



A Service for the Consecration of a Burial Ground

**Led by the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE
Bishop of Dorchester**

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Jesus said: I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me, even though he dies yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

(John 11: 25, 26).

The Bishop welcomes the congregation to the service and explains something of its nature.

HYMN

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Even for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

FIRST READING : Luke 24: 1-9

SECOND READING : 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

THE BLESSING OF THE GRAVEYARD

The Bishop shall be invited to Consecrate the Burial Ground by the Incumbent and representatives of the Parish:

Reverend Father, we request you to consecrate this burial ground for the people of this parish.

The Bishop shall read the Deed of Consecration and shall pronounce the ground consecrated in these words:

By virtue of our authority in the Church of God we do now consecrate and set apart from all profane and common uses this Ground to be a resting place for the bodies of those who have departed in the Lord, in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Bishop shall be led by the churchwardens and the Incumbent to the ground which is to be consecrated.

He shall walk round this area, stopping at intervals to mark the ground with a cross and to say these words:
Bless O Lord this ground which we consecrate in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS LED BY THE INCUMBENT

HYMN

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

FINAL BLESSING

*The Bishop, the Incumbent and another member of the
Clergy will then sign the relevant documents.*