quietly, Peacefully (© G.I.A. - Dvorak/True)**

**All sing:** Quietly, peacefully may she rest in you.  
Quietly, peacefully bring her home to you.

