

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 Frank, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Introductory Rites

After the sign of the cross, Fr Geoffrey 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, saying:

In the waters of baptism
Frank died with Christ and rose with him to new life.
May he now share with Christ eternal glory.

After words of introduction, Fr Geoffrey 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 Frank,
who was united in love with his wife, Josie.
May the care and devotion of his life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.

Look kindly on his 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 Verse

We read in sacred Scripture:

Mtt 25:34

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord;
inherit the kingdom prepared for you
since the foundation of the world.

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 over the Place of Committal

Fr Geoffrey blesses the grave.

Lord Jesus Christ,
by your own three days in the tomb,
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you
and so made the grave a sign of hope
that promises resurrection
even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that your servant Frank may sleep here in peace
until you awaken him to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.
Then he will see you face to face
and in your light will see light
and know the splendour of God,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

Committal

During the committal the coffin is lowered.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend Frank to Almighty God,
and we commit his body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him,
and be gracious to him,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him
and grant him peace.

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.**