

Liturgical Advisory Committee Report

Proposer – The Very Revd Nigel Dunne

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Archbishop,

Despite the brevity of our report this year, the Liturgical Advisory Committee has been able to progress a significant amount of work in four key areas even in the midst of lockdowns and restrictions.

Firstly, we have continued to work with the Historical Centenaries Working Group to provide further liturgical provision for the marking of historic centenaries as they occur. The most recent of these are *A Service of the Word to Mark the Centenary of the End of the War of Independence in Ireland* and *A Service of the Word Marking the Centenary of the Opening of the Northern Ireland Parliament*.

Secondly, a very important new set of *Services and Resources in the Case of Sudden and Unexpected Death* have been drawn up. These emerged from several requests to the Committee a good number of years ago to make provision for material to be used around the whole area of suicide. As they were being worked on, it became clear that there was need for a broader approach so as to include sudden and unexpected death in other contexts. This resource provides comprehensive pastoral guidelines, pastoral prayers, propers for Holy Communion, and a fully worked out *Service of the Word in the Case of a Sudden or Unexpected Death* which also allows for creativity and contextualisation of the service and is designed to help those who are responding to a sudden and unexpected death in their parish, school or other setting. It can be used as a stand-alone act of worship or material from it may be used at other suitable places in other services provided in the Book of Common Prayer.

Thirdly, the Committee has produced two resources in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The first is *A Service of Light – Remembering the Impact of a Pandemic* which is designed to help the bereaved acknowledge their loss, express their love for the one who has died and for worshippers to gather in support of each another, and the second is *A Service of Lamentation and Hope in the Context of a Pandemic Experience*, which is designed to make space for children's experiences of loss and sadness due to the disruption of the pandemic to be expressed within the context of the worshipping community.

Finally, we wish to draw to the attention of all General Synod committees and associated groups the recently circulated *Guidelines for Groups Preparing Liturgical Resources for Special Observances or Commemorations on Sunday*. There are currently a large amount of dedicated Sundays for particular themes, for example the most recent being Vocation Sunday. This document is designed to assist committees and groups preparing for special observances or commemorations to integrate with other elements of the Sunday liturgy without distracting from the lectionary of the day.

If complete liturgies are being created this should be done in consultation with the LAC, and we will present them for approval to the House of Bishops or the General Synod as appropriate.

Archbishop, it has been a most productive year and I have pleasure in proposing that the report of the Liturgical Advisory Committee be received.