



# **Planning a Catholic Funeral for a Loved One.**

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*I hope that you find this booklet easy to use. After several years of helping families in their moments of grief I sat down to put together this booklet in order to help families choose what they felt was appropriate for their loved one's funeral.*

*The easiest way to use this booklet is to mark the readings, psalms, bidding prayers and hymns that you feel speak most about your loved one. Then, when you have done this, choose the planning sheet which best suits your desires. You have three choices of Service.*

*\* A Service in Church (approx 35 mins)  
followed by Cremation or Burial*

*\* A Service at the Crematorium  
( approx 30 mins) followed by Cremation*

*\* A Requiem Mass in Church, (approx 1 hr)  
followed by Cremation or Burial.*

*By following the instructions in each particular section you will be able to quickly decide what is appropriate for your families needs.*

*When the Priest comes to visit you and your family to go through the funeral, have this booklet ready as a way of helping the Priest and your family make final arrangements for the funeral.*

*If you do find, however, that you need a little more help, don't panic as I am just a phone call away.*

*Fr. Simon Broughton.*

**At the Funeral I would like the deceased to be called:**

*(name)* \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a Poem to be read at the Funeral:

Poem Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Poem Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep a print out or photocopy of the poem with this booklet.



# OLD TESTAMENT READING

## Old Testament Readings

Choose **ONE** of the following Old Testament readings.

 **1. A reading from the book of Job 19:1. 23–27**

*This I know: that my Avenger lives.*

Job said: ‘Ah, would that these words of mine were written down, inscribed on some monument with iron chisel and engraving tool, cut into the rock for ever. This I know: that my Avenger lives, and he, the last, will take his stand on earth. After my awaking, he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God. He whom I shall see will take my part: these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.’

 **2. A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1–9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

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 men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings 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. They 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.

 **3. A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7–15**

*Untarnished life, this is ripe old age.*

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is man’s grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age. He has sought to please God, so God has loved him; as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up. He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or treachery seduce his soul; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart. Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life; his soul being pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him. 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.



**4. A reading from the prophet Isaiah. 25:6–9**

*The Lord will destroy Death for ever.*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. 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.



**5. A reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17–26**

*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.*

My soul is shut out from peace; I have forgotten happiness. And now I say, 'My strength is gone, that hope which came from the Lord'. Brooding on my anguish and affliction is gall and wormwood. My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me. This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope: the favours of the Lord are not all past, his kindnesses are not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; great is his faithfulness. 'My portion is the Lord' says my

soul 'and so I will hope in him.' The lord is good to those who trust him, to the soul that searches for him. It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.



**6. A reading from the prophet Daniel 12:1–3**

*Those who lie sleeping in the dust will awake.*

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord: 'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'



**7. A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12:43–45**

*A fine and noble action, in which he took account of the resurrection.*

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent

it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

**The most chosen Old Testament reading is:**

**8. A reading for the book of Ecclesiastes.**

*A time and a season.*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; A time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to seek, and a time to lose; A time to keep, and a time to throw away; A time to tear, and a time to sew; A time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time for war, and a time for peace. God has made everything suitable for its time.

# THE PSALMS

## The Psalms.

Choose **ONE** of the following Psalms.

If you feel that the psalms aren't appropriate, you may have a favourite psalm that is not listed here. Don't panic! You're very welcome to use your favourite psalm, - just remember to jot down the psalm number and first line on the planning sheet for the Priest to find it!

**You may want to sing a Psalm.** These can be found on the list of Hymns on page 12 of this booklet. I'm sure you'll find a familiar hymn you loved to sing at Church.



### 9. Psalm 23

*R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me  
repose; beside restful waters he  
leads me; he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his  
name's sake. Even though I walk in  
the dark valley I fear no evil; for you  
are at my side with your rod and  
your staff that give me courage.

You spread the table before me in  
the sight of my foes; you anoint my  
head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow  
me all the days of my life; and I shall  
dwell in the house of the LORD for  
years to come.



### 10. Psalm 25

*R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to  
you I lift my soul.*

Remember that your compassion,  
O LORD; and your love are from  
of old. In your kindness remember  
me, because of your goodness, O  
LORD.

