

In Loving Memory of
Gordon Johnson



6th May 1938 - 7th November 2021

St Mary and St Michael's RC Church, Garstang
Monday 22nd November 2021 at 11.00 am



Gordon was the beloved husband of Frances,
loving and much loved father of Susan and Janet, father in law and
friend of Ian and cherished and devoted grandad of Natalie and Nathan.

Born in Boothstown, Manchester the only child to Ann and Billy,
as a child he spent many hours helping out on the local farm.

He also regularly visited Bolton with his mother,
where Susan is now Deputy Chief Executive at Bolton Council.
When he left school he moved to Lancashire College of Agriculture and
Horticulture, now Myerscough College, where Janet is Director of Finance.

Gordon met Frances Walmsley in 1962 at Clifford's Coffee Bar in Garstang
and they married in 1965. Susan arrived in January 1971
and Janet in December 1972.

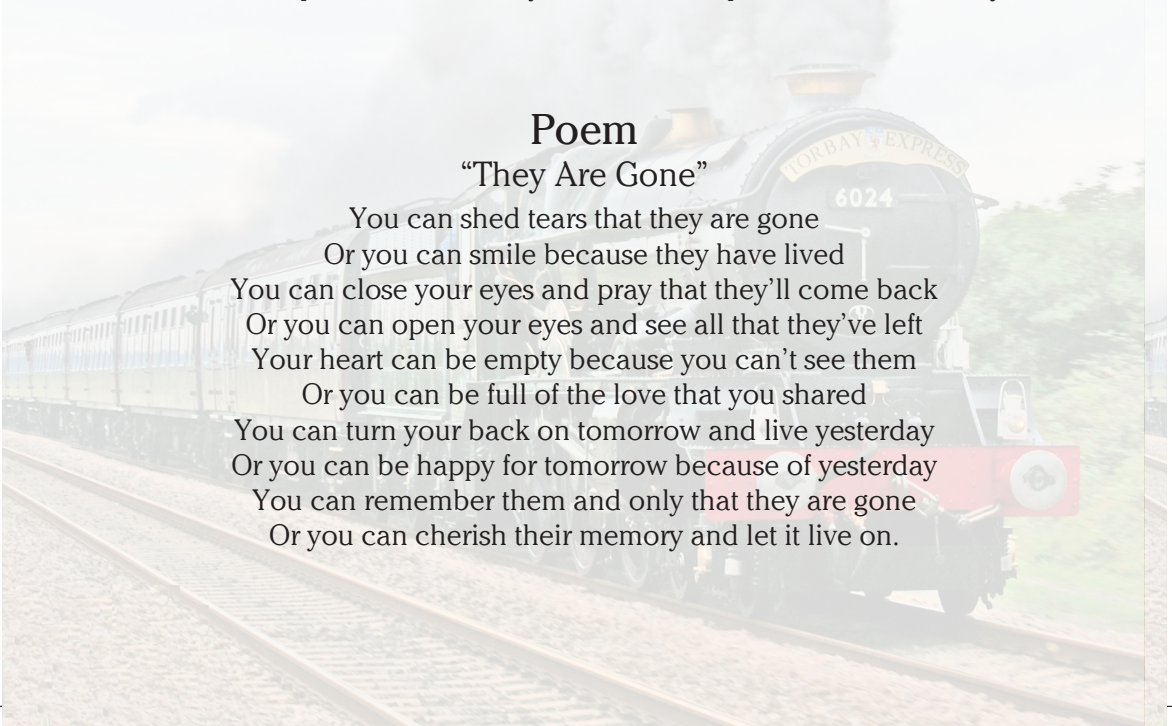
Following his retirement Gordon's time was quickly filled by the arrival of
Natalie and Nathan. Gordon and Frances were regularly seen walking them
to and from school and chatting with the mums in the playground.
Gordon also spent many a happy hour sharing a beer with his son in law Ian,
enjoying his hobby of collecting model tractors and trains,
chatting to his best mate Leo and walking with Bob.

