

# MOST REV. SÉAMUS FREEMAN, SAC 1944 - 2022

*Bishop of Ossory 2007 - 2016*

Bishop Séamus Freeman, SAC, the eldest of the eight children of James and Bridget Freeman, was born on 23 February 1944 in Clonlahy, parish of Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly. At the age of eight months his family moved to Coolaghmore, parish of Callan, Co. Kilkenny, in the Diocese of Ossory. He attended Coolagh National School and Callan CBS. He completed Secondary School at Thurles CBS, as a postulant of the Pallottine Minor Seminary.

He entered the Society of Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) in Thurles, Co. Tipperary and made his first Pallottine Consecration in 1965. He studied philosophy at the National University of Ireland, University Collage Dublin and Theology at St. Patrick's College, Thurles. He was ordained a priest on 12th June 1971.

Subsequent to his ordination, he was sent to the Jesuit University of Detroit to pursue studies in psychology but was called to Rome not long afterwards to act as personal secretary to the Rector General of his Society, Fr. Nicholas Gorman. Two years later he returned to the USA and completed his studies at the Catholic University of America, Washington DC.

In 1975, he was appointed Rector of the Church of San Silvestro in Rome, “a Church with a long tradition of welcoming the stranger to Rome”, a Church designated by Pope Leo XIII (1885) to the pastoral care of English-speaking visitors and residents in Rome. During this time, in May 1978, he was elected a member of the Provincial Council of the Irish Province of the Society. In 1981 he returned to Ireland to take up the post of Rector and Director of Formation at the Pallottine College in Thurles.

While participating as delegate in the General Assembly of his community in 1983, Bishop Freeman was elected to the General Council of the Pallottines for a term of six years in Rome, a community dedicated to the pastoral and missionary role of all the baptized in the

life and mission of the Church. In 1989 he was elected Vicar General of the Society. Barely three years later, in 1992, Fr. Martin Juritsch, the then Rector General of the Society, fell gravely ill and submitted his resignation. At the subsequent Extraordinary General Assembly, Bishop Freeman was elected to succeed him. He was re-elected for a second six-year term in 1998.

In 1994 he took part as an “auditor” in the 1994 Synod of Bishops, dedicated to the theme of “Consecrated Life and its Mission in the Church and in the World”. During his term as Rector General, on the 28th October 2003, the Pallottine Family, known as the “Union of Catholic Apostolate”, was declared a “Public Association of the Faithful, of Pontifical Right” by the Pontifical Council for the Laity. At an International Assembly of the UCA, held in Rome in December 2005, Bishop Freeman was unanimously re-elected President of the General Coordination Council for a term of three years.

At the conclusion of his second term as Rector General of the Society of Catholic Apostolate, he spent a year with the Irish Pallottine Community of San Silvestro in Rome after which, on 7th October 2004, he was appointed Parish Priest of the parish of St. Vincent Pallotti in Rome (13.000 people approx). That’s where he served the Church, striving, with the collaboration of two Pallottine priests from Brazil, to involve all the baptised in the life and mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.

He was appointed Bishop of Ossory by the Holy Father on 14th September 2007 and ordained Bishop on 2nd December 2007 in St Mary’s Cathedral, Kilkenny. During his time in Ossory Bishop Séamus continued this work for the increased realisation of the mission of the lay faithful by implementing the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Plan; a plan which still guides the Diocese today and through his work chairing the Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development in Ireland. Bishop Séamus also worked tirelessly for the restoration of the beautiful St Mary’s Cathedral, Chapter House, Blessed Sacrament Chapel and surrounding campus. This work, which continues today, has served to enhance the faith life of the Diocese and remains as a fitting piece of the legacy that he leaves behind.

REST IN PEACE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

## FUNERAL MASS

### Opening Hymn

*All stand as the Bishops and Priests make their way in procession to the sanctuary.*

### **Abide With Me**

*Choir*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like myself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Bishop Nulty: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of  
the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Bishop Nulty: Peace be with you

All: And with your spirit

## Procession of Symbols

*Commentary: Ms Catherine Freeman*

Baptism	Michael Freeman
Confirmation	Frances Lennon
Eucharist	Sheila Walshe
Penance	Eddie Tallent
Marriage	James & Roseanne Freeman
Ordination	Brian Griffin, Adm.
Sick	Jimmy Cooke

## Penitential Rite

Bishop Nulty: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred  
mysteries.

## Seán Ó Riada Mass

*Choir*

A Thiarna, déan trócaire.