Relieve the troubles of my heart,  
and bring me out of my distress.  
Put an end to my affliction and my  
suffering; and take away all my  
sins.

Preserve my life, and rescue me;  
let me not be put to shame, for I  
take refuge in you, Let integrity and  
uprightness preserve me, because I  
wait for you, O LORD. R/.



### 11. Psalm 27

*R/. The Lord is my light and my  
salvation.*

The LORD is my light and my  
salvation; whom should I fear? The  
LORD is my life's refuge; of whom  
should I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the LORD; this  
I seek: to dwell in the house of the  
LORD all the days of my life, that I  
may gaze on the loveliness of the  
LORD and contemplate his temple.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my  
call; have pity on me and answer  
me. Your presence, O LORD, I  
seek! Hide not your face from me.

I believe that I shall see the bounty  
of the LORD in the land of the  
living. Wait for the LORD with  
courage; be stouthearted and wait  
for the LORD!



## 12. Psalm 63

*R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.*

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.



## 13. Psalm 103

*R/. The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful.*

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

As father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust..

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity toward those who fear him, And his justice toward children's children among those who keep his covenant and remember to fulfil his precepts.



## 14. Psalm 116

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

How gracious is the Lord, and just; Our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me.

I trusted, even when I said: "I am sorely afflicted," And when I said in my alarm: "No man can be trusted."

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.



## 15. Psalm 130

*R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord.

For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

**The most chosen Psalm is:**

**9. Psalm 23**

**If you would prefer to sing the Psalm  
here are a few suggestions for you to consider.**

- Abide With Me
- As the deer pants for the water
- Come back to me with all your heart
- Give me a new Heart
- God is love; his the care
- God of mercy and compassion
- Guide me O, thou great redeemer
- I know that my redeemer lives
- I the lord of sea and sky
- Lord make me a means of your peace
- Make me a channel of your peace
- O let all who thirst
- O Lord my God, when I in awesome...
- O the love of my Lord is the essence
- The day, thou gavest, Lord, is ended
- The King of Love my shepherd is
- The Lord's my Shepherd
- The love we have for you, my Lord
- Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
- Walk with me, O my Lord
- You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

## New Testament Readings

Choose **ONE** of the following New Testament readings from this section.



### 16. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34–43

*God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead.*

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 Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be

seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses—we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead—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.’



### 17. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34–36. 42–43

*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive or dead.*

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 Lord of all men, 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.’



**18. A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 14:13**

*Happy are those who die In the Lord!*

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 for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.’



**19. A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 20:11–21:1**

*The dead were judged according to what they had done in their lives.*

I, John, saw a great white throne and the One who was sitting on it. In his presence, earth and sky vanished, leaving no trace. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of his throne, while the book of life was opened, and other books opened which were the record of what they had done in their lives, by which the dead were judged.

The sea gave up all the dead who were in it; Death and Hades were emptied of the dead that were in them; and every one was judged according to the way in which he had lived. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the burning lake. This burning lake is the second death; and anybody whose name could not be found written in the book of life was thrown into the burning lake. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea.



**20. A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 21:1–7**

*There will be no more death.*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’ Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new,’ he said. ‘I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he a son to me.’



**21. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:5–11**

*Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger?*

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed

moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man — though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die — but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

 **22. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:17–21**

*However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater.*

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When law came, it was to multiply the opportunities

of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

 **23. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3–9**

*Let us live a new life.*

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. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

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 any more.

 **24. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3–4.8–9**

*Let us live a new life.*

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 any more.

 **25. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:14–23**

*We wait for our bodies to be set free.*

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a Son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving

birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

**The most chosen Second Reading is:**

 **26. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31–35. 37–39**

*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us — he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore 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 loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not 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.



**27. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7-12**

*Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

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.



**28. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-28**

*All men will be brought to life in Christ.*

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 men die in Adam, so all men 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. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father. For he must be king

until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. — Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.



**29. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23**

*All men will be brought to life in Christ.*

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 men die in Adam, so all men 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.



**30. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be

instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of flesh is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

 **31. A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 4:14–5:1**

*Visible things last only for a time, but the invisible are eternal.*

We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes the troubles which are

soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal. For we know that when the tent that 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.

