



## Second Readings for Funeral Masses



### *A selection of New Testament Readings*

#### **New Testament 1**

##### ***A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.***

8:14 – 18

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him, we do so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory which is waiting for us.

***The Word of the Lord.***

#### **New Testament 2**

##### ***A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.***

1 Cor 15: 51 – 57

I will tell you something that has been a secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability, and this mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of Scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***The Word of the Lord.***

#### **New Testament 3**

##### ***A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians***

1 Cor 13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see God face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know God fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

***This is the Word of the Lord***

## New Testament 4

### ***A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.***

14: 7 – 12

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says:

*By my life – it is the Lord who speaks –*

*every knee shall bend before me and every tongue shall praise God.*

It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of ourselves.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## New Testament 5

### ***A Reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.***

1 Tim 4: 6 – 8

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## New Testament 6

### ***A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.***

1 Thess 4: 13-18

We want you to be quite certain, friends, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died.

At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So, we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## New Testament 7

### ***A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.***

3: 20-21

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these mortal bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## New Testament 8

### ***A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.***

6: 3-9

When we were baptised in Christ 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.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he is finished with sin.

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.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## New Testament 9

### ***A Reading from the First Letter of St. John.***

Let us love one another, because love is from God;  
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent His only Son into the world  
so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but  
that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another,  
God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## New Testament 10

### ***A Reading from the First Letter of St. John.***

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.

Because the world refused to acknowledge Him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

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 Him because we shall see Him as He really is.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **New Testament 11**

### ***A Reading from the First Letter of St. John.***

1:5-7

This is what we have heard from the Lord,  
and the message we are announcing to you:  
God is light; there is no darkness in Him at all.  
If we say that we are in union with God while we are living in darkness,  
we are lying because we are not living the truth.  
But if we live our lives in the light, as He is in the light,  
we are in union with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **New Testament 12**

### ***A Reading from the Book of the Revelation***

14:13

I, John, heard a voice from Heaven saying,  
'Write this: Blessed are those who die in the Lord.  
Blessed indeed, says the Spirit,  
now they may rest forever from their labours,  
for their good deeds go with them!'

***The Word of the Lord.***