



Order of Service for the Consecration of a Burial Ground

When all are assembled, one of the Petitioners, or a representative of the Petitioners, will read aloud to the Bishop the Petition for Consecration and then hand the Petition to the Diocesan Registrar.

The Bishop: I am ready to grant your request.
The Lord be with you.

The People: **And also with you.**

The Bishop: We brought nothing into this world, and take nothing out. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

The Bishop will then proceed to each corner of the ground to be consecrated. He will be preceded by the Churchwardens bearing their staves of office (if present), and followed by the Registrar, the Minister (if present), and all other members of the congregation. At each corner of the land to be consecrated the Bishop, using his staff, will mark the ground with the sign of the cross and will say:

The Bishop: The blessing of the Eternal God be upon this place to sanctify it and keep it holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The People: **Amen.**

The Bishop will return to the place from which he started and will read the Sentence of Consecration, after which he says:

The Bishop: By virtue of our authority in the Church of God we have now consecrated and set apart from all profane use this ground to be a resting place for the remains of those who have departed in the Lord: in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The People: **Amen**

The Bishop: Hear the words of Scripture. "I heard a voice from heaven saying to me: Write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Even so, says the Spirit. For they rest from their labours.

The Bishop gives the blessing.