### **DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION**

**FUNERAL MINISTRY RESOURCES**

***SAMPLE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL RITE AT THE GRAVESIDE -***

***OPTION 1***

**INVITATION TO PRAYER**

*Celebrant:* As we gather at the grave of our friend *N.*,

 let us pray in silence to the God of all consolation.

*Also pray for other members of the family buried in the same grave (if applicable).*

**BLESSING OF THE GRAVE**

*Celebrant:* We ask you, Lord, to bless this grave.

 Give our sister / brother

 peace and rest and on the day of judgement,

 raise *N.* up to eternal life with all your saints.

 God of mercy and compassion,

 your Son died and His body was placed in a tomb.

 But in your almighty power you raised Him to life again.

 Bless this grave in which we place the body of *N.,*

 and through the victory of Jesus over death,

 make it a place of hope, rest and peace.

*The grave is sprinkled with Holy Water.*

*Celebrant:* Jesus said:

 ‘Come to me all who labour and are overburdened,

 and I will give you rest.’

 Let us pray now that this grave where *N.’s* body will be placed,

 may be a holy and peaceful resting place.

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus, you have promised in your mercy

 to grant rest to the weary;

 bless and watch over this grave,

 and grant that as *N.’s* body rests here in safety

 she / he may rejoice in your heavenly kingdom,

 where you live forever more.

*All:* Amen.

**COMMITTAL PRAYER**

*Celebrant:* In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life

 through our Lord Jesus Christ,

 we commend to Almighty God our sister / brother *N.,*

 and we commit her / his body to the ground:

 Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

**FINAL PRAYER**

*Celebrant:* Lord listen to our prayers for our sister / brother.

 As she / he always desired to do your will,

 so in your mercy forgive whatever wrong she / he

 may have done.

 By *N.’s* Christian faith she / he was united

 with all your believing people.

 Now, in love and mercy give *N.*

 a place with your angels and saints.

 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All:* Amen.

*Celebrant:* Most merciful God,

 whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,

 surround the family of *N.* with your love,

 that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,

 and have strength to meet the days to come.

 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All:* Amen.

*Celebrant:* Give *N.* eternal rest, O Lord

 and may your light shine on her / him forever .

*All:* Amen.

*Celebrant:* In the hope of the resurrection,

 let us leave our sister / brother *N.* to rest in peace.

 In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*All:* Amen.