

# 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 with thy spirit.**

*The Bishop*      **Let us pray.**

**O Father of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love but see no longer. Grant them thy peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power take them unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN**

*The Bishop will then proceed to each corner of the ground to be consecrated. He will be preceded by the Churchwardens (if present), bearing their staves of office, 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. AMEN**

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

*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. AMEN**

**Hear the words of the Scripture:**

**I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me: Write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: Even so, saith the Spirit. For they rest from their labours.**

*The Bishop gives the Blessing.*