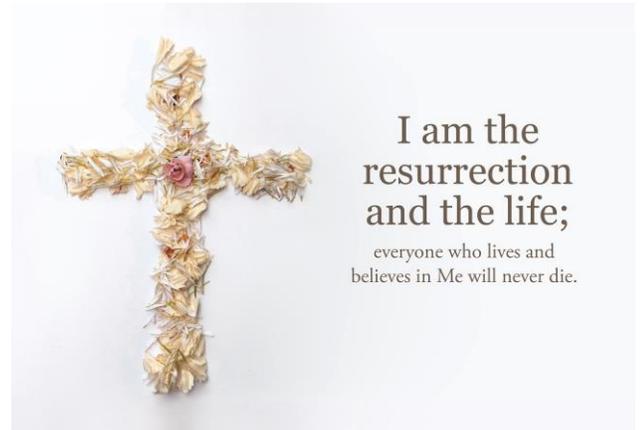


In Sure and Certain Hope Readings and Prayers for a Catholic Funeral



I am the
resurrection
and the life;
everyone who lives and
believes in Me will never die.

Ingham Region Catholic Parishes

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Things to think about in preparing a Catholic funeral

This booklet contains everything you need to know, and to think about, in preparing a Catholic Funeral in Ingham Region Catholic Parishes.

There is information on:

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Booklets and PowerPoint

Booklets

Booklets are optional. Some families choose simply to produce a memorial card. Some families choose not to go to the expense of producing materials that many people discard. In Ingham, booklets are produced professionally by Merv's Stationery (07 4776 3009). The benefit of using professional printers is reflected in the quality of the final product. They will discuss with you colours, card stock and photo selections. The text for the funeral proper is produced by the parish and then emailed to your printer.

PowerPoint

For all funerals, we produce a PowerPoint to assist the congregation to participate. If you are not producing a booklet through a local printer, please send a suitable photo to parishoffice@inghamcatholic.com

Preparing a slideshow

The practice in our parishes is to play slideshows, on loop, prior to the beginning of the funeral. We ask the family to provide us with a PowerPoint presentation which we then convert into a video and embed in our order of service. For copyright reasons, this cannot be accompanied by music. Please send a copy of the PowerPoint to the office by midday of the day before your funeral. PowerPoints are to be produced in widescreen / 16:9 dimensions.

Livestreaming the funeral

We are happy to assist with livestreaming funerals within St Patrick's Church so that those who are unable to attend in person can join the family live or at a later time. Unfortunately, we are unable to livestream from St Peter's Church or from the cemetery. There is no cost for this service.

The funeral is streamed to facebook.com/inghammass and youtube.com/@inghammass. This stream is also viewable at inghamcatholic.com/mass-live.

We can make no guarantees about livestreaming – technical problems can occur which are beyond our control.

Costs

A contribution to the upkeep of our churches and towards secretarial costs is included in the account you receive from Ingham Funeral Services.

Organists and singers request a stipend of \$75 each. This money may be given to the office before or after the funeral. The office will pass the contribution onto the musician/s.

Many families make a free-will offering to the priest after the funeral. This is voluntary and may be left at the parish office.

Choosing Readings and Prayers

Whether we are celebrating a Requiem Mass or the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass, you have a choice of either:

First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel Acclamation, Gospel;

OR

Reading, Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Gospel.

If you choose the first option, the First Reading must come from the Old Testament and the Second Reading must come from the New Testament. If you choose the latter option, the Reading may be chosen from either the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Suggested readings and prayers can be found on the pages that follow. Do not be afraid to suggest a scripture reading that is not included in the following pages.

At no time can the Word of God be replaced with a poem or other text.

First Reading (Old Testament Reading)

OT1 Book of Wisdom (3:1-6, 9)

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.

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.

OT2 The prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

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 God 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.

OT3 The prophet Isaiah (49:13-16)

Shout for joy, heavens; exult, you earth! You mountains, break into happy cries!

For the Lord consoles his people and takes pity on those who are afflicted.

For Zion was saying, 'the Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me'.

Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb?

Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

See I have carved you on the palm of my hands.

OT4 Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

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

A time for giving birth, 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.

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, a time for peace.

What does a man gain for the efforts that he makes? I contemplate the task that God gives mankind to labour at. All that he does is apt for its time; but though he has permitted man to consider time in its wholeness, man cannot comprehend the work of God from beginning to end.

OT5 Book of the Apocalypse (14:13)

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.'

Psalms (may also be sung)

Psalm 23

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

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./

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./

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./

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./

Psalm 24

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

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. R./

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./

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

Psalm 26

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

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./

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./

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./

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./

Psalm 102

R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.

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./

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust. R./

As for man, his days are like grass; he flowers like the flower of the field
the wind blows and he is gone and his place never sees him again. R./

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./

Second Reading (New Testament)

NT1 St Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

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. This is also why you should never pass judgement on a brother or treat him with contempt, as some of you have done. 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.

NT2 Second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

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 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.