 **32. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13–18**

*We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who 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, that 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 have 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 for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

 **33. A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:1. 6–10**

*We have an everlasting home in heavens.*

We know that when the tent that 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 law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

 **34. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:20–21**

*He will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.*

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 these 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.

 **35. A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 2:8–13**

*If we die with him, then we shall live with him.*

Remember the Good News that I carry, ‘Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David’; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal — but they cannot chain up God’s news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

 **36. A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1–2**

*We shall see him as he really is.*

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.

 **37. A reading from the first letter of St John 3:14–16**

*We have passed out of death and into life because we love our brothers.*

We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our brothers. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your brother is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them. This has taught us love — that he gave up his life for us; and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers.

 **38. A reading from the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.**

If I speak in the language of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast,

it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. This is the word of the Lord.

 **39. A reading from the book of Revelation.**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ This is the word of the Lord.



# THE GOSPEL

## Gospel Readings

*Choose **ONE** of the following Gospel readings from this section.*

 **40. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1–12**

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: ‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

 **41. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25–30**

*Come to me, and I will give you rest.*

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

 **42. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1–13**

*The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this; Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas

the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.

The bridegroom was late and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry. "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out". But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves".

They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you". So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.



**43. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31–46**

*Come, you whom my Father has blessed.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will

separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?"

And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison

and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’



**44. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 15:33–39;16:1–6**

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, My God, why have you deserted me?’ When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling on Elijah.’

Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, ‘Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.’ But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died and he said, ‘In truth this man was a son of God.’ When

the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him.

And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ But when they looked they could see that the stone — which was very big — had already been rolled back.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, ‘There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him.’



**45. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 15:33–39**

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, My God, why have you deserted me?’ When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling on Elijah.’ Someone ran and soaked

a sponge in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'

 **46. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17**

*Young man, I tell you to get up.*

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

 **47. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:35-40**

*Stand ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks.

Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready.

You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

 **48. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 23:33. 39-43**

*Today you will be with me in paradise.*

When the soldiers reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. One of the criminals hanging there abused

him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'



**49. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 23:44-46. 50. 52-53. 24:1-6**

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

It was about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid. On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared.

They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen.'



**50. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 23:44-46 50. 52-53**

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

It was about the sixth hour and with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the temple was torn right down the middle, and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father into your hands I commit my spirit'. With these words he breathed his last.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.



**51. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13–35**

*Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and enter into his glory?*

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

He said to them, ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth,’ they answered, ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened: and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to

the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.’ Then he said to them, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’

Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening,’ they said, ‘and the day is almost over.’

So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven assembled

together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



**52. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13–16. 28–35**

Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened.

Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the

road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



**53. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 5:24–29**

*Whoever listens to my words and believes has passed from death to life.*

Jesus said to the Jews: I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words, and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life; without being brought to judgement he has passed from death to life.

I tell you most solemnly, the hour will come — in fact it is here already — when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and all who hear it will live. For the Father, who is the source of life, has made the Son the source of life; and, because he is the Son of Man, has appointed him supreme judge.

Do not be surprised at this, for the hour is coming when the dead will leave their graves at the sound of his voice; those who did good will rise again to life; and those who

did evil, to condemnation. I can do nothing by myself; I can only judge as I am told to judge, and my judging is just, because my aim is to do not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.'

 **54. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:37-40**

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

Jesus said to the crowd: 'All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me.

Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

 **55. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58**

*Anyone who eats this bread has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who

eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

 **56. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet

him. Mary remained sitting in the house. 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 this world.'

 **57. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:21–27**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

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 this world.'

 **58. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:32–45**

*Lazarus, come out.*

Mary the sister of Lazarus went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!'

But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

 **59. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:23–28**

*If a wheat grain dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it is for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

 **60. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:23–26**

*If a wheat grain dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.'

 **61. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1–6**

*There are many rooms in my Father's house.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how

can we know the way?’ Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’

 **62. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:24–26**

*I want them to be with me where I am.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: ‘Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.’