A devoted, patient, kind family man and a respected friend to many.

Poem

"They Are Gone"

You can shed tears that they are gone
Or you can smile because they have lived
You can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that they've left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember them and only that they are gone
Or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Reception of the Body

ALL RISE

Fr Geoffrey Steel, parish priest of St Mary & St Michael's, meets the procession at the door and leads it into church.

After the sign of the cross, Fr Geoffrey greets all who have gathered. All respond:

And with your spirit.

Symbols of baptism have a central place in the funeral liturgy: Fr Geoffrey sprinkles Gordon's coffin with water from the baptismal font; his coffin is then placed between the lighted Easter candle and the altar.

Everyone is invited to sing the hymn, "Christ be beside me", 910.

Opening Prayer

Fr Geoffrey invites all to pray, and in silence everyone gathers their thoughts. On behalf of the whole Church, the priest intercedes for Gordon and for the mourners. All make the prayer their own by acclaiming: **Amen.**

ALL SIT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

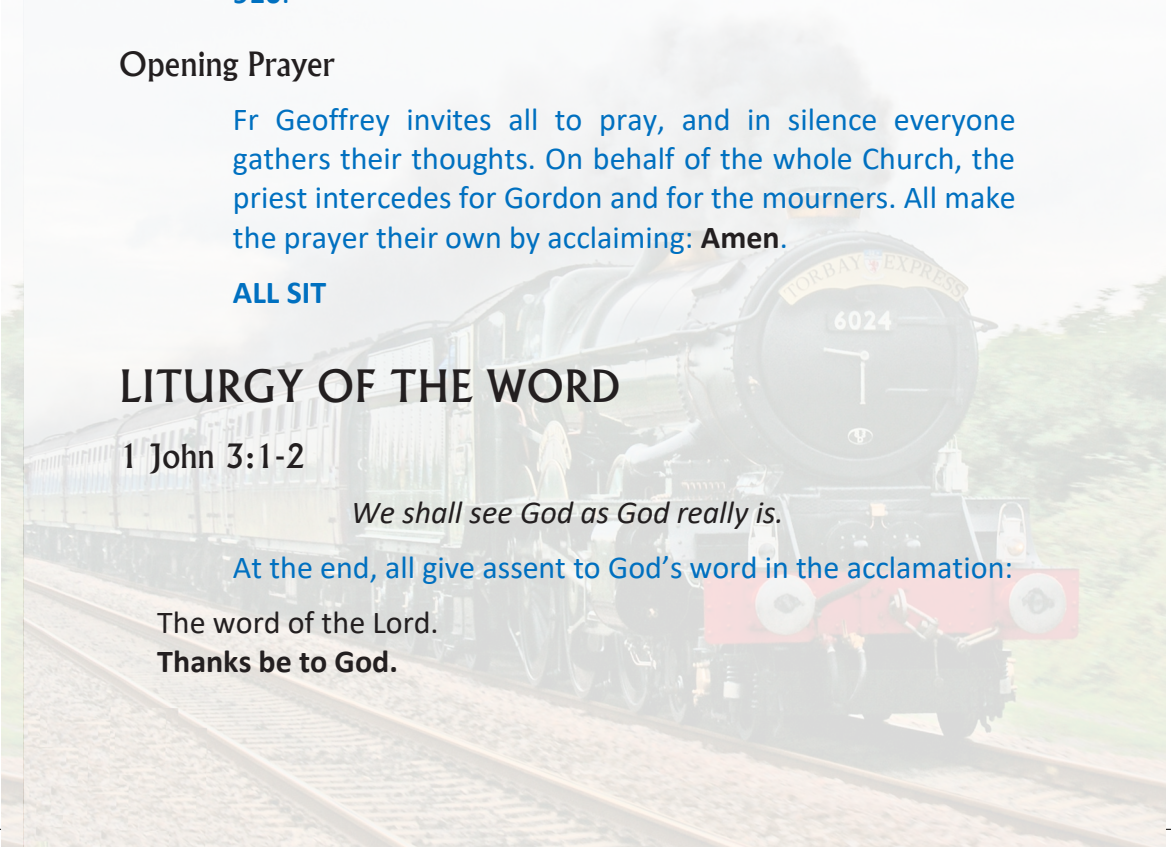
1 John 3:1-2

We shall see God as God really is.

