

Parish of
Our Mother of Divine Grace
Ballygall



**Preparing for a
Christian Funeral**

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*On behalf of the Parishioners of Ballygall, the Parish Funeral
Ministry Team extends sincere sympathy to you on your bereavement.
We will accompany you through this sad and difficult time
in whatever way we can in preparing the Funeral Liturgy.*

RECEPTION OF THE DECEASED

When the reception of the deceased takes place on the evening before the Funeral Mass the community gathers to pray and support you, the bereaved. The deceased is received by the priest at the entrance to the church and is blessed with holy water. When family and community are gathered the liturgy begins with a greeting and the opening prayer.

Placing of Christian Symbols: Pall, Bible, Crucifix.



The Pall: is a white cloth, which is a symbol of Baptism may be placed on the coffin by family members or friends.



A Bible: is also placed on the coffin to remind us that Christians are called to live by the Word of God.



The Paschal Candle: is lit to remind us that Christ is our light.



Flowers: Family flowers may be placed on a table near the coffin.



Scripture Readings: A reading from Scripture, a psalm and prayers will be read by the priest or a member of the Funeral Ministry Team.



Rosary: A decade of the Rosary will be recited by the priest or by a member of the Funeral Ministry Team.



THE FUNERAL MASS

The priest and a member of the Parish Funeral Team will discuss the funeral Mass with the designated member/members of the family.

Readings: The family/friends are invited to choose Readings from the Funeral Booklet which will be given to them. The reading(s) are chosen from the Old/New Testament. The Responsorial Psalm comes after the First Reading and is usually sung. A member of the Funeral Ministry Team will be available to help organise the liturgy.

Homily: A homily will be given by the priest.

Prayer of the Faithful: The family can choose/compose suitable prayers. There are samples at back of Funeral Booklet.

Music and Song: The Musical Director will advise the family regarding liturgical music and song.

Memorabilia: A photograph and appropriate memorabilia may be placed on a small table close to the coffin.

Offertory Procession: The Bread and Wine are brought forward to the altar by members of the family.

The Pall: is removed from the coffin by funeral team members at the end of Mass

Prayer of Final Commendation: When the prayers of Final Commendation conclude and while a recessional hymn is being sung the family escort the deceased from the Church to his/her place of rest.



THE FUNERAL MASS

Outline of the Rite

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession and Song

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy Of The Eucharist

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Silence

Song of Farewell

Prayer of Commendation

— OLD TESTAMENT READINGS —

Reading 1

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us,
like annihilation; but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as people see it,
their hope was rich with immortality; slight was
their affliction, great will their blessing be.

God has put them to the test and proved them worthy
to be with Him. He has tested them like gold in
a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for His visitation they will shine out;
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.
They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,
and the Lord will be their king for ever.

Those who trust in Him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with Him in love;
for grace and mercy await those He has chosen.

The word of the Lord.

Reading 2

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The virtuous persons, though they die before their time,
will find rest.

Length of days is not what makes age honourable
nor numbers of years the true measure of life:
understanding, this is a person's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.
They have sought to please God, so God has loved them;
as they were living among sinners, they have been taken up.

Coming to perfection in so short a while, they achieved long life,
their souls being pleasing to the Lord,
He has taken them quickly from the wickedness around them.

Yet people look on uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord, and protection,
His holy ones.

The word of the Lord

Reading 3

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:

A time for giving birth, and a time for dying;
A time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted;
A time for killing, a time for healing;
A time for knocking down, a time for building up;
A time for tears, a time for laughter;
A time for mourning, a time for dancing;
A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up;
A time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing;
A time for searching, a time for losing;
A time for keeping, a time for throwing away;
A time for tearing, a time for sewing;
A time for keeping silent, a time for speaking;
A time for loving, a time for hating;
A time for war, and a time for peace.

