

# Catholic Funeral Rite at a Crematorium

*The prayers in this leaflet are a selected from various authorised sources. The priest or minister may select alternative texts. Please join in with the responses in bold type.*

## Entrance

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. He who believes in me, even though he has died will live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

*As the coffin is carried into the chapel, the priest may say quietly:*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel...

## Invitation

My brothers and sister, we have offered the holy sacrifice of the Mass for N. and commended him/her to the loving mercy of our Father. As we gather now to commit his/her body to be cremated, let us pray for the happy repose of his soul and take heart from our Christian hope in the resurrection. As Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, we too are called to follow him through death to the glory where God will be all in all.

*Come you whom my Father has blessed. says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First reading

A reading from the first letter of St John  
Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon 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.

This is the word of the Lord

### Thanks be to God

### Psalm

*Please join in the response after each verse.*

### **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.

### **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul**

Relieve the anguish of my heart  
and set me free from my distress.  
See my affliction and toil  
and take all my sins away.

### **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul**

Preserve my life and rescue me.  
Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.  
May innocence and uprightness protect  
me:  
for my hope is in you, O Lord.

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul**

*Please stand for the gospel*

### **Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the resurrection  
and the life, says the Lord, whoever  
believes in me will never die. Alleluia!**

### **Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the holy gospel according  
to John

Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been  
here, my brother would not have died, but  
I know that, even now, whatever you ask  
of God, he will grant you'. 'Your  
brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise  
again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise  
again at the resurrection on the last day'.  
Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the  
life. If anyone believes in me, even  
though he dies he will live, and whoever  
lives and believes in me will never die.  
Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she  
said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the  
Son of God, the one who was to come  
into the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*A brief homily is given after the gospel  
reading.*

*There may follow some intercessions or  
other prayers.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

With longing for the coming of God's  
kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the  
Father.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hal-  
lowed be thy name. Thy kingdom  
come. Thy will be done on earth as it  
is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread, and forgive us our tres-  
passes, as we forgive those who tres-  
pass against us, and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

### **Prayer before committal**

Almighty God and Father of all, you  
have strengthened us with the mystery  
of the cross and signed us with the sac-  
rament of your Son's resurrection.  
Mercifully grant that your servant N.,  
now freed from the toils of this life,  
may be joined with the company of all  
your chosen ones. Grant this through  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Song of Farewell**

*The minister sprinkles the coffin with  
Holy Water as a reminder of our Bap-  
tism which is the pledge of eternal life.*

In paradisum deducant te angeli. In tuo  
adventu suscipiant te martyres et  
perducant te in civitatem sanctam  
Ierusalem. Chorus angelorum te  
suscipiat et cum Lazaro quondam  
paupere aeternam habeas requiem.

(May the angels lead you into paradise. May  
the martyrs welcome your arrival and take  
you into the heavenly city of Jerusalem.  
May the chorus of angels receive you and  
with Lazarus who is now no longer a poor  
man, may you have eternal rest.)

### **Committal**

*During this prayer, the curtains are  
closed.*

Because God has chosen to call our  
brother/sister N. from this life to himself,  
we commit his/her body to be cremated,  
for we are dust and unto dust we shall  
return.

But the Lord Jesus will change our mortal  
bodies to be like his in glory, for he is  
risen, the firstborn from the dead.

So let us commend our brother/sister to  
the Lord, that the Lord may embrace him/  
her in peace and raise up his/her body on  
the last day.

### **Concluding prayer**

Listen, O God to the prayers of your  
Church on behalf of the faithful departed,  
and grant to your servant N., whose fu-  
neral we have celebrated today, the in-  
heritance promised to all your saints.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest give unto him/her, O Lord  
**And let perpetual light shine upon him/  
her.**

May he/she rest in peace. **Amen.**

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

### **Prayer for those present**

Grant, O God that while we lament the  
departure of this your servant, we may  
always remember that we are most cer-  
tainly to follow him/her. Give us the  
grace to prepare for that last hour by a  
good life, that we may not be surprised by  
a sudden and unprovided death but be  
ever watching, that when you call, we  
may enter into eternal glory. Through  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Mary, the most merciful Virgin  
Mother of God, kindest comforter of  
those who mourn, commend to her Son  
the soul of this His servant, that through  
her motherly prayers, he may pass  
through the gates of death and, with her  
as guide, joyfully reach his/her longed for  
home in the heavenly fatherland. Amen.

God, our shelter and our strength, you  
listen in love to the cry of your people:  
hear the prayers we offer for our departed  
brother/sister N. Cleanse him/her and all  
the faithful departed of their sins and  
grant them the fullness of redemption. We  
ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**