 **63. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 19:17–18. 25–30**

*Bowing his head he gave up his spirit.*

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, ‘Woman, this is your son.’ Then to the disciple he said, ‘This is your mother’

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said: ‘I am thirsty’. A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, ‘It is accomplished’; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during sabbath—since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity—the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

This is the evidence of one who

saw it—trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth—and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: Not one bone of his will be broken; and again, in another place scripture says: They will look on the one whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus—though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews - asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well — the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time —and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about a hundred pounds.

## The most chosen Gospel is:



### **61. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1–6**

*There are many rooms in my Father's house.*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’

Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’



# HYMNS

**Hymns** are always a beautiful way of praying a prayer in song with one another.

*Saint Augustine said,  
“He who sings, prays twice.”*

On this page there are a collection of hymns that we sing in our Parish Church. They include many of the old favourites, which are well known. There are also many hymns with a distinct message of hope, peace or love that you may wish to instil in the hearts and minds in the people who join you and your family on the day of the funeral.

**For a service you only need at most 3 hymns**, depending whether or not you have chosen a piece of music from a Cd. It is always best to choose a hymn as people do like to join in rather than sit and listen to a CD track.

**For a Requiem Mass you will need at most 5 hymns**, again, depending whether or not you would want to sing the psalm.

The easiest way is to tick the ones you would like and then following the planning sheet at the back decide which hymn you want to go where. If in doubt or if you get stuck, give me a call - I'm always here to help.

Fr. Simon.

### **Opening Hymn Suggestions**

All the nations of the Earth  
All things bright and Beautiful  
Be thou my vision  
Christ be our light  
Day is done but love unfailing  
Dear Lord and father of Mankind  
Fill my house unto the fullest  
Follow me, follow me  
For all the Saints  
Guide me O, thou great redeemer  
I know that my redeemer lives  
I the lord of sea and sky  
In Christ alone  
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
Lead, kindly light  
Lord for tomorrow and its needs  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
Morning has broken  
O Lord all the world belongs to you  
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
The Church's one foundation is Jesus  
The day, thou gavest, Lord, is ended

### **Psalm Suggestions**

Abide With Me  
As the deer pants for the water  
Come back to me with all your heart  
Give me a new Heart  
God is love; his the care  
God of mercy and compassion  
Guide me O, thou great redeemer  
I know that my redeemer lives  
I the lord of sea and sky  
Lord make me a means of your peace  
Make me a channel of your peace  
O let all who thirst  
O Lord my God, when I in awesome...  
O the love of my Lord is the essence  
The day, thou gavest, Lord, is ended  
The King of Love my shepherd is  
The Lord's my Shepherd  
The love we have for you, my Lord  
Unless a grain of wheat shall fall  
Walk with me, O my Lord  
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

### **Offertory Hymn Suggestions**

Because the Lord is my Shepherd  
Bless the Lord my soul  
Blest are the pure in heart  
Blest be the Lord  
Bread of Life  
Breathe on me Breath of God  
Bring flowers of the rarest  
Father, I place into your hands  
Father, we adore you  
Fill my house unto the fullest  
Follow me, follow me  
From Heaven you came helpless babe  
Gifts of Bread and Wine  
Give me a new Heart  
I the lord of sea and sky  
In bread we bring you Lord.  
Lord accept the gifts we offer  
Lord for tomorrow and its needs  
Lord make me a means of your peace  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Take our bread

### **Communion Hymn Suggestions**

Abide With Me  
As I kneel before you  
Be still and know I am with you  
Be still and know that I am God  
Because the Lord is my Shepherd  
Bind us together, Lord  
Bless the Lord my soul  
Blest are the pure in heart  
Blest be the Lord  
Bread of Life  
Breathe on me Breath of God  
Christ be beside me  
Christ be our light  
Come back to me with all your heart  
Do not be afraid  
Father, we adore you  
From Heaven you came helpless babe  
Give me a new Heart  
God of mercy and compassion  
Guide me O, thou great redeemer  
How lovely on the mountains  
I am the bread of life  
I know that my redeemer lives  
I the lord of sea and sky  
I watch the sunrise