A Chríost, déan trócaire.

A Thiarna, déan trócaire.

Bishop Nulty: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

## Collect

Bishop Nulty: Let us pray. (silence)

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that the soul of Bishop Freeman your servant and priest,  
whom you honoured with sacred office  
while he lived in this world,  
may exult for ever in the glorious home of heaven.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

*Lector: Esther Freeman*

A reading from the Book of the Apocalypse

14-13

I, John heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

## Responsorial Psalm

**Here I Am Lord** (*Dan Shutte*)

*Cantor: Martina Burke and Choir*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

## Second Reading

*Lector: Tommy Freeman*

A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

Chapter 8:14-18

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The Spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.

And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing His sufferings so as to share His glory. I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation

*Choir*

**Seinn Allueiua** (Choir)

## Gospel

Mgr. Kieron Kennedy: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 21: 15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do

you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate what kind of death by which he would glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Mgr. Kieron Kennedy: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Homily

Bishop Nulty

## Prayer of the Faithful

Bishop Nulty: Loving Father, gathered here this day to remember and pray for Bishop Freeman we now bring before you our needs, our prayers and petitions with faith in your promise – “Ask and you shall receive - seek and you shall find – knock and the door shall be open”. We pray:

*Reader Mary Kenny, RSM.*

1. As we journey on the synodal pathway, we ask God’s blessing on Francis our Pope, and all Church leaders. May they continue to lead us in the Gospel way and inspire us as we search together for a new way of being Church.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us



2. Lord, we pray with gratitude for the gift of Bishop Séamus' presence in our lives. He was a faithful son and a loyal brother, who lived his vocation with love and compassion, respectful of the dignity of each person whom he encountered.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us

3. Heavenly Father, comfort and support all those who mourn the loss of Séamus today. We remember especially his siblings Esther, Tommy, John, Mary, Pat, nieces and nephews, relations, friends, and all those to whom he ministered. We are especially mindful of our family members and many others, who through distance and illness are unable to be with us in person today.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us

*Reader David Freeman*

4. We ask God's healing presence to be with all our sick. We remember also those who care tirelessly for them. We pray especially for all those who cared so lovingly for Bishop Séamus in the Pallottine College and Highfield Healthcare. May all those who supported and cared for him, in any way during his illness, be rewarded for their love and kindness.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us

5. Family was always important to Bishop Séamus. Today we acknowledge Séamus's three families, the Freemans, the Pallottines and the Diocese of Ossory. May we all continue to treasure Christian

values, as he did, and stay through to our vocation whatever our calling.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us

*Reader Sarah Rowley (née Freeman)*

6. Let us pray for peace, peace in our world, peace in our Country, peace in our hearts and minds. May we live by the truth and spread peace and harmony always.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us

7. We remember all those who have predeceased Bishop Séamus. We pray especially for members of the Maguire and Freeman families, for Bishop Séamus, his Mother and Father, Bridget and James, his sister Maureen and brother Martin. May they together enjoy their eternal reward.

Lord, hear us.

R/ Lord graciously hear us

Bishop Nulty : Lord you are the God of the living. Increase our faith this day in your promise of fulfilment in external life. Welcome Bishop Freeman into that life and console those who feel his loss. We ask these and all our prayers in faith and love through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Offertory Procession

*The gifts for consecration will be brought to the altar by Gemma Mulligan, Evana Freeman and Suzanne Freeman.*

## **Ag Críost an Síol** (*Seán Ó Riada*)

*Choir*

Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost and fómhar.  
In-Iothlainn Dé, go dtugtar sinn  
Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc,  
I lionta Dé go gcastar sinn.  
Ó fhás go haois, is ó aois go bás,  
Do dhá láimh, a Chríost anall tharainn.  
Ó bhás go críoch, ní críoch ach athfhás  
I bParrthas na nGrást go rabhaimid

Bishop Nulty: Pray, brothers and sisters,  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

All: 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.

## **Prayer over the Gifts**

Bishop Nulty: Grant we pray, almighty God,  
that through these holy mysteries  
Bishop Freeman, your servant and Priest,  
may behold with clarity forever  
what he faithfully ministered here.  
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## **Preface**

Bishop Nulty: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop Nulty: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Bishop Nulty: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned,  
that those saddened by the certainty of dying  
might be consoled by the promise of immortality to  
come.

