



# planning a funeral at prince of peace

## A Word of Welcome

You have received this booklet because you are planning ahead for your own funeral or because you are responsible for planning the funeral of a loved one. Please accept the condolences on the part of the clergy and staff of Prince of Peace for the loss of your loved one, and be assured of the prayers of our parish family for your dearly departed as well as for you and your family and friends. Here at Prince of Peace, we believe that it is a *Corporal Work of Mercy* to bury the dead with honour, dignity and devotion. Every 2 November we celebrate a Solemn High Mass on All Souls' Day for the repose of the souls of every person who has been buried from our church in the past year. We also have a Wall of Remembrance during the month of November where people can pin up pictures of those they have lost. We hope that our parish family may be a source of support for you as you plan this funeral.

## The Catholic Way of Death

In the preface for the Funeral Mass, the priest prays, "For your faithful people, LORD, life is changed, not ended." Every man and woman is created in the image and likeness of God and every human life is sacred and willed by God. The moment when we pass from death to the afterlife is a great mystery, and the Church surrounds her children in that moment with hope and love.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the LORD. He who believes in me, though he die, shall live." John 11.25. Every Sunday in the Creed the Church sings, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." We have faith that we shall rise with

Him on the last Day, and that at the end of your earthly life we shall each appear before Christ, the Merciful and Just Judge, who will judge us according to our merits. Because on this Earth, none can know what that decree will be, to eternal life or eternal death, we surround the dead with our prayers.

The central act with which the Church surrounds the dead and their families is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. ☐He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day☐☐John 6.54☐ Because the Eucharist is seen as the font of immortality, the Church celebrates Mass for the living and the dead. The central rite which accompanies the dead is the Funeral Mass. It is not a celebration of the life of the dead, or a moment to comfort those left behind. It is a powerful encounter with the Mystery of Christ☐ triumph over death by His Resurrection through prayer and the sacraments.

## Preparing for Death

A medieval chant sang, ☐In the midst of life we are in death.☐ We do not know when our last moment shall be, and so every moment should be spent in view of eternity with God. We should endeavor to avoid sin, do good, and live faithful to Christ and His Church at every moment. That is the best way we can prepare for death and for our entry into eternal friendship with God.

If we know that our death or that of someone we love may be approaching, it is important that we notify our local Catholic parish to pray. **As soon as possible**, the priest should be called for to celebrate what are traditionally called *Last Rites*. The Last Rites consist of

several things, actually. If the person is conscious, the person should go to *Confession* and receive God's pardon and peace. If the person is not conscious, the priest or those who are attending should encourage the dying to pray for the grace of repentance for sin and a happy death. It is appropriate for Act of Contrition to be prayed. If a priest is present he will pronounce *Absolution* from sins over the dying person and also impart the *Apostolic Pardon* with its accompanying indulgence for the dying. The priest then celebrates the sacrament of the *Anointing of the Sick* in which the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing for the sick. [The Anointing of the Sick is not reserved for the dying, but can be celebrated for anyone who is gravely ill, of advanced age, or about to go into serious surgery.] The next part of the Last Rites is *Viaticum*, or food for the journey, which is when the dying person, if able, receives for the last time Holy Communion. As death approaches, the priest or any lay people present may pray the *Prayers for the Dying*. Because the sacraments are for the living, the Last Rites cannot be administered to those who have already passed away. That is why it is important to call for the priest as soon as possible. If the person has already passed away, a *Blessing* may be imparted for the dead person by a priest or deacon. The Last Rites should never be deferred for any reason, but arranged for as soon as possible. The clergy are scarce and incredibly busy, which is why they should be contacted immediately.

## **Funeral of Unbaptized Children**

The Church commends the souls of unbaptized children to God. If a child has died without the sacrament of Baptism, there is a special formulary of prayer and burial for that child. The rite may also include prayers of blessing and comfort for the parents and those left behind.

## **Funeral of Baptized Children Under the Age of Reason**

In the case of those children who are baptized, but under the age of reason, [generally calculated to be around the age of 7], the Church traditionally celebrates the Mass of the Angels in white vestments. Because the Church is sure of the child's presence in paradise as a saint, the liturgical celebration of such a funeral is marked by a more joyful character.