What does a person gain for the efforts that they make?
I contemplate the task that God gives His people to labour at.
All that He does is apt for its time; but though He has permitted
His people to consider time in its wholeness, a person cannot
comprehend the work of God from beginning to end.

The word of the Lord.

Reading 4

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare
for all peoples a banquet of rich foods.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil
covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping
all nations, he will destroy Death forever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
He will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said; see, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation:
The Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

Reading 5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,
a day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all those who mourn and give them
for ashes, a garland;
for mourning robe, the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.

The word of the Lord.

Reading 6

A reading from the prophet Micah

With what gift shall I come into the Lord's presence
and bow down before God on high?

What is good has been explained to you already.
This is what the Lord asks of you:
only this, to act justly, to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God.

The word of the Lord.

In the Easter Season, from the Acts of the Apostles/ Book of the Apocalypse.

Reading 7

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me; “Write down: 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”.

The word of the Lord

Reading 8

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

‘The truth I have now come to realise,’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him. ‘It is true, God sent His word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is the Lord of all men and women, and He has ordered us to proclaim this to His people and to tell them that God has appointed Him to judge everyone alive or dead. It is to Him that all the prophets bear this witness; that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through His name.’

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (1)

Response:

The Lord is my light and my help.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R)
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord
to behold His temple. (R)
3. O Lord hear my voice when I call
have mercy and answer.
It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek:
hide not Your face. (R)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord. (R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (2)

Response:

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

1. How gracious is the Lord and just;
our God has compassion,
the Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so He saved me. (R)
2. I trusted even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted',
and when I said in my alarm:
'No man can be trusted' (R)
3. O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of His faithful.
Your servant, Lord, Your servant am I.
You have loosened my bonds. (R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (3)

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall want**

1. The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where He gives me repose.
Near restful waters He leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to His name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with Your crook and Your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head You have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing. (R)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (4)

Response:

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

1. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love You have shown from of old.
In Your love remember me,
because of Your goodness, O Lord. (R)
2. Relieve the anguish of my heart
and set me free from my distress.
See my affliction and my toil
and take all my sins away. (R)
3. Preserve my life and rescue me.
Do not disappoint me, You are my refuge.
My innocence and uprightness protect me:
For my hope is in You, O Lord. (R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (5)

Response:

The Lord is Compassion and Love

1. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R)
2. As a father has compassion on his sons and daughters,
the Lord has pity on those who fear Him;
for He knows of what we are made,
He remembers that we are dust. (R)
3. As for man and woman, their days are like grass;
they flower like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and they are gone
and their place never sees them again. (R)
4. But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold Him in fear;
His justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep His covenant in truth. (R)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (6)

Response:

For You my soul is thirsting. O Lord, my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for You I long;
for You my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for You
like a dry weary land without water. (R)
2. So I gaze on You in the sanctuary
to see Your strength and Your glory.
For Your love is better than life,
my lips will speak Your praise (R)
3. So I will bless You all my life,
in Your name I shall lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise You with joy. (R)
4. You have been my help;
in the shadow of Your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to You;
Your right hand holds me fast. (R)



NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Reading 1

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in His death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with Him and joined Him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with Him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over Him anymore.

The word of the Lord.

Reading 2

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ, but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to Him.

The word of the Lord.





Reading 3

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

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 loves us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing exists, nothing still to come, nor 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.

The word of the Lord

Reading 4

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before Me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The word of the Lord.





Reading 5

A reading the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The word of the Lord

Reading 6

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence. I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord.

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing Him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord



Reading 7

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people that have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with Him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, and any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died.

At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord Himself will come down from heaven; those who died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts are these you can comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

Reading 8

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will transfigure those wretched bodies of ours into copies of His glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which He can subdue the whole universe.

The word of the Lord



Reading 9

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans:

Think of God's mercy, I ask you, in a way worthy of thoughtful people. Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should and have a profound respect for each other.

Work for the Lord with untiring effort and earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; keep on praying.