At the end, all give assent to God's word in the acclamation:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 102

All repeat the response after the reader, and then after each verse.

The Lord is compassion and love.

Luke 12:35-40

ALL RISE

The proclamation of the gospel is acclaimed with alleluias, which all sing together. The gospel begins:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.

At the end, the gospel of Christ is acclaimed:

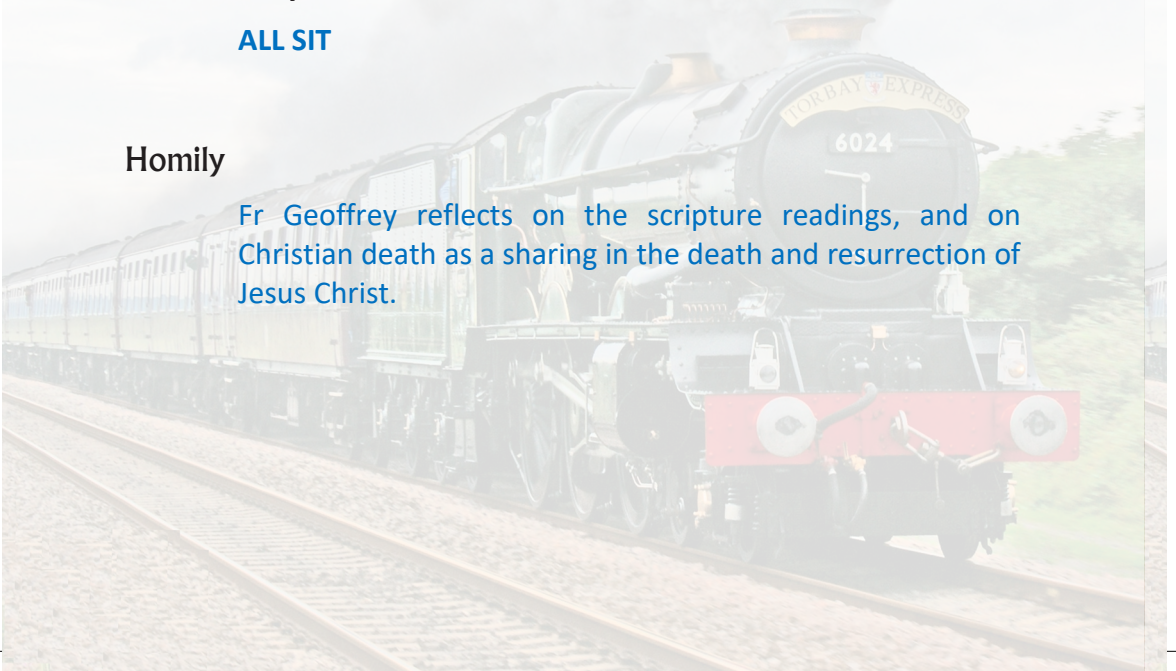
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL SIT

Homily

Fr Geoffrey reflects on the scripture readings, and on Christian death as a sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



General Intercessions

ALL RISE

Intercession is made for the Church and the world, for Gordon and those who mourn, and for all who are gathered here today.

