

All music is a suggestion – feel free to adapt and change, especially to suit the capabilities of your musicians. N.B. The “Proper” parts of the Mass are an appropriate suggestion and the celebrant may wish to choose different ones.

Opening Hymn

O Lord my God or Here in this Place (Gather us in) or Come Praise the Lord

Opening Prayer

From the Mass for Deceased Relatives, Friends and Benefactors p1476 in Roman Missal

O God, giver of pardon and loving author of our salvation, grant, we pray you, in your mercy, that, through the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, and all your Saints, the members, friends and benefactors of our community, who have passed from this world, may attain a share in eternal happiness.

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Thus says the Lord: Now I create new heavens and a new earth, and the past will not be remembered, and will come no more to men's minds. Be glad and rejoice for ever and ever for what I am creating, because I now create Jerusalem 'Joy' and her people 'Gladness'.

I shall rejoice over Jerusalem and exult in my people. No more will the sound of weeping or the sound of cries be heard in her; in her, no more will be found the infant living a few days only, or the old man not living to the end of his days. To die at the age of a hundred will be dying young; not to live to be a hundred will be the sign of a curse. They will build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They will not build for others to live in, or plant so that others can eat. For my people shall live as long as trees, and my chosen ones wear out what their hands have made. They will be a race blessed by the Lord, and their children with them.

Long before they call I shall answer; before they stop speaking I shall have heard. The wolf and the young lamb will feed together, the lion eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They do no hurt, no harm on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102:8. 10. 13-18. R/v8

R/ The Lord is compassion and love

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again.

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth

Second Reading

Romans 6:3-4. 8-9

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 25:34

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Come, you whom my Father has blessed,
says the Lord;
take for your inheritance the kingdom prepared for you
since the foundation of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

“How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage/
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

We pray for the Church: that our Holy Father Pope Francis, our Bishop N and all the clergy and people of God may be inspired by the spirit of truth, justice and hope in their response to the Good News.

Lord in your mercy, **R. Hear our prayer**

We pray for world leaders: that they may always listen to the cry of the poor and the humble, and work without thought of personal gain to rescue them from their distress.

We pray today for all those of us here who grieve the loss of our loved ones: that we may bear in our hearts the vision of a new heaven and a new earth, when the sound of weeping will no longer be heard.

We pray for our beloved dead: that they may find refuge and peace in the Lord.

We pray for CAFOD and all its generous supporters: that they may continue to work with integrity and truth for the poor, the hungry and the excluded in our world.

We ask for the blessed intercession of Our Gracious Lady, Mother of the Poor and comforter of all those who mourn. **Hail Mary...**

In prayer we bring these and all our needs before God in the silence of our hearts.

Offertory Hymn

All that I am or Take our Gifts or Upon thy Table

Prayer over the Gifts

From the Mass for Deceased Relatives, Friends and Benefactors p1476 in Roman Missal

O God, whose mercy is beyond measure, received with favour our humble prayers and through the Sacrament of our salvation grant to the souls of our relatives, friends and benefactors, remission of all their sins.
Through Christ our Lord

Communion Hymn

Be Not Afraid, Amazing Grace, I am the Bread of Life or This is My Body

Prayer after Communion

From the Mass for Deceased Relatives, Friends and Benefactors p1476 in Roman Missal

Grant, we pray, almighty and merciful God, that the souls of our relatives, friends and benefactors for who we have offered this sacrifice of praise to your majesty, may, through the power of this Sacrament, be cleansed of all their sins, and receive from your mercy the happiness of perpetual light.
Through Christ our Lord

Recessional Hymn

Tell Out My Soul or Christ be our Light or Lord of the Dance

Optional reflections

These can be used after the homily or during the pause after communion.

Queen of all Creation

From Laudato Si' (#241), Pope Francis.

Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world.

Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power.

Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness.

She is the Woman, “clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev 12:1). Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation.

In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty.

She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.

The Romero Prayer

This powerful prayer was not in fact written by Blessed Oscar Romero, but has become associated with his memory and mission.

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No programme accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.