### DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

**FUNERAL MINISTRY RESOURCES**

***SAMPLE VIGIL PRAYERS***

**OPENING SONG**

 **A Journey Remembered** *Kevin Bates*

*Refrain: O praise the Lord my soul.*

*My God how great you are.*

*My heart and my soul sing out your praise.*

*My God how great you are.*

You have carried me within your arms

whenever I’ve known fear.

You have waited patiently for me,

then you drew me near.

You have run beside me even when

I didn’t want to know

that you are my home and my joy. *Refrain.*

In the doubting times you touched my hope

and showed me how to be.

In the hours of fear and hopelessness

your truth set me free.

In the memory of family

I learnt to know your name,

learnt that you are my home and my joy. *Refrain.*

Lord bless the place where I was born

and those who carried me.

Lord bless the many smiles,

who have kindly set me free.

Lord bless the many little ones

who’ve shown your face to me:

You are my home and my joy. *Refrain.*

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**GREETING**

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Leader:* God of all consolation,

open our hearts to your word,

so that, listening to it, we may comfort one another,

finding light in time of darkness,

and faith in time of doubt.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All:* Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD: *Matthew 5:1- 12***

*Time of quiet reflection on the Word of God.*

**LITANY RESPONSE**

*Reader:* Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,

 as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike:

*All:* Refresh us with your mercy, who know our own injustice.

*Reader:* As a stream flows steadily on,

 defying all the odds of stone and water:

*All:* Flow over every boundary and border

 that separates us from each other.

*Reader:* As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us:

*All:* Renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.

*Reader:*  As we were once held in the waters of our mothers’ womb:

*All:* Hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence.

*Reader:*  Into the sadness and smiles of our memories and life with *N.*:

*All:* We will now lay her / him down.

*Reader:* Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again:

*All:* We will now lay her / him down.

*Reader:* May she / he rest in peace, in fulfilment, in loving:

*All:* May she / he run straight home into God’s embrace.

**DECADE OF THE ROSARY**

**First Glorious Mystery - The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

*Leader:* The risen Jesus has proved that man, together with Him, can have power over sin and therefore death.

Jesus, help raise us, deliver us from sin, from evil,

give us Your light, give us Your joy.

Rekindle inside us the love, the faith,

the hopefulness and the gift of prayer.

Let us ask Mary for the gift of an unshakeable faith.

**SHARING OF MEMORIES**

*Leader:* We all knew and loved *N.*

Her / His presence stays with us as we remember her / him now.

So that we might treasure our memories together,

let us share some ways she / he has touched our lives.

Anyone who wishes is invited to speak a brief sentence of remembrance of *N.*

*At the end of the sharing of memories the following may be sung:*

**May God Bless and Keep You**  *Christopher Walker*

*May God bless and keep you.*

*May God’s face shine on you.*

*May God be kind to you and give you peace.*

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

*Leader:* May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes.

*All make the sign of the cross*

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.