## **Funeral of Adults: The Vigil**

After the age of reason, a person is considered an adult for purposes of planning a funeral. There is a tendency today to see a funeral as an incredibly sad occasion which should be gotten over and done with as soon as possible. For Catholics, however, it is a moment of profound prayer and contemplation.

It is traditional that the night before the Funeral Mass, a Vigil be celebrated. The Vigil can be celebrated in the home during a visitation of the family, at the funeral home, or, if there is availability, in the church. We encourage families to have a visitation in the funeral home with a Vigil. The Vigil may take several forms. A deacon may come to the funeral home or church and celebrate the Vigil as contained in the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. A deacon may also come and pray the Holy Rosary with the family. The family may also choose to have a visitation and a Vigil that they organize on their own. We encourage families to spend this time together. It is also appropriate at such a Vigil to have eulogies or speeches.

## Funeral of Adults: The Funeral Mass

The Funeral Mass is celebrated according to the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. A funeral Mass can be celebrated at Prince of Peace Monday through Friday at 10am if the church is available. Unfortunately, because our church is constantly in use and our clergy likewise, other times are not available. The Mass usually lasts about an hour.

There are usually three Scripture readings during a Funeral Mass: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and the Gospel. We encourage you to identify one or two practicing Catholics from the family to serve as Readers for these readings. They should be in church at least 20 minutes before the Mass so that the priest celebrant can show them what to do. While it is permissible to have those who are not practicing Catholics do the readings, we encourage you to choose practicing Catholics, who are more likely to feel comfortable in such a setting.

Music is provided for the Mass by the parish. Please contact Alan Reed, Director of Music, who will assist you in planning the appropriate music for the liturgy. Because the Mass is a Catholic liturgical rite, there is music which is appropriate for such a ceremony. There may also be music which was very dear to your loved one, but it should be used at the Vigil or at the Committal, and should be organized by the family. The Church does not provide for such music. The Mass will require the Parish Organist, or her designate and receives an honorarium in the amount of \$150.00, and a Cantor, usually the Director of Music, or his designate and receives an honorarium in the amount of \$150.00. It is customary but not necessary that the Mortuary handle the honorarium for you as part of

their service. Otherwise, check should be made payable to the parish when the funeral is organized.

There are usually four altar servers for each funeral. It is appropriate to give four white envelopes with \$20 each for the servers as a gift. The priest celebrant of the funeral does not charge for a funeral, although it is also appropriate to give a gift to the priest who celebrates the funeral Mass and/or the deacon who celebrates the Vigil or Committal, as well as to the parish church in which the funeral takes place, although this is not required.

During the Mass, the gifts of bread and wine are presented in the Offertory Procession. Please choose at least two people who can present those gifts. They should arrive at the church at least 20 minutes before Mass so that the priest celebrant may show them what to do.

Families are strongly encouraged to have a Funeral Mass for their loved ones. It should not be omitted. Sometimes, however, there may be serious reasons not to have a Funeral Mass. In that case, the parish may provide a Deacon to celebrate the Rite of Funerals Outside of Mass according to the liturgical books at the funeral home or in another appropriate place. In such an circumstance, the parish does not provide the music, which the family should arrange. If the funeral takes place outside of Mass, the family is encouraged to arrange with the Parish Office to have a Mass said for the deceased as soon as possible.

A printed music program will be generated for the Mass by the Director of Music for use at the Mass with all necessary musical/liturgical resources for the liturgy and contains the music for

the Mass as well as the name and dates of the deceased. You are most welcome to collect them after Mass and take them with you. If any holy cards commemorating the deceased are made, they may be placed on the table in the narthex along with a Guest Book and/or pictures of the deceased.

### **Funeral of Adults: The Committal**

After the Funeral Mass, the body is taken to a cemetery. If the cemetery is in Greenville County, a deacon or priest will go to the cemetery to celebrate the Committal. We encourage families to arrange the Committal for directly after the Funeral Mass, for about 1pm. The deacon or priest will celebrate the Rite of Committal as contained in the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. If the Committal is to take place at another date and time, please arrange with the Parish for the presence of the parish clergy. If the Committal is to take place outside Greenville County, please contact the Catholic parish closest to the place of the Committal to arrange for someone to assist at the Committal.

