

# The Gift of a Shepherd

Liturgy and Prayers for use

following the Death of Pope Francis

and in preparation for the Election of his Successor

## Information Sheet

### General Guidance for celebrations of Mass

#### Use of Mass Propers

With the permission of the Ordinary **Masses for Various Needs and Occasions** may be celebrated on any day other than Solemnities of precept, Sundays of Advent, Lent and the Easter season, Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum, Solemnities, All Souls Day, Ash Wednesday; Days in the Easter Octave.

- The Bishops of England and Wales expressly grant such permission in the cases provided for by this note.

A **Mass for the Dead** may be celebrated on any day other than the above, the Sundays of Christmas and Ordinary Time, and Feasts days.

#### Use of alternative Readings

Masses for Various Needs and Occasions would normally be celebrated as a memorial, and therefore there would be a first reading, psalm, gospel acclamation and Gospel only.

Speaking of the readings offered in the Lectionary for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions the General Instruction to the Roman Missal (3rd Edition) says:

Sets of readings of this kind have been so prescribed so that through a more apt hearing of the Word of God the faithful may be led to a fuller understanding of the mystery in which they are participating, and may be educated to a more ardent love of the Word of God. Therefore, the texts proclaimed in the celebration are to be chosen keeping in mind both an appropriate pastoral reason and the options allowed in this matter. (359)

The Introduction to the Lectionary (2nd Edition) advises

The first concern of a priest celebrating with a congregation is the spiritual benefit of the faithful and he will be careful not to impose his personal preference on them. Above all, he will make sure not to omit too often or needlessly the readings assigned for each day in the weekday Lectionary. The Church's desire is to provide the faithful with a richer share at the table of God's word. (83)

#### Eucharistic Prayer

Following the Death of Pope Francis the intercession for the Pope is omitted until his successor is named.

#### Liturgical Colour

In England and Wales, the vestment colours violet, white, or black may be used in Masses and Offices for the Dead (see GIRM, no. 346e). However, it is customary for red vestments to be worn at a Mass for the Dead offered for a Pope as the successor of the Apostle Peter.

# Liturgical Material

## Prayer for the late Pope

*Ad libitum from the day of announcement of the death of Pope Francis.*

### Mass

#### Mass Proper

**For a Pope** from Masses for the Dead: IV Various Prayers for the Dead (pp 1465-1467 in Roman Missal)

#### Lectionary

Texts should be chosen from those provided in the **Masses for the Dead**, Lectionary (Volume IV p1083ff).

### Liturgy of the Hours

#### Morning and Evening Prayer for the Dead

are given in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, pp 385–404.  
The Concluding Prayer for a Pope is found on p 412.

#### Readings

A longer, non-Gospel reading may be selected from the *Lectionary* Volume IV p1083ff (Masses for the Dead)

### Vigil

#### A Parish Vigil of Prayer

might well be held the night before the Holy Father's funeral. A simple form for a Vigil is provided in *Order of Christian Funerals*, pp 43–51.

Pastoral notes, that will assist in the enrichment of this form where that is thought appropriate, are provided on pp 39–41.

### Readings

should be selected from the *Lectionary* Volume IV p1083ff (Masses for the Dead). If several readings are chosen it is best to follow the pattern established for Liturgy of the Word at Mass, i.e. a reading, psalm, acclamation and Gospel. Alternatively, a single reading may be chosen.

## Prayer for the Church

*Ad libitum following the day of announcement of the death of Pope Francis, and most appropriately after his funeral, and during the Conclave.*

### Mass

#### Mass Proper

**For the Election of a Pope or Bishop** from Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions (pp 1308-1309 in the Roman Missal)

#### Lectionary

**For the Election of a Pope or Bishop** Lectionary (Volume IV p579ff).

*A further option from the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions that might find a use during these days:*

#### Mass Proper

**For the Church** (pp 1297-1302 in the Roman Missal)

*Four sets of texts are offered.*

#### Lectionary

**For the Universal Church** Lectionary (Volume IV p556ff).

## Prayer upon the Election of the new Pope

*Ad libitum from the day of the Election of the new Pope*

### Mass

#### Mass Proper

**For the Pope** from Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions (Roman Missal, pp 1304-1305)

#### Lectionary

**Common of Pastors**, Lectionary (Volume II p1006ff)

## Liturgy of the Hours

### The Psalter and Common

of Evening Prayer II of Sunday Week I would be suitable for use in celebration. Alternative short intercessions may be found in the Appendix II to the *Divine Office* (pp762\*-765\* in Volume III).

### Reading

A non-Gospel reading from *Lectionary* Volume IV p579ff (for the Election of a Pope or Bishop) or Volume II 1006ff (Common of Pastors).

# Prayers from the Tradition of the Church

*This material may be used by individuals or as part of prayers and devotions such as a Holy Hour or Service of the Word. Scripture readings may be taken from the parts of the Lectionary given above.*

## Prayers for the late Pope

*Ad libitum from the day of announcement of the death.*

- Eternal Rest
- Ancient Prayer to the Virgin
- Angelus
- Holy Apostles Peter and Paul
- Collect for the late Pope
- The Rosary

*Following the funeral of a Pope it is the custom that nine days (Novendiales) of official mourning are marked in Rome and throughout the Church.*

*In addition to the celebration of Mass, Bishops may encourage for the intention of his soul:*

- the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours,
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and other devotions,
- opportunities to learn and reflect on the writings of Pope Francis,
- works of mercy and care for the poor and most vulnerable.

*The nine days may also be observed with a Novena of prayer (available separately).*

## Prayers for the Church

*Ad libitum following the day of announcement of the death of Pope Francis, and most appropriately after his funeral, and during the Conclave.*

- Angelus
- Come, Holy Spirit
- Holy Apostles Peter and Paul
- Veni Creator
- Collect for the Election of a Pope

## Prayers upon the Election of the new Pope

*Ad libitum from the day of the Election of the new Pope*

- Prayer for the Pope
- Te Deum
- Collect for the Pope

## Litanies

*The two litanies may appropriately be used at any time during this period.*

- Litany of the Holy Name
- Litany of the Sacred Heart

This resource was prepared by the Liturgy Office of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

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