

## CEMETERY RITUALS

Visit the graves of your loved ones and carry some holy water – sprinkle on each grave and read aloud your favourite prayers/reflections of the dead.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we come to this holy place to pray for the soul of someone we love and still cherish. Their body lies in the womb of the earth but we trust that their spirit and soul are free and that their love is with us always. We take a moment to remember and join with them and with each other in silence and prayer.

We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### LIGHT A CANDLE

In thanksgiving for the light and love we received in and through \_\_\_\_\_ we light this candle and pray a prayer that our ancestors prayed each time they lit a candle:

'A Shlánaitheoir, go dtuga tú soilse Flaithiúnais dár n-anamacha is na anamacha atá imithe romhainn faoi chomartha an chreideamh'

'Lord, show the light of Heaven to our souls and the souls of those who are gone before us marked with the sign of faith'

#### SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

Lord, we ask you to bless this grave and draw close our beloved (parent, friend, etc). Because Jesus did not remain in a tomb, we trust that it is the same for \_\_\_\_\_.

Death may end a life but it never ends a relationship. Give us the grace to trust that \_\_\_\_\_'s love and light are with us always and continue to affect who we are and what we do. Draw \_\_\_\_\_ close to you and, just as he/she is at peace, we pray today for peace and healing for ourselves. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Introduction:** Lord, we have come on this pilgrimage of prayer in order to keep \_\_\_\_\_'s flame of love alive in our hearts and lives and so we pray..

In thanksgiving for the love and joy \_\_\_\_\_ brought into our hearts and lives... We pray that we will continue to draw strength from his/her goodness to us. *Lord, hear us.*

In the midst of sadness, there is always gratitude for the gift that our loved ones were to us. We pray in thanksgiving for the blessings, light and inspiration we received in and through \_\_\_\_\_. *Lord, hear us.*

We pray for each other and family who are at a distance at this time. As we continue to come to terms with the loss of \_\_\_\_\_, may we find comfort in each other and the fond memories we have of \_\_\_\_\_. *Lord, hear us.*

We pray for the gentle souls of those gone before us, that they are at peace with deceased family and friends. May we all one day be reunited in the warmth and light of God's Kingdom. *Lord, hear us.*

We pray for all those who are sick at this time, especially all those who are sick with Coronavirus and those who bravely care for them. We pray for those who are finding things difficult. Lord lead us to healing, to light and to love. *Lord, hear us.*

We pray for all those who mourn and grieve the loss of loved ones. It is a difficult time to be grieving, may we try to comfort those who are hurting by finding creative ways of showing our love and care. *Lord, hear us.*

#### DECADE OF THE ROSARY

We pray the Mystery of the Resurrection, which is one of the Glorious mysteries, and reminds us that just as Jesus rose from the dead, so it will be for those we love. Love never ends.

*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be to the Father.*

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, give us the grace to trust that, beyond death, there is a life where the broken will be mended, the lost found, where the weary will find rest and where we will all meet again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May They Rest in Peace. Amen  
May Their Souls and The Souls of All The Faithful Departed, Through the Mercy Of God, Rest In Peace. Amen

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