

## **ECUMENICAL ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE NEW CHRISTIAN CEMETERY**

*Participants gather under the Tent, provided by the Royal Navy.*

***Bishop Aldo Berardi, Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia:***

We gather as representatives of different churches in Bahrain to open and bless this new burial ground in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**All And with your spirit.**

***Fr Saji Thomas, Roman Catholic Cathedral, Awali:***

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’ (*John 11.25,26*)

*The gathering follows the crucifer and Bishop Aldo as he walks to the south east corner of the cemetery, singing:*

**Jesus remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.  
Jesus remember me , when you come into your Kingdom.  
(repeat)**

### **THE FIRST STATION**

***Gerard Fernandes, Member of CCCC:***

As they came from their mother’s womb, so they shall go again, naked as they came; they shall take nothing for their toil, which they may carry away with their hands. This also is a grievous ill: just as they came, so shall they go; and what gain do they have from toiling for the wind?

*The Bishop, using his staff, marks the ground with the sign of the Cross and will say:*

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

*The gathering follows the crucifer & Pastor Blaine to the south west corner, as we sing:*

*Taizé Chant:* **The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:  
in God I trust, in God I trust. (repeated)**

## **THE SECOND STATION**

**Pastor Isaac Inayat, NEC Urdu Community:**

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*(Romans 8.38,39)*

**Pastor Blaine Newhouse, Senior Pastor of NEC:**

Bless this resting place of the bodies of those departed in the Lord. May it be a place of serenity and meditation, as we await Jesus' coming in glory, to raise the faithful into the fulness of the life of His Kingdom, where Christ will be all in all. **Amen.**

*The gathering follows the crucifer and Orthodox priest to the north west corner, as we sing:*

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**Refrain:**

***This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.***

**2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]**

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]**

### **THE THIRD STATION**

***Fr Saba Haidousian, Greek Orthodox Church (read in Arabic):***

The Lord said unto the Jews that came unto Him: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

(St. John Chap. 5: 24-30)

*Fr Rewais George, Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church (in Arabic):*

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

*The gathering follows the crucifer & Bishop Sean Semple to the north east corner,  
to Orthodox chant in Arabic:*

***Troparion in Tone Five:***

O Christ God, who are exceedingly good, we implore You: grant rest to Your servants in the bosom of Abraham. Bestow eternal light upon all those who depart to You from this earthly world and are buried here, overlooking their transgressions, since You are the Good One. Glory...

***Kondakion in Tone Three:***

O Lord, when we stand before Your fearful judgment seat according to Your word, do not forsake us, who believe in You, O our Savior. For though we have all sinned, we have not turned away from You. Therefore, we entreat You, O Christ, through all Your saints, to grant rest to those who have departed to You, since You alone are without sin.  
Now and ever...

***Theotokion in Tone Eight:***

Give rest, O Savior, to the souls of those who have departed from temporal things and are buried here. Since You are immortal, almighty, and the only lover of mankind, forgive, O Compassionate One, their transgressions, and have mercy, O Merciful One, on the work of Your hands, through the intercessions of the *Theotokos*, O You who alone love mankind.



## THE FOURTH STATION

**Nicholas Bonaventure, St Christopher's Anglican Cathedral & Member of CCCC:** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

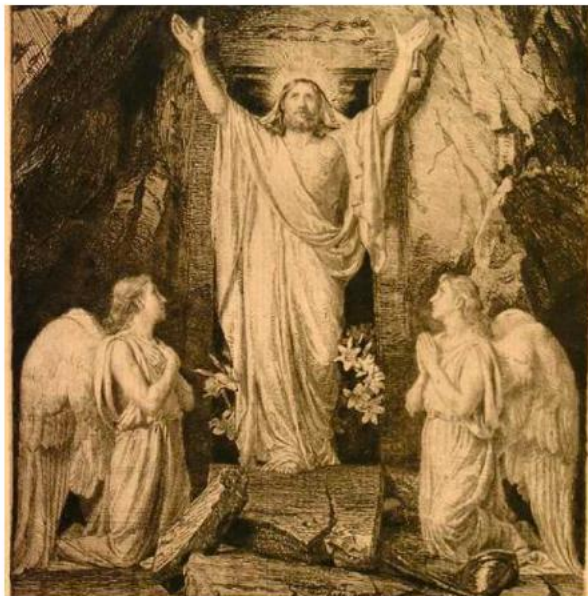
"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
(1 Corinthians 15. 51—57)

*At the south east corner, the Bishop, using his staff, marks the ground with the sign of the Cross and will say:*

**Bishop Sean Semple, Anglican Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf:**

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



*Following the Crucifer and the Bishops, the gathering process back to the tent, singing:*

**1.) Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

**2.) Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.**

**3.) Finish then thy new creation:  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*(Tune: Blaenwern; Words: Charles Wesley)*

**Bishop Sean Semple:** By virtue of our various authorities 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**



**Bishop Sean:** 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.

**Bishop Aldo:** The Lord be with you.

*All*                    **And with your spirit.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

*All*    **Thanks be to God.**

*A short silence is observed*

**H.E. His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,  
Mr. Alastair Long,  
Chairman of the Christian Communities' Cemeteries  
Committee,  
offers some words of thanks.**

Welcome to the New Christian Cemetery, which is the third in Bahrain, which are overseen by the Christian Community Cemeteries' Committee and presently administered by St Christopher's Cathedral. The first cemetery ("C1") opened in 1901 and was fully utilised by 1966, and is in the busy centre of Manama. The second cemetery ("C2"), in Salmabad, has almost reached its operational capacity. With over 30 Christian burials per year, the construction of a third cemetery ("C3") was urgent and this is what we are celebrating today. The cemeteries have always been open for the burial of any Christian, practising or nominal, and of any denomination.

As you will see, the New Christian Cemetery is far from complete. What you see around you is the result of the first two phases of this project, has provided a basic operational cemetery with boundary wall and guardhouse. Our next phase (3) is the Construction of Storage Area, W/C Block, Pathways, Lighting, CCTV is funded to the tune of BD15,000 and will commence in the coming months. Phase 4, for which we are now need to fundraise BD60,000, is the construction of a chapel of rest, to receive the coffin of the deceased and where final prayers are said before burial out of the sun.

We are grateful to His Majesty the King & His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for the donation of the land and the 200 tonnes of sand necessary to infill the site, to all the churches who have given to the project and individual donors, and the Bahrain Marathon Relay Charity of the British Club. In addition there has been considerable pro-bono donations in the form of professional design and construction services for which we give thanks.

*Those who wish to donate to Phase 4 of the project may do so:*

**Bank: Account & IBAN: Al Salam Bank Bahrain 3032100101—**

**Saint Christophers Anglican Cathedral BH23ALSA00003032100101**

**SWIFT CODE: ALSABHBM—Ref: Cemetery Fund**