



# **FUNERAL LEADERS TRAINING**

## **MODULE 3**

# REMEMBER THEM



# TABLE PRAYER

- *God of hope. May your eternal light and peace shine on our friends today.*
- *We remember them with us at this table.*
- *May they enjoy the banquet of love prepared for them.*
- *Amen.*

GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST  
OWEN ALSTOTT



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Colour of Vestments
  - ‘The colour of the funeral vestments should respect the grief of the mourners... and express Christian hope in the light of the paschal mystery’. OCF 129
  - Purple?
  - Black?
  - White?

# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Paschal/Easter Candle
  - ‘During the funeral liturgy and also during the vigil service if it is held in the church, the Easter candle may be placed beforehand near the position the coffin will occupy at the conclusion of the procession.’ (OCF 35)



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- ‘Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honour of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death’s domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.’

(Exsultet – Easter Vigil)

# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Holy Water
- 'Holy water reminds the assembly of the saving waters of baptism.'
- In the rite of final commendation the gesture of sprinkling may also signify farewell' OCF 131





# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Incense

'A sign of honour to the body

Sign of community's prayers...  
rising to the throne of God

Sign of farewell' OCF 132



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Incense
  - Fire alarm
  - Can you handle it?
  - Where's the boat
  - Allergies



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Bible
  - Family Bible
  - Open at favourite quote
  - Christians live by the word ...
  - ...Fidelity leads to eternal life (133)



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Cross
  - ‘A cross may be placed on the coffin as a reminder that the Christian is marked by the cross in baptism and through Jesus’ suffering on the cross is brought to the victory of his resurrection.’  
(OCF 38)

# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- The Cross

- In baptism, Joan received the sign of the cross.

May she now share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

(OCF 191)

- Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. (Phil 2:6)

# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Cross
  - Processional – entrance and recessional
  - Baptism link – a tender moment
  - Placed on the coffin if there is none there
  - Handed to family at the meeting/visit
  - Given to sick person during illness



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- Bible
  - Family Bible
  - Open at favourite quote
  - Christians live by the word ...
  - ...Fidelity leads to eternal life (133)



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

- How do you unpack the Christian symbols?
- How do you use words like paschal, thurible, boat?
- How do you open the Word of God for people?
- How do you deal with personal symbols?



**REFLECTION**

**YOU ARE HERE**

**THICH NHAT HANH**

The seeds of negativity are always there, but very positive seeds also exist, such as the seeds of compassion, tolerance, and love. These seeds are all there in the soil. Our practice is to recognise and water the positive seeds. If you recognise the seed of compassion in yourself, you should make sure it is watered several times a day.



# SYMBOLIC GESTURES

- Sprinkling
- Placing of Pall
- Carrying Cross
- Holding Candles
- Chairing
- Ambo-Share
- Rosary Beads





SYMBOLIC GESTURES ?

# PRAYER

O C F (270)

• All say:

Let us pray,  
Lord of all gentleness,  
surround us with your care  
and comfort us in our sorrow  
as we grieve the loss of those  
we remember this evening.

• As you washed them in the waters of baptism  
• and welcome them into the life of heaven,  
• so call us one day  
• to be united with them  
• and share for ever the joy of your kingdom.  
• We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# BLESSINGS

*(TOGETHER WE PRAY-CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)*

There is blessing to be discovered  
in the parting of the ways.

In loss, there is a finding;  
in leaving, there is an arrival;  
in surrender, there is a saving.

And we may find ourselves  
richly hallowed in new relationship  
and ready for a different journey.

PIE JESU  
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