If any are in need, share with them. And you should make hospitality your special concern.

The word of the Lord

Reading 10

A reading from the first letter of St. Peter

I have something to tell you elders: I am an elder myself and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

The word of the Lord





Reading 11

A reading from the first letter of St. John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on 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.

The word of the Lord



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

As a guide it is suggested to pick one prayer from each section.

FOR THE DECEASED

1. Let us thank God for having given (name) the gift of life.
We pray that He will now grant him/her the greater gift
of eternal life.
Lord hear us
2. That (name) who began his/her spiritual journey at
Baptism now reach his/her goal in the kingdom of heaven.
Lord hear us
3. (Name) fought the good fight; he/she finished the race;
He/she kept the faith; may he/she now receive from
Christ the crown of eternal glory which He won for
us with His death and resurrection.
Lord hear us
4. (Name) has finally reached the shore of eternity; now that
all his/her earthly tasks are completed, may he/she enjoy
rest from all his/her labours.
Lord hear us
5. (Name) endured much pain and suffering in his/her life,
may he/she now know peace in the presence of the Lord.
Lord hear us
6. As death surprised (name) with its suddenness, may
Christ now surprise him/her with His mercy and kindness.
Lord hear us



FOR THE FAMILY

1. For the sorrowing family, relatives and friends of (name):
that they may find strength and consolation in their faith
and in the love and support of the community.
Lord, hear us.
2. For those who mourn (name) especially his/her family:
that they may find inspiration and comfort in his/her
example.
Lord hear us
3. For those who mourn (name's) death: that they may be
comforted by the knowledge that after all his/her pain,
he/she is now at peace.
Lord hear us
4. That those who grieve for (name) that they may be
comforted by the faith that assures them that he/she
has gone to the Good Shepherd who cares for them.
Lord hear us
5. As we thank God for (name's) contribution in life,
may his/her family now find inspiration and comfort
in his/her example.
Lord hear us



FOR CARERS

1. For all those who cared for (name) in his/her old age: that the Lord may reward them for their kindness and patience.
Lord hear us
2. Let us pray for all who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for (name) during his/her illness.
Lord hear us
3. For the nursing staff/doctors and all the carers in (name hospital) who looked after (name): may they be rewarded for their goodness.
Lord hear us
4. For (name's) neighbours who cared for him/her in her old age: that the Lord may reward them for their kindness and patience.
Lord hear us

FOR GENERAL

1. That we may see Christ as the companion of our lives and allow Him to draw close to us especially in the dark moments of our journey.

Lord hear us

2. That all here present may have their faith in Christ and in His gospel renewed and deepened by their participation in this celebration.

Lord hear us

3. For each of us: that we may draw inspiration from (name's) example and so persevere in goodness.

Lord hear us

4. (Name) touched all our lives, help us to keep alive the values and ideals he/she put before us.

Lord hear us

FOR GENERAL DECEASED

1. For all who departed from this life believing in God:
that they may find light, happiness and peace in
His kingdom.
Lord, hear us
2. For all our departed relatives and friends and for all
who have died in the peace of Christ: that they may
enjoy the fullness of eternal life.
Lord, hear us
3. We pray for all our departed brothers and sisters.
Especially we pray for..... may they be reunited with
(name) in God's Kingdom where there is no more pain
or suffering.
Lord, hear us
4. For all those who have left this world in God's friendship,
especially those who were dear to us.
Lord, hear us

AFTER THE FUNERAL

Month's Mind Mass

The family is invited to a Month's Mind Mass at 6.30 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month. In this Mass we remember all those who have died during the month. A candle is lit in their memory and you are welcome to bring it home and to remember your loved one when you light it.

November Remembrance Mass

Every November we have a special Mass of Remembrance for all our loved ones who have died during the previous year. You will receive an invitation to join us at this Mass to remember and pray for your deceased loved one.





***Blessed are they
who die in the Lord***