### **Funeral of Adults: Cremation**

Cremation is permissible for Catholics only if it is not chosen for motives against the faith or as a denial of the doctrine of the Resurrection of the Body. We discourage cremation, as it often encourages a cavalier attitude towards the remains of the dead, which are often not disposed of properly. Cremation should take place after the Funeral Mass, although the Funeral Mass can be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. If the remains are cremated before the Mass, they must be brought to the church by the family or the funeral home staff at least 10 minutes before the Mass. The church



does not keep the cremated remains for any reason. Likewise, after the Mass, the family or the funeral home staff is responsible for the cremated remains, which for no reason may be left behind in the church.

The cremated remains must be treated with the same respect as a body to be buried. It is not permitted for them to be scattered, divided, or made into anything. They should all be gathered in one dignified, waterproof receptacle. The cremated remains should be enclosed in the niche of a columbarium. Please contact the Parish Office for more information about columbaria.

## **Reception**

After the Funeral Mass or the Committal, we encourage the family to have a reception, where the family may spend time together and greet guests. At this reception, eulogies and other speeches may be appropriate. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to consider having a Reception at the parish after the funeral.

## **What must I arrange for a Funeral?**

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to arrange a date and time for the funeral, if possible, and to plan for readings and giftbearers. You will then be able to contact the the Director of Music, Alan Reed, to set an appointment for music/scriptural planning. His direct phone with voice mail is 864.331.3904.

Flowers should be sober and beautiful, and are ordinarily left behind in the church after Mass, except during Lent and Advent, when they are removed after the funeral.

On the day of the funeral Mass, the family should arrange with the funeral home for arrival at the church. Guests should be encouraged to arrive on time to dress appropriately and modestly for a funeral in church. They should also be made aware that Holy Communion should only be received by practicing Roman Catholics and that a reverent silence must be observed in church at all times.

### **How can I have Masses said for my loved ones?**

□It is a wholesome thought to pray for the dead□□ Mac 12.46□  
Catholics often arrange for Mass to be said for their living and deceased loved ones. A pious tradition is to have thirty consecutive Masses celebrated for the deceased, a tradition called *Gregorian Masses*. Please contact the Parish Office for a list of missionary religious communities which accept intentions for Gregorian Masses. You may also wish to have Masses celebrated here at Prince of Peace. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange dates for these Masses. The intentions for the Masses for the upcoming week are published in the parish bulletin every Sunday. The parish retains the right to change the date and time of the intentions, but seeks to keep the intention as much as possible on the date and time arranged. It is customary to leave behind a cash free will offering for the priest celebrant of the Mass as a stipend in a white envelope. The customary donation for such a Mass is suggested as \$10, but is not in any way required, and more or less is also gratefully welcome.



But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the LORD, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the LORD shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the LORD himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the LORD in the air: and so shall we ever be with the LORD.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

*1 Thessalonians 4.13-18*

## Contacts

Emergency Medical Line

☐ *to call for Last Rites in emergency situation* ☐

866.456.2956

Revd Fr Christopher Smith, Parish Priest

864.268.4352

Deacon Robert Smith

864.908.7047

Evan Simington, Pastoral Associate

864.331.3903

Parish Office

☐ *for non-emergency anointings* ☐

864.268.4352

Mr Alan Reed, Director of Music

864.331.3904

## **The Funeral Liturgy**

On the following pages are the reading selections for the Funeral Mass. Please choose one Old Testament Reading, one New Testament Reading and one Responsorial Psalm and note your choices below.

### **Our Scripture Selections are:**

Old Testament Reading:

New Testament Reading:

Responsorial Psalm:

Notes:



## Old Testament Readings:

**Job 19:1,23-27a**

*I know my Redeemer lives.*

Then Job answered and said,

☐ Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record!

that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!

but as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

and that he will at stand forth upon the dust;

and from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.☐

The Word of the LORD.

**Isaiah 25:6a,7-9**

*The LORD God will destroy death forever.*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples.

