**Scripture Readings for use at Catholic funerals**

**First Readings** are on page 1

**Responsorial Psalms** are on page 2

**Gospels Readings** are on page 3 & 4

**A first reading:** A reading from 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 will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people’s shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us. The Word of the Lord. All:\ Thanks be to God.

**A first reading:** A reading from the 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.’

The Word of the Lord. All:\ Thanks be to God.

**A first reading:** A reading from the letter of 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. The Word of the Lord. All:\ Thanks be to God.

**A first reading:** A reading from the 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. The Word of the Lord. All:\ Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 26:**

The response is: **The Lord is my light and my help**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**The Lord is my light and my help**

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 behold the beauty of the Lord, and to behold his temple.

**The Lord is my light and my help**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call. Have mercy and answer me!

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek. Do not hide your face from me.

**The Lord is my light and my help**

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!

**The Lord is my light and my help**

**Psalm 129 (130):**

The response is: ***Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord***

Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

O Let your ears be attentive. To the voice of my pleading.

***Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord***

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: For this we revere you.

***Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord***

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord More than watchman for daybreak.

***Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord***

Because with the Lord there is mercy. And fullness of redemption,

Israel indeed he will redeem. From all its iniquity.

***Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord***

**A Gospel reading:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (6: 37-40)

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.’

The Gospel of the Lord All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**A Gospel reading:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (14: 1-6)

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 now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return and 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**A Gospel reading:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**A Gospel reading:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.