I will be with you  
In Christ alone  
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
Lead, kindly light  
Let all that is within me  
Let there be love shared among us  
Lord accept the gifts we offer  
Lord, I know you are near  
Lord make me a means of your peace  
Make me a channel of your peace  
My God loves me  
O let all who thirst  
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
O Sacred Heart  
O the love of my Lord is the essence  
Soul of my Saviour  
Sweet Heart of Jesus  
Sweet Saviour, bless us er we go  
The King of Love my shepherd is  
The Lord's my Shepherd  
The love we have for you, my Lord  
This is my body  
Unless a grain of wheat shall fall  
Walk with me, O my Lord

### **Final Hymn**

Abide With Me  
All my hope on God is founded  
Be still and know I am with you  
Be still and know that I am God  
Be thou my vision  
Christ be beside me  
Christ be our light  
Day is done but love unfailing  
Dear Lord and father of Mankind  
Do not be afraid  
For all the Saints  
From Heaven you came helpless babe  
God is love; his the care  
God of mercy and compassion  
Guide me o, thou great redeemer  
I know that my redeemer lives  
I the lord of sea and sky  
I watch the sunrise

I will be with you  
In Christ alone  
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
Lead, kindly light  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
My God loves me  
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Praise to the Holiest in the heights  
Sweet Heart of Jesus  
Sweet Saviour, bless us ere we go  
The Church's one foundation is Jesus  
The day, thou gavest, Lord, is ended  
Thine be the Glory  
Walk with me, O my Lord

### **Hymns to Our Lady- to be used as a Final Hymn**

Bring flowers of the rarest  
Hail, Queen of Heaven  
Mary, most holy, from your hands falling  
O Lady, full of God's own grace  
Sing of Mary, pure and lowly

### **Alphabetical List of Hymn Suggestions**

Abide With Me  
All my hope on God is founded  
All the nations of the Earth  
All things bright and Beautiful  
As I kneel before you  
As the deer pants for the water  
Be still and know I am with you  
Be still and know that I am God  
Be thou my vision  
Because the Lord is my Shepherd  
Bind us together, Lord  
Bless the Lord my soul  
Blest are the pure in heart  
Blest be the Lord  
Bread of Life  
Breathe on me Breath of God  
Bring flowers of the rarest  
Christ be beside me

Christ be our light  
Come back to me with all your heart  
Day is done but love unfailing  
Dear Lord and father of Mankind  
Do not be afraid  
Father, I place into your hands  
Father, we adore you  
Fill my house unto the fullest  
Follow me, follow me  
For all the Saints  
From Heaven you came helpless babe  
Gifts of Bread and Wine  
Give me a new Heart  
God is love; his the care  
God of mercy and compassion  
Guide me O, thou great redeemer  
Hail, Queen of Heaven  
How lovely on the mountains  
I am the bread of life  
I know that my redeemer lives  
I the lord of sea and sky  
I watch the sunrise  
I will be with you  
In bread we bring you Lord.  
In Christ alone  
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
Lead, kindly light  
Let all that is within me  
Let there be love shared among us  
Lord accept the gifts we offer  
Lord for tomorrow and its needs  
Lord, I know you are near  
Lord, Jesus, think on me  
Lord make me a means of your peace  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
Love is His word  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Mary, most holy, from your hands falling  
May the Choirs of Angels  
Morning has broken  
My God loves me  
Now thank we all our God  
O God, our help in ages past

O Lady, full of God's own grace  
O let all who thirst  
O Lord all the world belongs to you  
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
O Sacred Heart  
O the love of my Lord is the essence  
Of the fathers love begotten  
On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross  
Peace, perfect peace is the gift from Christ  
Praise to the Holiest in the heights  
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
Sing of Mary, pure and lowly  
Sing to the Mountains  
Soul of my Saviour  
Sweet Heart of Jesus  
Sweet Saviour, bless us er we go  
Take our bread  
The Church's one foundation is Jesus  
The day, thou gavest, Lord, is ended  
The King of Love my shepherd is  
The Lord's my Shepherd  
The love we have for you, my Lord  
Thine be the Glory  
This is my body  
Though the mountains may fall  
To Jesus, heart all burning  
Unless a grain of wheat shall fall  
Vaster far than any ocean  
Walk with me, O my Lord  
We plough the fields and scatter  
What a friend we have in Jesus  
When I survey the wondrous Cross  
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