Indeed for your faithful, Lord,  
life is changed not ended,  
and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,  
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in  
heaven.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

## Eucharistic Prayer III

### Sanctus

**Is Naofa, Naofa, Naofa Tú** (*Seán Ó Riada*)

*Choir*

Is Naofa, naofa, naofa, tú

A Thiarna Dia na Slua.

Tá neamh agus talamh lán de do ghlóir.

Hósanna sna harda.

Is beannaithe'n té 'tá ag teacht in ainm an Tiarna

Hósanna 'sna harda.

REQUIEM MASS

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

He joins his hands and, holding them extended  
over the offerings, says:

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you  
for consecration that they may become the Body  
and ❖ Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose  
command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks,  
he said the blessing, broke the bread  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE  
GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks,  
he said the blessing, and gave the chalice  
to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM  
IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,**

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL  
COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU  
AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS  
OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

## Memorial Acclamation

**No Greater Love** (*Michael Joncas*)

The mystery of faith.  
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection  
and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy and living sacrifice.  
Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognising the sacrificial Victim  
by whose death you willed  
to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

C1. May he make of us an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your  
elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin  
Mary,

Mother of God, with blessed Joseph her spouse,  
your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
and all the Saints, on whose constant intercession  
in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

- C2. May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray,  
O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the  
world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant  
Francis our Pope and Dermot our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire  
people you have gained for your own.  
Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you: In your  
compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself  
all your children scattered throughout the world.
- C3. Remember your servant Bishop Freeman  
whom you have called from this world to yourself.  
Grant that he who was united with your Son  
in a death like his, may also be one with him  
in his Resurrection, when from the earth  
he will raise up in the flesh those who have died,  
and transform our lowly body  
after the pattern of his own glorious body.  
To our departed brothers and sisters, too,  
and to all who were pleasing to you at their  
passing from this life, give kind admittance to your  
kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever  
the fullness of your glory, when you will wipe  
away every tear from our eyes. For seeing you, our  
God,  
as you are, we shall be like you for all the ages  
and praise you without end,  
through Christ our Lord, through whom  
you bestow on the world all that is good.

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.

**No Greater Love** (*Michael Joncas*)

Amen

## THE COMMUNION RITE

Bishop Nulty: Guimis chun an Athair faoi mar a mhúin ar Slánaitheoir dúinn a dhéanamh

All: Ar n-Athair atá ar neamh, go naofar d'ainm,  
go dtagfadh do ríocht, go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh. Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu, agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha mar a mhaithimidne dar bhféichiúna fein Ach ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc. Amen

Bishop Nulty: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever.

Bishop Nulty: Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;  
look not on our sins,



but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop Nulty: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop Nulty: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**Agnus Dei** (*Sean Ó Riada*)

*Choir*

A Uain Dé, a thógas peacaí an domhain,  
déan trócaire ‘rainn.

A Uain Dé, a thógas peacaí an domhain,  
déan trócaire ‘rainn.

A Uain Dé, a thógas peacaí an domhain,  
tabhair dúinn síocháin.

Bishop Nulty: Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

## Communion Hymns

**Lead Me Lord** (*Samuel Sebastian Wesley*)

*Choir*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;  
make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,  
that makest me dwell in safety.

**Christ Be Beside Me** (*St Patrick's Breastplate*)

*Choir*

Christ be beside me,  
Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me,  
King of my heart;  
Christ be within me,  
Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me  
never to part.

Christ on my right hand,  
Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me,  
shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping,  
Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising,  
light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts  
thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues  
telling of me.  
Christ be the vision  
in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me,  
Christ ever be.

**Panis Angelicus**

*Choir*

**Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace** (*Sebastian Temple*)  
*Choir*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord;  
and where there is doubt true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console  
to be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all men that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life

## Prayer after Communion

Bishop Nulty: Let us pray.  
Having received the Sacrament of salvation,  
we implore your kindness, O God,  
for Bishop Freeman your servant and Priest,  
that, as you made him a steward  
of your mysteries on earth  
so you may bring him to be nourished  
by their truth and reality as unveiled in heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

Bishop Nulty: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop Nulty: Let us bless the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

### Words of Appreciation

*Rev. Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, SAC, Rector General of the Pallottines  
The Freeman Family*

## FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

*All stand for the final commendation.*

Mgr. Kieron Kennedy: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Bishop Freeman and now we come to the last farewell.  
There is sadness in parting,  
but we take comfort in the hope that one day  
we shall see Bishop Freeman again and enjoy his friendship.  
Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow,  
the mercy of God will gather us together again  
in the joy of his kingdom.  
Therefore let us console one another  
with our faith in Jesus Christ.