After each intention is announced, all pray in silence and then make the response.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Fr Geoffrey concludes the intercessions with a prayer, to which all respond: **Amen.**

ALL SIT

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

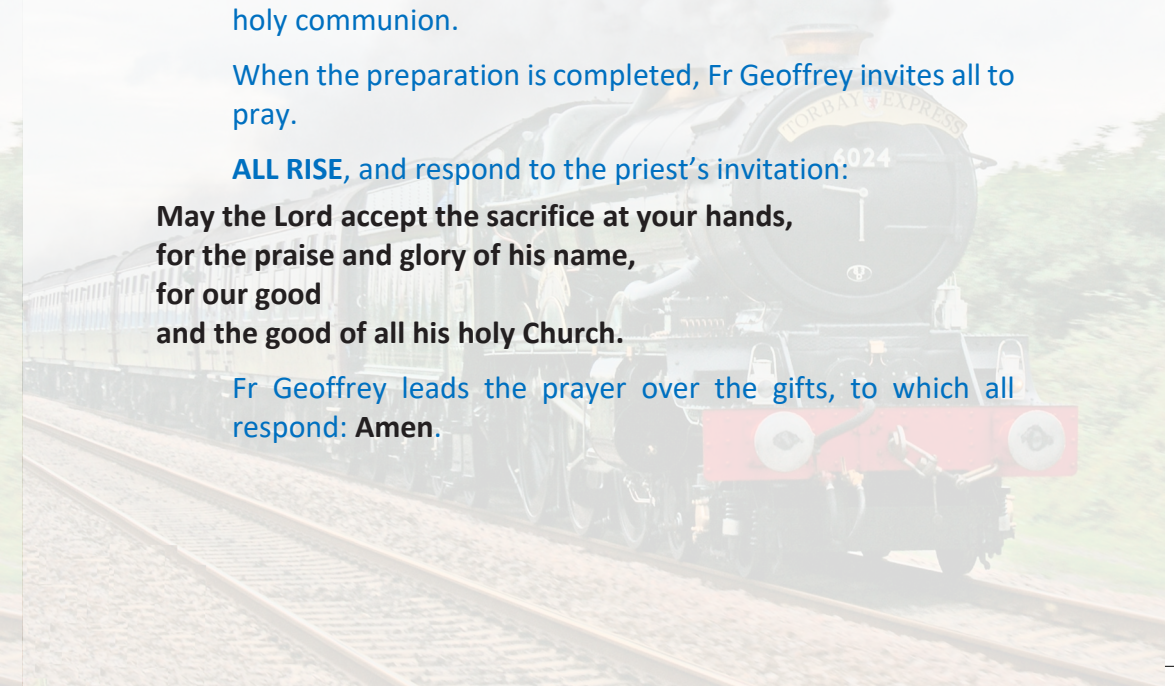
The celebration of Mass continues in the usual way: Bread and wine are brought to the altar; God is praised and thanked in the eucharistic prayer; the consecrated bread is broken; we are nourished by the body and blood of Christ in holy communion.

When the preparation is completed, Fr Geoffrey invites all to pray.

ALL RISE, and respond to the priest's invitation:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayer over the gifts, to which all respond: **Amen.**



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

This great prayer is the centre and high point of the entire liturgy.

Fr Geoffrey leads the praise of God and gives thanks for the wonders God has done, especially for the sacrifice of Christ's death and resurrection.

The prayer begins:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The prayer includes three acclamations.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