***These are only suggestions. If you have any further hymns you would like to use write them below and ask the Priest if they are suitable for either, your Funeral Service or Requiem Mass.***



# BIDDING PRAYERS

## Set A: Bidding Prayers

*For a person who was a Hard Worker.*

N. has finally reached the shore of eternity; may she/he now enjoy rest from all her/his labours. Lord hear us.

N. fought the good fight; she/he finished the race; may she/he now receive the crown of eternal glory Christ won for us with his death and resurrection. Lord, hear us.

That the hardships and sufferings she/he endured may, through the mercy of God, gain her/him forgiveness for her/his sins. Lord, hear us.

For those who grieve for her/him; that their sorrow may be changed into joy. Lord, hear us.

For all those who cared for N., [especially the doctors and nurses]; that their kindness and patience may be rewarded. Lord, hear us.

That all who knew N. may draw inspiration from her/his life. Lord, hear us.

Together we join our prayers with Mary, our heavenly mother and say... Hail Mary...

## Set B: Bidding Prayers

*General*

That all who have died rest in God's glory. Lord, hear us.

That the sick and the suffering, the ill and infirm, receive the tender loving care they need. Lord, hear us.

That all who have died, may rest in the peace and glory of Jesus who is our life and resurrection. Lord, hear us.

That our relatives and friends who have gone before us in faith may enjoy unending light and peace. Lord, hear us.

That all who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, may see God face to face. Lord, hear us.

Together we join our prayers with Mary, our heavenly mother and say... Hail Mary...

**Set C :** Bidding Prayers

*For a person who lived a Long Life*

N. lived a long life; may she/he obtain rest from her labours, and the reward of all her/his goodness. Lord in your mercy.

That Christ may pardon her/his failings, and bring her/him to a place of light, happiness and peace. Lord in your mercy.

That Jesus may look with love on those who mourn N. passing. Lord in your mercy.

For those who looked after N.; that their generosity may be rewarded with abundant blessings. Lord in your mercy.

That all of us who have known her/him, and who take part in this celebration of her/his life, may receive an increase of faith and hope. Lord in your mercy.

That all the dead, especially our relatives and friends, may find light, happiness, and peace in the kingdom of heaven. Lord in your mercy.

Together we join our prayers with Mary, our heavenly mother and say... Hail Mary...

**Set D :** Bidding Prayers

*For a person of faith and prayer*

That Our Lord will bless all who have offered sympathy and support to those who mourn (N)'s death. Lord in your mercy.

That those who cared for (N) be blessed for their efforts and their service to others. Lord in your mercy. That all of us here today may renew our appreciation for the gift of life both temporal and eternal. Lord in your mercy.

That all those who helped (N) in his/her final days know how much their generosity and care are appreciated. Lord in your mercy.

That all of us assembled here may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. Lord in your mercy.

Together we join our prayers with Mary, our heavenly mother and say... Hail Mary...

### **Set E : Bidding Prayers**

*For an elderly person of faith*

That (N) may rejoice in the gift of eternal rest and everlasting life. Lord in your mercy.

That (N) may rejoice with the saints around God's throne. Lord in your mercy.

That (N) may be raised up to the new and eternal life of God's glorious kingdom. Lord in your mercy.

That (N) may rest and rejoice in the presence of God's eternal love and glory. Lord in your mercy.

That (N) who, in Baptism, was given the pledge of eternal life now be admitted to the company of saints. Lord in your mercy.

That (N), who, in Baptism, was made a son/daughter of God, may now rest and rejoice in God's kingdom of eternal life and love. Lord in your mercy.

That (N) child of God and heir to the kingdom be held securely in God's loving embrace, now and for all eternity. Lord in your mercy.

Together we join our prayers with Mary, our heavenly mother and say... Hail Mary...

### **Set F : Bidding Prayers**

*For a person with many relatives.*

That the family and friends of (N) be consoled in their grief by the Lord who himself wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. Lord in your mercy.