*All pray in silence. Incense is placed into the thurible. The coffin is sprinkled with holy water as a reminder of his Baptism and his body, as a temple of the Spirit of God since that day, is honoured with incense.*

REQUIEM MASS

All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High

Saints of God, come to his aid.  
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord.  
Receive ...

May Christ who called you take you to himself.  
May angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.  
Receive ...

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.  
Receive...

Bishop Nulty: Into your hands, Father of mercies,  
we commend our brother Bishop Freeman  
in the sure and certain hope  
that, together with all who have died in Christ,  
he will rise with him on the last day.

We thank you for the blessings  
which you bestowed upon him in this life:  
They are signs to us of your goodness  
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord,  
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:  
open the gates of paradise to your servant  
and help us who remain  
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,  
until we all meet in Christ and we are with you  
and with our brother for ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop Nulty : In peace let us take our brother to his place of rest.

*In preparation for the final procession, Bishop Freeman's family remove the symbols from his coffin.*

## Processional Hymn

### **Lourdes Magnificat**

### **God Fills Me With Joy** (*Jean-Paul Lécot*)

*Choir*

God fills me with joy, Alleluia.  
His holy presence is my robe, Alleluia.

My soul now glorify  
the Lord who is my Saviour.  
Rejoice, for who am I,  
that God has shown me favour.

The world shall call me blest  
and ponder on my story.  
In me is manifest  
God's greatness and his glory.

For those who are his friends,  
and keep his law as holy.  
His mercy never ends,  
and he exalts the lowly.

But by his power the great,  
the proud, the self-conceited,  
the kings who sit in state,  
and humbled and defeated.

He feeds the starving poor,  
and guides his holy nation.

Fulfilling what he swore  
long since in revelation.

Then glorify with me  
the Lord who is my Saviour:  
one holy Trinity  
forever and forever.

## RITE OF COMMITTAL

Bishop Nulty: Our brother Bishop Freeman has gone to his rest  
in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome  
him  
to the table of God's children in heaven.  
With faith and hope in eternal life,  
let us assist him with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves.  
May we who mourn be reunited one day with  
our brother; together may we meet Christ Jesus  
when He who is our life appears in glory.

We read in sacred Scripture:  
"Our true home is in heaven,  
and Jesus Christ whose return we long for  
will come from heaven to save us."

*Philippians 3:20*

## Prayer over the place of Burial

Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your own three days in the tomb,  
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you  
and so made the grave a sign of hope

that promises resurrection  
even as it claims our mortal bodies.  
Grant that our brother Bishop Freeman may sleep  
here in peace  
until you awaken him to glory,  
for you are the resurrection and the life.  
Then he will see you face to face  
and in your light will see light  
and know the splendor of God,  
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

*Holy water is sprinkled on the grave.*

## Committal

Bishop Nulty: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to  
eternal life  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to  
Almighty God  
our brother Bishop Freeman, and we commit his  
body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes,  
dust to dust.

*Soil is placed on the coffin.*

The Lord bless him,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon him  
and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his  
countenance upon  
him and give him peace.

All: Amen



## Intercessions

Bishop Nulty: For our brother Bishop Freeman, let us pray to the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Bishop Freeman and dry the tears of those who weep. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

Our brother Bishop Freeman was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit, give him fellowship with all your saints. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

He was nourished with your body and blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of Bishop Freeman; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

We pray for all who are buried in this cemetery:  
may the light of glory shine on them and may the  
rest in peace. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord have mercy.

## The Lord's Prayer

Bishop Nulty: With longing for the fullness of the coming of  
God's kingdom, we pray:

All: 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.  
Amen

## Concluding Prayer

Bishop Nulty: God of holiness and power, accept our prayers  
on behalf of your servant Bishop Freeman;  
do not count his failings against him,  
for in his heart he earnestly desired to do your will.  
As his faith united him to your people on earth,  
so may your mercy join him to the angels in heaven.  
We ask this through Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

## Final Blessing

Bishop Nulty: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

*All pray silently.*

Bishop Nulty: Most merciful God,  
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,  
surround the family  
of our brother Bishop Freeman with your love,  
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,  
but have confidence in your goodness  
and strength to face the days to come.  
Grant that as we grieve for our brother  
we may hold his memory dear  
and live in hope of the eternal kingdom  
where you will bring us together again.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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