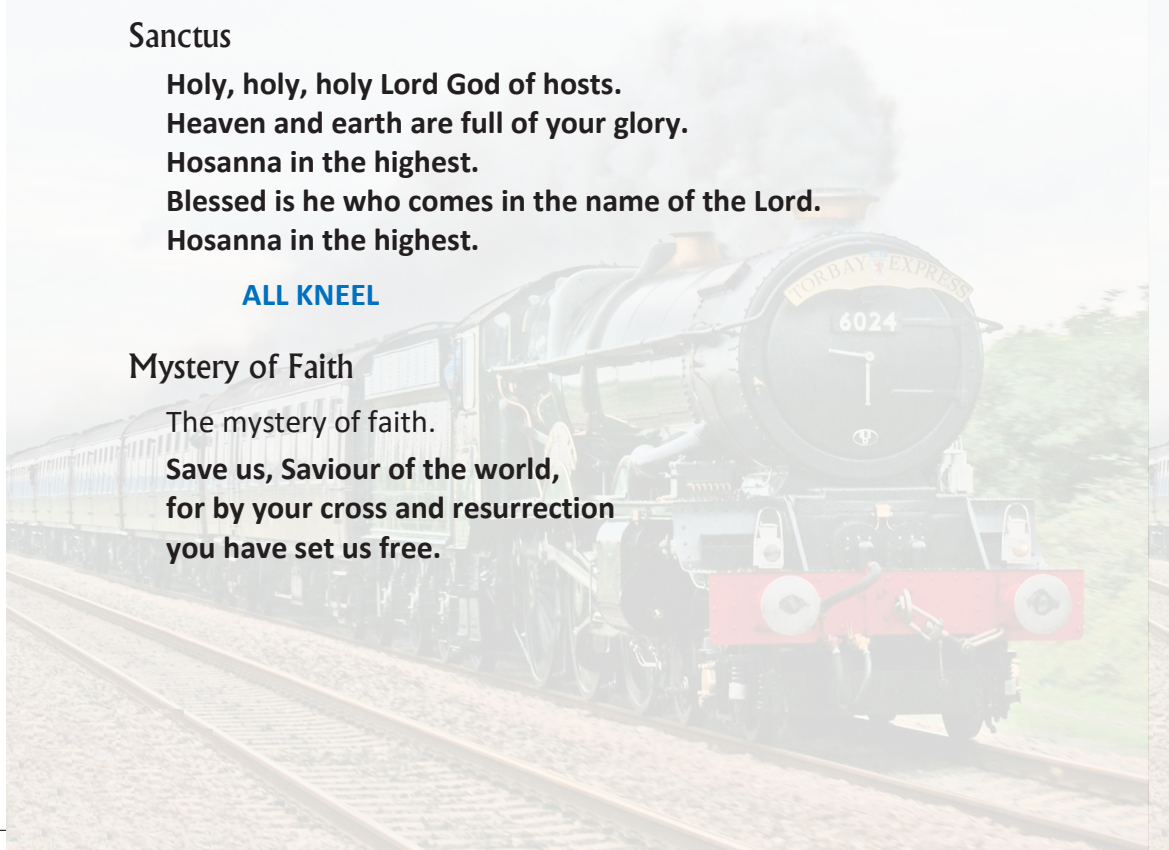
Hosanna in the highest.

ALL KNEEL

Mystery of Faith

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**



Great Amen

The eucharistic prayer reaches its climax in praise of God as the consecrated bread and wine are lifted up.

All make the entire prayer their own in the final great Amen.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

