

CHAPTER 57

ORDER FOR VISITING A CEMETERY ON ALL SOULS DAY (November 2), MEMORIAL DAY, OR ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OR BURIAL

INTRODUCTION

1734 This order is a solemn commemoration of the departed whose bodies lie in a cemetery. It may be used on All Souls Day, Memorial Day, on the anniversary of death or burial of a particular deceased person, or when a gravestone or cemetery monument is erected. The service may also be adapted for use by individuals when they visit the grave of a relative or friend.

1735 The service may be used immediately following Mass or apart from Mass.

1736 If the service takes place immediately after Mass and there is to be a procession to the cemetery, the blessing and dismissal of the Mass are omitted. During the procession a psalm or other suitable song may be sung. The priest may wear the chasuble or a cope for the procession and for the service in the cemetery.

1737 This order may be used by a priest, deacon, or a lay minister.

1738 On those occasions when this service is used by a family, one of the family members take the minister's parts.

ORDER FOR VISITING A CEMETERY

PROCESSION

1739 If the service is to take place immediately after Mass and the cemetery is close to the parish church, the blessing and dismissal of the Mass are omitted and the procession to the cemetery is formed. During the processions Psalm 25, Psalm 116, Psalm 118 or Psalm 42 may be sung. Other suitable songs may also be used. When all have reached the cemetery, the minister addresses the people, using the introduction in no. 1742, below.

If there is no procession, or the service takes place apart from Mass, a psalm or other suitable song may be sung after all have gathered at the cemetery.

GREETING

1740 A minister who is a priest or deacon greets the people in the following or other words preferably taken from Scripture:

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Celebrant: The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

1741 A lay minister greets those present in the following words:

Minister: Praise be to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God for ever

People: Blessed be God for ever.

1742 The minister using these or similar words, says:

My dear friends, we gather today to pray for our brothers and sisters whose bodies lie here in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with

the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of their faults. We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of heaven.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

1743 **If Mass has not preceded, a reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of Sacred Scripture.**

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians: **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

1744 **Or one of the Scripture texts in Part III of the *Order of Christian Funerals* may be chosen.**

1745 **As circumstances suggest, one of the following responsorial psalms may be sung, or some other suitable song.**

Antiphon-To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Psalm 25

In you I trust; let me not be put to shame,
let not my enemies exult over me.
No one who waits for you shall be put to shame;
those shall be put to shame who heedlessly break faith.

Antiphon- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.

Antiphon- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;
in your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Antiphon- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
he teaches the humble his way.

Antiphon- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
For your name's sake, O LORD,
you will pardon my guilt, great as it is.

Antiphon- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Alternate Psalms

Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 4, 13

Antiphon-The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Antiphon-My soul has hoped in the Lord.

Psalm 143: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7, 9-10, 11-12

Antiphon-O Lord, hear my prayer.

LITANY

1746 While the following litany is sung or recited, the minister sprinkles the graves with holy water and, if desired, may also incense them.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Saint Michael

Saint John the Baptist

Saint Joseph

Saint Peter

Saint Paul

Saint Andrew

Saint Stephen

Saint Ann

Saint Teresa

Saint Catherine

Saint Frances Cabrini

Saint Elizabeth Seton

pray for them

The names of other saints may be added.

All holy men and women

pray for them

Christ, pardon all their faults

Christ, remember the good they have done

Christ, receive them into eternal life

Christ, comfort all those who mourn

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

1747 **The minister then invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer, in these or similar words:**

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

All:

Our Father...

PRAYER

1748 **The minister then says the following prayer or another taken from the *Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 398**

All-powerful God,
whose mercy is never withheld
from those who call upon you in hope,
look kindly on your servants (**N.** and **N.**),
who departed from this life confessing your name,
and number them among your saints for evermore.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

1749 **Or:**

Almighty God and Father,
by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong;
by the sacrament of the resurrection
you have sealed us as your own.
Look kindly upon your servants,
now freed from the bonds of mortality,
and count them among your saints in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

1750 **Or: For one person**

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

1751: **Or: For the blessing of a gravestone or monument**

O God,
by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,
bless this gravestone
with which we mark the resting place of **N.**
May he/she have everlasting life
and rejoice in you with your saints for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

1752 **The minister says:**

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

All: Amen.

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen.

1753 **A priest or deacon adds:**

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

All: Amen.

Then he blesses all present.

And may almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit

1754 **The service may be concluded by a suitable psalm or other song.**