

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 Gerald and Paul, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.

May their souls 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 casket with water, saying:

In the waters of baptism
Gerald 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.

Almighty God and Father,
it is our certain faith
that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery
your servant Gerald, who has gone to his rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.

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 servants may sleep here in peace
until you awaken them to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.
Then they 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 casket of ashes is lowered.

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

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