

# Funeral Service

(Irish Pantheon)

-- By Rev. Kirk Thomas

*This service can be done either in the workings section of a full ADF ritual or may be done as a stand-alone liturgy. In case there are no Hallows present, all offerings may be reserved for disposal at a later date.*

*The Funeral Goods given the deceased should be either buried with the casket or urn, or may be poured on the ground or into a shaft. Again, these offerings may be reserved for disposal at a later date.*

## THE WELCOME

*The Priest rings a bell, three times three.*

*Priest says:*

Children of the Earth, we are here to celebrate the life of       name      . While this is a time of grief, it is also a time of joy!

## THE PRECEDENT

*Priest says:*

In days of old, Classical writers wrote about the Celts.

Diodorus Siculus wrote, "For they do not fear death, but subscribe to the doctrine ... that the human spirit is immortal and will enter a new body after a fixed number of years."

Pomponius Mela also wrote, "Thus they burn or bury articles useful in life with the dead. For this reason, in past times, they would defer business and payment of debts to the next life."

## UNITING THE THREE WORLDS

*Priest says:*

Children of the Earth, let us call the powers of Earth and Sky that they may join within us here.

**PRAYER:**

O waters of the earth, deep and dark,  
Arise, primeval powers, fill us now  
With all your wondrous possibilities,  
That through the Earth our Mother  
We may ground and join as one.

O fires of the sky, O blinding light!  
Descend and crystallize within us all  
That spark of order on which life depends,  
That through the Sky our Father  
We may shine and share as one.

You powers dark and light, you liquid fire,  
Conjoin and blend this mixture volatile  
That powers great will join within ourselves,  
Connecting all the Worlds so  
That the circle is complete.

## **DISSOLVING THE BARRIERS**

*All present say:*

O Donn, son of Mil!  
Manannán, son of Lir!  
O Lords of the isles where the newly dead go,  
We pray to You now – hear our call!

Your magics are great, Your powers intense,  
We ask that you join Yours with ours.  
Let the barriers standing `tween this world and Yours  
Dissolve in our hearts – hear our call!

With love and with joy, we humbly pray  
For our dear friend to join us here now.  
As our newest Ancestor to cross the divide  
We welcome you home – hear our call!

## **REMEMBRANCE AND OFFERINGS**

*Priest says:*

Newest Ancestor, \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_, we welcome you here!  
And though we will miss you here in the Midworld,  
We take comfort in knowing that you are quite near,  
Just beyond the veil of the Worlds.

When the Veils are thin and the Gates open wide,  
We will welcome you here once again!  
Just as one day we hope that you'll welcome us, too.

*Priest says:*

Children of the Earth, this is also the time of the living!

We now call on those who have cared for \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ and who miss

\_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_,

To come forward and speak, sharing a memory of happy times.

And in days of old, offerings were made to the newly dead  
To accompany them on their way.

We invite you to bring up your Grave Goods, that you  
May make offering to our new Ancestor.

*The People come up one at a time, and leave an offering (such as silver or beer or other food) on the altar for later burial or disposal, or put it in the shaft or the Well or pour it on the ground.*

*After an offering is made, the person may speak for a time about the deceased.  
When each person is finished speaking, the Priest will say:*

***Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*** (BEE-uh SHAY Ow-LEE) So be it!

## **INTERCESSION**

*When everyone who wishes to speak has spoken of the Dead, the Priest says:*

Donn, son of Mil, keeper of *Tech Duinn*, Assembly Hall of the Dead,  
We make offering to You!

*The Priest offers silver and whiskey.*

We ask that you welcome \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ into Your Hall,  
And prepare him/her for the further journey.  
Offerings are made for the Sacred Well of *Tech Duinn*! Needle's Eye is crossed!  
Eagle's Nest is mounted! Grant that \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ may reach Your holy Hall.

Mighty Donn, accept our offering!

*All say:*  
Mighty Donn, accept our offering!

*The Priest says:*  
Manannán mac Lir! Rider of the waves and Lord of *Emain Ablach*,  
We make offering to You!

*The Priest offers silver and whiskey.*

We ask that You meet \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ at the Assembly and carry *him/her*

Across the Western Seas, that *he/she* may be reborn in *Tir na nOg*!  
Offerings are made where the sea meets the land! The sacred cloak is shaken!  
The golden Cup of Truth is whole again! Grant that \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ may reach  
the sacred isles.

Great Manannán, accept our offering!

*All say:*

Great Manannán, accept our offering!

## **THE CLOSING**

*Priest says:*

Children of the Earth, now is the time to let go.

O Great Manannán and Mighty Donn, we thank you for your aid.  
Departed Friend, our love and thanks go with you on your way.  
And Mother Earth, we sing to you of thanks and loving praise.

Now look we deep within our hearts  
And closing Gates discern.  
We know that death is but a door  
And loved-ones will return!

*The Priest rings a bell three times three.*

*Priest says:*

Walk with wisdom, Children of the Earth, this rite has ended.

*Song:*

### **We're Ancestors Now**

From out of Her bosom we come to this life,  
In joy and in sorrow we live all our days.  
The Good Earth sustains us, in union or strife,  
For She is the Mother, we sing to Her praise!

And when the day comes that we leave this green earth  
To take that great journey beyond the endless seas,  
Our bodies return to this womb of our birth,  
And we are reborn in a land of great ease.

Our lives you may celebrate, so do not despair!  
For death in this world is a birth in the new,  
No sorrows or troubles shall weigh upon us there,  
We're Ancestors now and we'll watch over you!