That the memories of (N) help his/her family and friends to overcome their grief with gratitude for the gift he/she has been to them. Lord in your mercy.

That the family and friends of (N) find rest from their sorrow through their faith in Jesus who conquered death for all of us. Lord in your mercy.

That (N)'s family and friends may feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief. Lord in your mercy.

That the family and friends of (N) are consoled and encouraged during this time of grief by their faith in God's love and mercy. Lord in your mercy.

Together we join our prayers with Mary, our heavenly mother and say... Hail Mary...

# EULOGY

## The Eulogy.

*Below, you will find a series of questions to help you put together the Eulogy of your loved one. The Priest can then use your answers to put together your final Eulogy with the help of your family.*

When was the deceased born?

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Who were their parents?

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Do he/she have any brothers and sisters? If so, list their names in order of eldest first.

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Where did he/she grow up/live? What's their fondest memory from being young?

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When they left school what did he/she do? Did they go to college, university or did they get a job?

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What was their first proper job?

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Did they ever Marry? What can you tell us about their marriage?

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What was their partners name? What can you tell me about him/her?

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Where did they meet each other?

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What was it about each other that caught each others attention?

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Where did they live together?

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How many children did they have? List their names in order of the eldest first.  
What can you tell me about them?

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What jobs did the deceased person do during their life?

Anything that interested them?

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Did they have any hobbies?

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What were they like as a person? What would people say about them?

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Where was their favourite destination to go on holidays? What would be their most memorable holiday and why?

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# CREMATORIUM SERVICE

## For a SERVICE AT THE CREMATORIUM only

### 1. Music on Entrance

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Scripture Reading

*This is chosen from any of the readings (1 to 8 or 16 to 39)*

I have chosen reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

### 3. Psalm

*You are able to sing a hymn or read a psalm (9 to 15)*

I would like to sing the following hymn

hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

*Or you can choose to read a psalm.*

I have chosen Psalm reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

### 3. Gospel Reading

*This is chosen from readings (40 to 63)*

I have chosen reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

The Priest will read this at the service.

**4. Bidding Prayers**

*This is chosen from the set prayers from pages 44-46*

I have chosen set : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**5. Eulogy**

I have prepared the basics of my Eulogy by answering the questions on pages 34 to 39.

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**6. Music on Exit**

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Curtains**

I would like the curtains to be open / closed.

**8. Collection.**

I would like a collection to be taken for

\_\_\_\_\_ only / and / for The Catholic Church Parish Building Fund.

**Please remember us in your loved ones Will by leaving us a legacy to help your Parish Church.**

*With your help and generosity we can ensure that a Catholic Church will be well maintained for future generations in our area.*

I would like a Mass of Remembrance said in honour of my loved one's Memory and for the Peace of their Soul.

I would like to donate £\_\_\_\_. \_\_ for Masses to be said for:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**For a SERVICE IN THE CHURCH without the MASS**  
**followed by CREMATION or BURIAL**

# SERVICE IN CHURCH

**1. Music on Entrance**

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Scripture Reading**

*This is chosen from any of the readings (1 to 8 or 16 to 39)*

I have chosen reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**3. Psalm**

*You are able to sing a hymn or read a psalm (9 to 15)*

I would like to sing the following hymn

hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

*Or you can choose to read a psalm.*

I have chosen Psalm reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**3. Gospel Reading**

*This is chosen from readings (40 to 63)*

I have chosen reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

The Priest will read this at the service.

**4. Bidding Prayers**

*This is chosen from the set prayers from pages 44, 45, and 46*

I have chosen set : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**5. Eulogy**

I have prepared the basics of my Eulogy by answering the questions on pages 34 to 39.

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**6. Music on Exit**

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Collection.**

**I would like a collection to be taken for**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**only/ and/ for The Catholic Church Parish Building Fund.**

**PLEASE CONTINUE FORM ON NEXT PAGE**

**Please remember us in your loved ones Will by leaving us a legacy to help your Parish Church.**

*With your help and generosity we can ensure that a Catholic Church will be well maintained for future generations in our area.*

**I would like a Mass of Remembrance said in honour of my loved one's Memory and for the Peace of their Soul.**

**I would like to donate £ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_ for Masses to be said for:**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

# AFTER SERVICE IN CHURCH

## AFTER A SERVICE IN CHURCH AT THE CREMATORIUM

8. Music on Entrance

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Music on Exit

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Curtains

**I would like the curtains  
to be left open / closed.**

## AFTER A SERVICE IN CHURCH AT THE GRAVESIDE

It is not necessary for you to worry about picking any final words or prayers as there is already a set to follow for a graveside burial.