NT3 St Paul to the Philippians (3:20-21)

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.

NT4 First letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

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. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

NT5 Second letter of St Paul to Timothy (4:6-8)

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

NT6 First letter of St John (3:1-2)

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Option 1: Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord;
inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.
Alleluia!

Option 2: Alleluia, alleluia!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

Option 3: Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
that all who believe in the Son have eternal life,
and I will raise them up to life again on the last day. Alleluia!

Option 4: Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Alleluia!

Option 5: Alleluia, alleluia!
Our true home is in heaven,
and Jesus Christ, whose return we long for,
will come from heaven to save us. Alleluia!

Gospel

G1 Matthew (5:1-12)

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.’

G2 Matthew (11:25-30)

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.'

G3 Matthew (25:31-46)

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.'

G4 Luke (12:35-40)

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.'

G5 John (14:1-6)

Jesus said to the 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.'

Prayers of the Faithful

The prayers of the faithful normally include one or two prayers for the deceased, one for deceased family members and all the faithful departed, one for the grieving family, one for all gathered for the funeral rite, and one for special needs.

Prayers for the Deceased:

1. For N., who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints. Lord, hear us.
2. For N., who in baptism received the light of Christ, that he/she may now be led over the waters of death. Lord, hear us.
3. For N., who was nourished at the table of the Lord, that he/she may be welcomed into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord, hear us.
4. For N., who prayed as a member of this parish community, that he/she may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom. Lord, hear us.
5. For N., who loved much in life, that he/she may now dwell safe in the loving embrace of God. Lord, hear us.
6. For N., that God may call him/her to happiness, light and peace in the company of all the saints. Lord, hear us.

Prayers for all the faithful departed:

If you wish to include the names of other deceased family members in this prayer of the faithful, please indicate their names on the selection sheet.

7. That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed. (We remember especially...) Lord, hear us.
8. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. (We remember especially...) Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Lord, hear us.
9. For our departed relatives and friends (especially...), that freed from every shadow of death, they may take their place in the new creation. Lord, hear us.
10. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. (We remember especially...) Lord, hear us.

Prayers for those who mourn:

*If you wish to include the names of family members in this prayer of the faithful,
please indicate their names on the selection sheet.*

11. For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., (especially...), that they be comforted in their sorrow and that the Lord fill the emptiness of their hearts with the love of his presence. Lord, hear us.
12. N.'s family and friends seek comfort and consolation (especially...). Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, hear us.
13. For all the members of N.'s family, (especially...), that they find consolation and peace, healing for their pain, and strength in their faith. Lord, hear us.
14. For those who mourn for N. (especially...): that they may be comforted by the hope that he/she has gone to his/her everlasting home. Lord, hear us.
15. For all who mourn for N. (especially...): that they may be assured of Christ's closeness to them in their sorrow and find strength and comfort through their faith. Lord, hear us.

Prayers for all who are gathered:

16. That all of us here present may one day enjoy eternal life in the company of N. and all the saints. Lord, hear us.
17. That we who gather here today may stand ready to comfort all who suffer grief and loss. Lord, hear us.
18. For ourselves: that we may continue our earthly journey, steadfast in faith and joyful in hope. Lord, hear us.
19. For ourselves: that in the midst of the trials and uncertainties of life, our trust in God may remain firm. Lord, hear us.

Prayers for Special Needs:

*You may desire a special prayer for (as examples):
an organization important to the deceased;
an agency that has assisted your loved one;
those who are suffering or sick;
those unable to be present;
peace on earth and an end to war.*

Music Guidelines

When it comes to music for the funeral, there are 4 basic choices:

- No music—not recommended
- Quiet music—this provides some ambience
- Hymns supported by an organist (and/or singer)
- Hymns supported by videos

What about mum's favourite songs?

Songs are not appropriate during the funeral liturgy itself. You **may** choose one song to accompany you as you accompany the casket out of the church. Many still select a hymn for this moment in the liturgy.

Please remember that not everything has to happen in the church. You may play a number of songs at the graveside (eg. One when gathering, two or more when the flowers are being placed...). Please talk to Ingham Funerals about this. Remember, the wake is the perfect time to play a selection of favourite songs!!!

Please remember that not every song is appropriate in the church or connected to the funeral liturgy (eg. Frank Sinatra's *My Way*).

So, how many hymns or songs?

For a funeral service, you will need a hymn at the beginning and a hymn or song at the end. You may choose to sing the psalm. Some choose to have a hymn also in the middle of the service between the Prayers of the Faithful and the final rites.

For a funeral Mass, you will need a hymn at the beginning and at communion time and a hymn or song at the end. Again, you may choose to sing the psalm.

**A good selection of hymns can be viewed and listened to at:
inghamcatholic.com/funeral-hymns**

Final Song

If you choose to conclude with a final song, rather than hymn, you will need to provide the name of the song, the artist and the album to the office so that we can purchase the music and play it during the service.

If the funeral is being streamed, the sound will need to be muted at this time.