ALL RISE

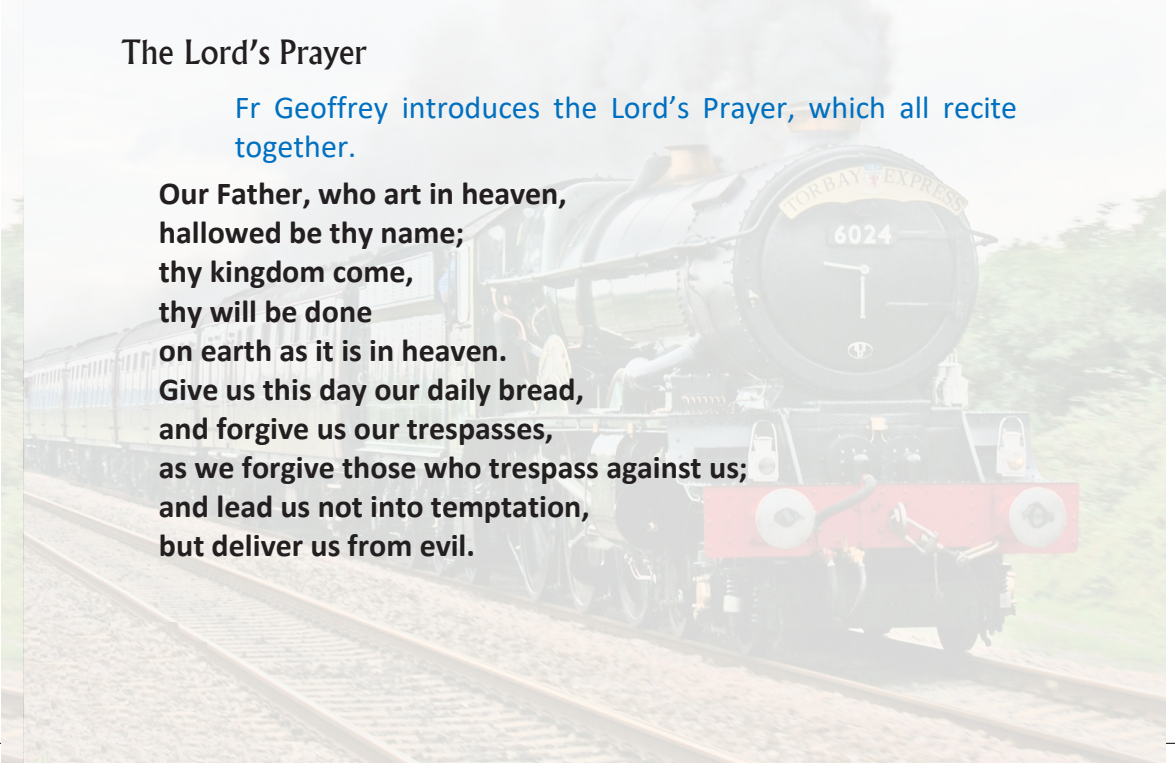
COMMUNION RITE

Preparation for holy communion begins with the Lord's Prayer; all then exchange a greeting of peace with one another; and the priest breaks the bread of the eucharist in which all who receive the sacrament share as one body.

The Lord's Prayer

Fr Geoffrey introduces the Lord's Prayer, which all recite together.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**



Deliver us, Lord, ...
... for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Rite of Peace

Fr Geoffrey then implores peace and unity for the Church
and for the whole human family. All respond: **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

Before sharing in holy communion, all exchange a greeting of
peace with those around them. You are invited to bow, or to
say "Peace be with you".

Breaking of the Bread

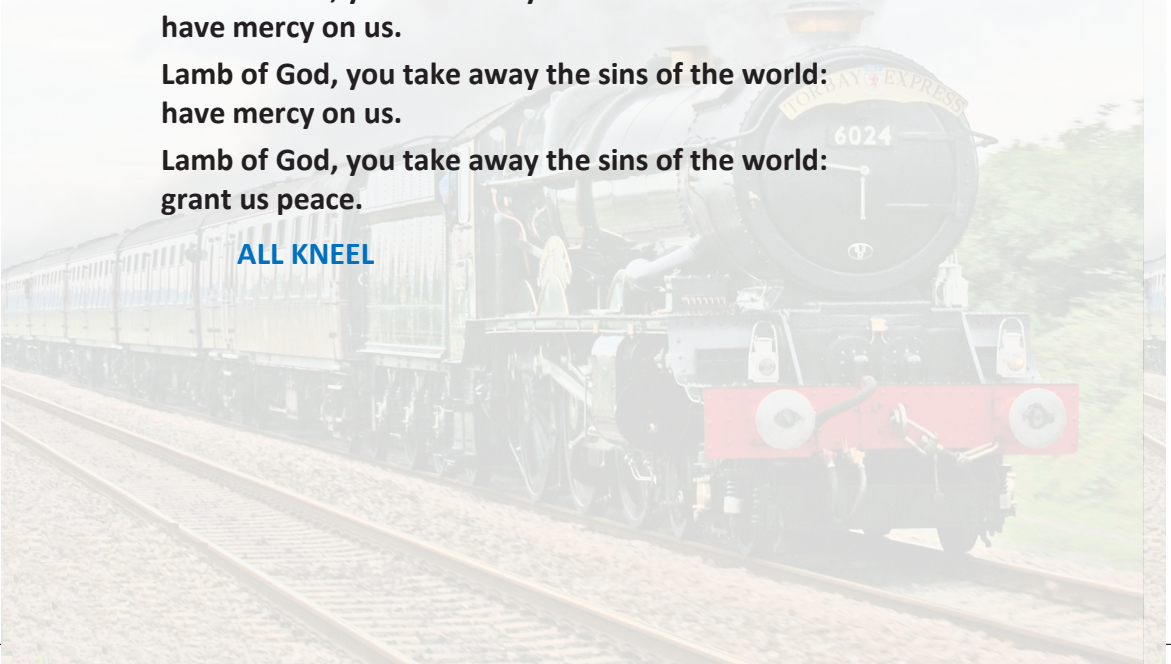
While the consecrated bread is being broken and the
preparations made for the distribution of communion, the
'Lamb of God' litany is prayed:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

