

Concluding Prayer

Fr Geoffrey leads the concluding prayer of the liturgy.

Lord God,
whose days are without end
and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.
Let your spirit guide our days on earth
in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you in union with the whole Church,
secure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.
And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer over the People

Fr Geoffrey, with hand outstretched over the people, says:

Merciful Lord,
you know the anguish of the sorrowful,
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.
Hear your people who cry out to you in their need,
and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Joan, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.

Amen.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

Introductory Rites

Fr Geoffrey Steel, of the Catholic parishes of Garstang & Scorton, leads the sign of the cross, and then greets all who have gathered.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Fr Geoffrey sprinkles the coffin with water. After words of introduction, he invites all to pray in silence and then leads the opening prayer.

Eternal God,
you made the love of man and woman
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.

Grant mercy and peace to Joan,
who was united in love with her husband, Dennis.
May the care and devotion of her life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.

Look kindly on her family
as now they turn to your compassion and love.
Strengthen their faith, and lighten their loss.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Scripture Reading : 1 John 3:1-2

ALL SIT

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.

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 God
because we shall see God as God really is.

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

Homily

Fr Geoffrey may speak briefly on the scripture, and on Christian death as a sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Commendation and the Committal

ALL RISE

Fr Geoffrey says:

We have gathered here to commend Joan to God our Father and to commit her body to be cremated.

In the spirit of faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, in the silence of our hearts for Joan, let us pray.

Pause for silence.

During the committal the coffin may be removed from view.

Into your hands, Father of mercies,
we commend Joan
in the sure and certain hope
that, together with all who have died in Christ,
she will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings
which you bestowed upon Joan in this life:
they are signs to us of your goodness
and of our communion with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord,
turn towards us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servant
and help us who remain
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you and with Joan for ever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Intercessions

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayers of intercession.

In reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies.

Gracious Lord, forgive the sins of those who have died in Christ.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Remember all the good they have done.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Welcome them into eternal life.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who mourn:
Lord, comfort them in their grief.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lighten their sense of loss with your presence.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Increase their faith, and strengthen their hope.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray also for ourselves, on our own pilgrimage through life.
Lord, keep us faithful in your service.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fr Geoffrey introduces the Lord's Prayer, which all recite together.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**