

Reception of the Body at the Church

Prior to the Reception of the Body at the Church

- The Easter Candle should be placed near the position the coffin will occupy before the altar. Make sure it is lit.
- Make sure that the heat, lights and microphones have all been switched on.
- Have a table with the holy water near the door of the church.
- If there is a choir or musicians present, know what and when they will be singing. Instrumental music is appropriate for the procession of the coffin to the altar. The psalm can be sung.
- Ascertain whether the family will be placing the pall and symbols on the coffin or whether it is to be done by the funeral ministers.
- Have the details of the funeral arrangements on a card on the ambo to share at the end of the service.
- The readings are to be found in Volume III pp 819-890 of the Lectionary.

Introductory Rites

At the door

Greeting

Leader of Prayer May the God of hope give you fullness of peace,
and may the Lord of life be always with you.

All And also with you.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

One of the Leader of Prayers sprinkles the coffin with holy water while the other reads the prayer.

Leader of Prayer In the water of baptism N died with Christ
and rose with him in new life.
May she/he now share with him eternal glory.

Entrance Procession

The Leader of Prayer and ministers then precede the coffin and the mourners into the church.

Leader of Prayer Processional Psalm/ Instrumental Music

Placing of the Christian Symbols

At the top of the aisle

In accordance with local custom, the pall is now placed on the coffin. Then the Book of the Gospels and the cross are placed on top of the coffin.

Leader of Prayer In life N. cherished the Gospel of Christ.
May Christ now greet her/him
with these words of eternal life:
Come, blessed of my Father!

In baptism N. received the sign of the cross.
May she/he now share in Christ's victory
over sin and death.

Invitation to Prayer

Leader of 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

Leader of Prayer Lord, in our grief we turn to you.
Are you not the God of love
who opens your ears to all?

Listen to our prayers for your servant N.,
whom you have called out of this world:
lead her/him to your kingdom of light and peace
and count her/him among the saints in glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word

At the ambo

The Leader of Prayer proclaims the first reading and the responsorial psalm, followed by the proclamation of the Gospel by the Leader of Prayer.

Prayer of Intercession

Leader of Prayer Let us turn to Christ Jesus
with confidence and faith
in the power of his cross and resurrection:

Risen Lord, pattern of our lives for ever:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader of Prayer Promise and image of what we shall be:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader of Prayer Son of God who came to destroy sin and death:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader of Prayer Word of God who delivered us
from the fear of death: Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader of Prayer Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader of Prayer Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd
who brings rest to our souls,
give peace to N. for ever: Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader of Prayer Lord Jesus,
you bless those who mourn and are in pain.
Bless N.'s family and friends
who gather around her/him today:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader of Prayer With God
there is mercy and fullness of redemption;
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All **Our Father, who are in heaven.....**

Concluding Prayer

Leader of Prayer Lord God,
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness,
certainty in our doubt,
and courage to live through this hour.
Make our faith strong
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Concluding Rite

Announcements about the funeral arrangements, availability of confession etc are now made followed by praying a decade of the Rosary for the deceased.

Leader of Prayer Eternal rest grant unto her/him, O Lord.

All **And let perpetual light shine upon her/him.**

Leader of Prayer May she/he rest in peace.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

After the prayer is over, the Leader of Prayer and ministers sympathise with the bereaved.