# REQUIEM MASS IN CHURCH

## For a REQUIEM MASS IN CHURCH

11th 11am Requiem Mass for Agnes.

I would like my Funeral Mass to take place at:

- Saint Joseph's, Loftus.
- Our Lady's, Staithes.**
- Saint Anthony's, Brotton.

**1. Music on Entrance** *Please choose a Hymn*

Music on Entrance: \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Old Testament Reading**

*This is chosen from Old Testament Readings 1 to 8*

I have chosen reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**3. Psalm**

*You are able to sing a **hymn** or read a **psalm***

I would like to sing the following hymn

\_\_\_\_\_

*Or you can choose a psalm to be read.(9 to 15)*

I have chosen Psalm reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**4. New Testament Reading**

*This is chosen from New Testament Readings (16 to 39)*

I have chosen reading number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**5. Gospel Reading**

*This is chosen from the Gospel Readings (40 to 63)*

I have chosen reading number: Many rooms

**6. Bidding Prayers**

*This is chosen from the set prayers from pages 44, 45, and 46.*

I have chosen set : \_Set A

I would like the Priest or

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ to read this.

**7. Music for Offertory**

*Please choose a Hymn*

Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Music at Holy Communion**

*Please choose a Hymn*

Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Eulogy**

- We will prepare the Eulogy as a family
- or. Fr.Simon will help to write the Eulogy.
- A family member/friend will read the Eulogy
- or. Fr Simon will read the Eulogy.

**10. Music on Exit**

*Please choose a Hymn*

Name: Love divine loves excelling.

**11. Collection.**

**I would like a collection to be taken for**

-----  
only/ and/ for The Catholic Church Parish Building Fund.

**PLEASE CONTINUE FORM ON NEXT PAGE**

**Please remember us in your loved ones Will by leaving us a legacy to help your Parish Church.**

*With your help and generosity we can ensure that a Catholic Church will be well maintained for future generations in our area.*

**I would like a Mass of Remembrance said in honour of my loved one's Memory and for the Peace of their Soul.**

**I would like to donate £\_\_\_\_. \_\_ for Masses to be said for:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# AFTER THE REQUIEM MASS

## AFTER A SERVICE IN CHURCH AT THE CREMATORIUM

**12. Music on Entrance**

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Music on Exit**

*Choose either a Hymn or a CD.*

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Cd: \_\_\_\_\_

Cd Track: \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Curtains**

**I would like the curtains  
to be left open.**

## AFTER A SERVICE IN CHURCH AT THE GRAVESIDE

It is not necessary for you to worry about picking any final prayers as there is already a set of prayers prepared for us to use for a graveside burial.

## The Church Stipend

### Only a Service at the Crematorium required

The Church fee for only a Service at the Crematorium. £200.00

### Only a Service at the Church required (not a Mass)

The Church fee for only a Service at the Church followed by a Committal at the Crematorium or at the Graveside. £200.00

If an organist is required in Church £ 60.00

### A Requiem Mass followed by a Committal at the Crematorium or at the Graveside.

Minister's fee for a Requiem Mass followed by a Committal at the Crematorium or at the Graveside. £200.00

If an organist is required in Church Requiem Mass £ 60.00

*All Funeral stipends received are paid into the Parish Funds for the upkeep of our Parish Churches. They are not taken by the Minister.*

*Stipends correct at time of printing, 2020.  
Requested stipends may change in the future.*

CHURCH STIPENDS.

*Please remember your  
Parish Church in your  
Last Will and Testament.*



*For the Parishes of  
Saint Joseph and Saint Cuthbert, Loftus  
Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Staithes  
Saint Anthony of Padua, Brotton*

*Contact: Fr. Simon Broughton  
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32 Staithes Lane,  
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