

A Short Rite for Blessing of Graves



- The following rite is offered by Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation.
- Parishes may wish to draw on it for use in November.
- Where permitted, it can be used with an assembled gathering or it could be prayed by a small group (for example the liturgy group or funeral ministry team, led by a priest or deacon) and livestreamed or video recorded for sharing with parishioners.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

Priest/Deacon: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *R. Amen.*
The Lord be with you. *R. And with your Spirit.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
In this sacred place – this hallowed ground,
And in the presence of your love,
we pray for all our loved ones buried here.
We ask that you continue to enfold them in your mercy, love and peace.
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

SCRIPTURE

This or other suitable readings/psalms chosen from Masses for the Dead can be led by a reader or readers.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest forever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation

BLESSING OF GRAVES

O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,
Bless + these graves and send your holy angels to watch over them.
Look kindly upon all buried here.
Now freed from the bonds of mortality,
count them among the saints in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Priest/deacon proceeds to go through the cemetery to bless the graves.
Suitable hymns/psalms may be sung during this time.*

INTERCESSIONS

Priest / Deacon: Dear friends, as we remember our departed brothers and sisters let us bring our prayers to God, the source of all mercies.

Reader: You raised the dead to life; give our departed loved ones eternal life. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to all who mourn this day that they may know the consolation of your love. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

May our lives reflect the love of God's presence and may we be reunited with our faithful departed some day when God calls us. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who care for the sick and dying that they may be messengers of God's love, healing and peace. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who are buried in this cemetery: may their suffering be lessened, may their joy be increased, may the light of glory shine on them and they rest in peace. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Priest /Deacon: Lord of mercy and compassion, hear the prayers of your people this day. Draw near to us and give us the consolation of hope in the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR FATHER

With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us. Our Father...

CONCLUDING RITE

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and console us.
As we renew our faith in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead,
strengthen our hope that all our departed
brother and sisters will share in his resurrection,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. *R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.*
May they rest in peace. *R. Amen.*
May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace. *R. Amen.*

May the peace of God
which is beyond all understanding,
keep your heart and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.



And may almighty God bless you...