A feast of rich food and choice wines,

juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples.

The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The LORD God will wipe away the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

☐ Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!☐

The Word of the LORD.

## **Daniel 12:1-3**

### *The Resurrection of the Dead*

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this Word of the LORD:  
At that time there shall arise  
Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people;  
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since nations began until that time.  
At that time your people shall escape,  
everyone who is found written in the book.  
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;  
Some shall live forever,  
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.  
But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament,  
And those who lead to the many to justice shall be like the stars  
forever.

The Word of the LORD.

## **Wisdom 3:1-9**

### *He accepted them as a holocaust.*

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought to be an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are at peace.  
For if before men, indeed, they seem to be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a Little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.  
As gold in the furnace, God has proved them,

and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
And shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the LORD shall be their King forever.  
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love.  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.  
The Word of the LORD.

**Wisdom 4:7-15**

*A blameless life is a ripe old age.*

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is hoary crown for men,  
And an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;

he who lived among sinners was transported-  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul.

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
And the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a  
long career;

For his soul was pleasing to the LORD,

Therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,

Nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the LORD.



## **New Testament Readings:**

### **Romans 5:5-11**

*We will be saved through Jesus.*

Brothers and Sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that, while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our LORD Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the LORD.

### **Romans 8:14-23**

*We wait for the redemption of our bodies.*

Brothers and Sisters:

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, □Abba, Father!□ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing

compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the LORD.

**Romans 8:31 □39**

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Brothers and Sisters:

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him. Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written, □For your sake, we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.□No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our LORD.

The Word of the LORD.

**Romans 14:7** □12

*Whether alive or dead we belong to the LORD.*

Brothers and Sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the LORD, and if we die, we die for the LORD; so then, whether we live or die, we are the LORD's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be LORD of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: **As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.** So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the LORD.

**1 Corinthians 15:20** □23

*All will be brought to life in Christ.*

Brothers and Sisters:

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the LORD.

## I Corinthians 15:51 □57

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Brothers and Sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and this which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: □Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? □The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ.

The Word of the LORD.

## II Corinthians 5:1, 6 □10

*We have an everlasting home in heaven.*

Brothers and Sisters:

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in the heaven. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the LORD, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet, we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the LORD. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the LORD.

**Philippians 3:20 □21**

*Jesus will transfigure our bodies.*

Brothers and Sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the LORD Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the LORD.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 □18**

*We shall stay with the LORD forever.*

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so, too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the LORD, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the LORD, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the LORD himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. Thus we shall always be with the LORD. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the LORD.

1 John 3:1 ☐2

*We shall see God as He really is.*

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the LORD.



## Responsorial Psalms

Responsorial psalms are sung at each Funeral Mass between the first and second readings. Please choose one  from the list below. The psalm verses are sung by the cantor with the response by the congregation as indicated.

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

Response: The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

Response: To you, O LORD, I lift my soul.

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

Response: The LORD is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O LORD my God.

Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

Response: The LORD is kind and merciful.

Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16

Response: I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

## Music Selections

At Funeral Masses there is no Opening Hymnrather the Church prescribes the chanting of the following Introit.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Te decet hymnus Deus in Zion,  
et tibi redetur

votum in Jersalem:

exaudi orationem meam,  
ad te omnis caro veniet.

Rest eternal grant to them, O LORD,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

A hymn befits thee, O God, in Zion,  
and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled  
in Jerusalem

Hear my prayer,  
for unto thee all flesh shall come.

Please select a hymn from each corresponding list for the Offertory Hymn as well as for the Communion Hymn. These two selections will be sung by the congregation.

## Offertory Hymns

Amazing Grace

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

The Strife Is Over

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! outside of Lent

Selection: \_\_\_\_\_



## Communion Hymns

Gift of Finest Wheat  
Jesus, My LORD, My God, My All  
O LORD, I Am Not Worthy  
What Wondrous Love Is This  
Soul of My Savior

Selection: \_\_\_\_\_

*An optional Communion Meditation may be selected from the following to be sung by the cantor at the conclusion of Communion*

**Communion Meditation**  optional

Ave Maria

Ave Verum Corpus

Panis Angelicus

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Selection: \_\_\_\_\_