ALL KNEEL



Communion

In silence all prepare for Communion. The priest then extends an invitation to participate in the sacred meal, and all who will receive holy communion respond with a prayer of humility taken from the gospel:

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Before receiving holy communion, each communicant makes a bow of reverence to the sacrament.

The minister says to each communicant:

The Body of Christ.

The communicant replies:

Amen.

Anyone unable to participate in the sacrament may request a blessing of the minister; to indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest.

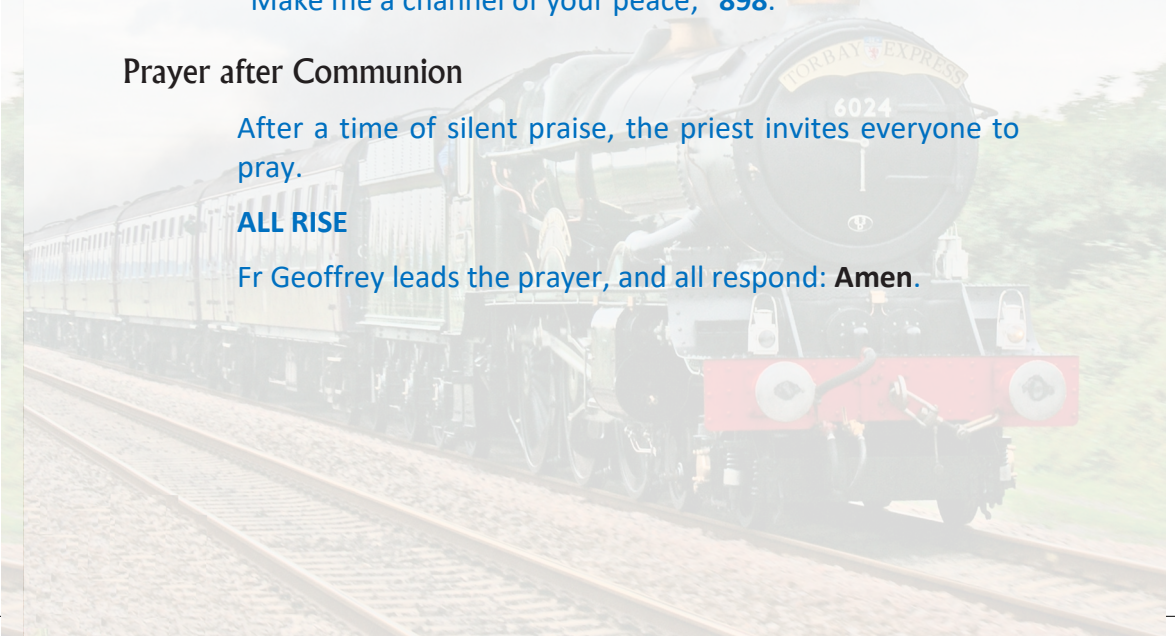
During Communion, everyone is invited to sing the hymn, "Make me a channel of your peace," **898**.

Prayer after Communion

After a time of silent praise, the priest invites everyone to pray.

ALL RISE

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayer, and all respond: **Amen.**



FINAL COMMENDATION

Before leaving the church, the assembly commends Gordon to the mercy of God.

Fr Geoffrey invites all to pray. All spend some moments in silent prayer and remembrance. Gordon's coffin is sprinkled with water from the baptismal font.

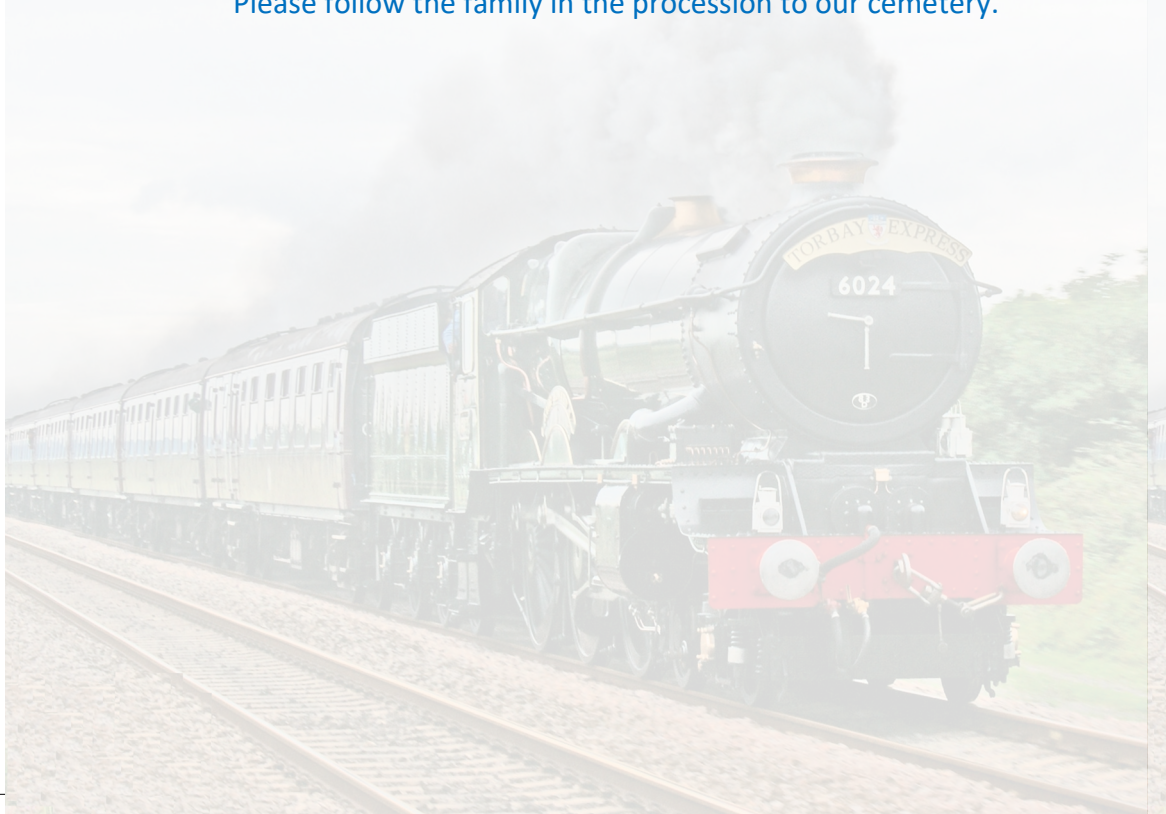
The liturgy in church ends with a prayer commending Gordon into God's hands.

All respond: **Amen.**

During the procession from church, everyone is invited to sing the hymn, "Lord of all hopefulness," **969.**

Burial

Please follow the family in the procession to our cemetery.







Frances and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends, and neighbours for the cards of condolence, words of comfort and sympathy shown to them during their recent sad time.

Following the service, you are warmly invited to return to The Royal Oak for light refreshments and to share memories of Gordon.

Should you wish to make a charitable donation in memory of Gordon, they would be gratefully received for St Mary and Michael's Church
c/o Greg Hodgkinson Independent Funeral Director
at the address below.



Greg Hodgkinson Independent Funeral Director
Castle View, Bridge Street, Garstang PR3 1YB
Tel: 01995 601600