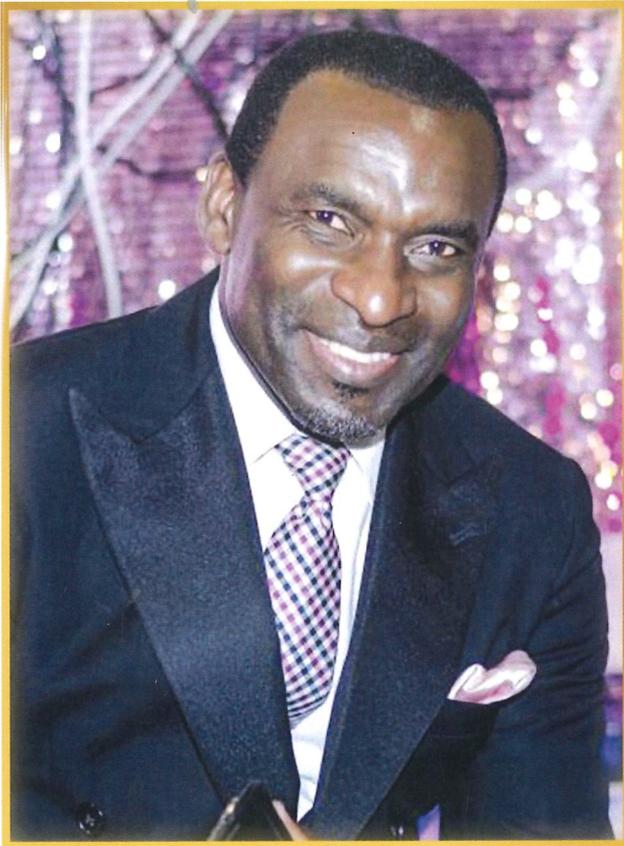


# FUNERAL MASS

*Taa Gwei*



**BERNARD NGAFIN FONLON**

NOVEMBER 10, 1966 - DECEMBER 28, 2022

# SIR BEN



**MAIN CELEBRANT**  
Rev. Fr. Maurice Akwa

**LED BY**  
The Holy Trinity Choir

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE

#### A FEW MORE YEARS

1. A few more years shall roll,  
A few more seasons come,  
And we shall be with those  
that rest in peace beyond  
the tomb.

**Chorus:**  
Then, O my Lord, Prepare My  
soul for that great day;  
O wash me in thy precious Blood  
And take my sins away.

2. A few more suns shall set  
O'er those dark hills of  
time,  
And we shall be where  
suns are not, A far serener  
clime.

3. A few more storms shall  
beat On this wild rocky  
shore,  
And we shall be where  
tempests cease, And surges  
swell no more.

4. A few more struggles here,  
A few more partings o'er,  
A few more toils, a few  
more tears, And we shall  
weep no more.

5. Tis but a little while And he  
shall come again,  
Who died that we may live,  
who lives That we with him  
may reign

#### REQUIEM AETERNAM

Requiem aeternum dona  
eis, Domine:  
et lux per petua luccat eis,  
cum santis tuis in eternum  
quia pius est

PS: Te decet hymnus, Deus,

in Sion,  
et tibi redde- tur votum  
in Jerusalem: exaudi  
orationem meam,

ad te omnis caro veniet.  
Requiem aeternam, etc.

#### KYRIE

Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING: LAMENTATIONS 3:1, 17-25

*A reading from the Book of Lamentations*

I am one who has known affliction under the rod of God's anger. My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; my enduring hope, I said, has perished before the LORD. The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; they are renewed each morning— great is your faithfulness! The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore, I will hope in him. The LORD is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him.

*The word of the Lord*  
*R:/ Thanks be to God*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:**

My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

The LORD is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures Where he gives me repose; Near restful waters he leads me, To revive my drooping spirit

**:/Response**

He guides me along the right path, He is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness No evil will I fear You are there with your crook and your staff; With these you give me comfort.

**:/Response**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me All the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell, Forever and ever.

**:/Response**

### SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-27

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law, though I myself am not under the law, to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law, though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ, to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it. Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we, an imperishable one. Thus, I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

*The word of the Lord*  
*R:/ Thanks be to God*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Glory and Praise to You

Christ shown forth in the body,  
**glory and praise to you**  
Christ made just in the spirit,  
**glory and praise to you**  
Christ who was seen by the angels,  
**glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### GOSPEL JOHN 14:1-6

*+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back

again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**R:/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

We come to God with our various needs, petitions, intentions and prayers and beg that he may listen favorably to us as we present our pleas.

1. **Let us Pray for the Church:** For the Ministers of God's Word and Sacraments, especially Our Holy Father Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and Consecrated People that the zeal of the Gospel may continue to burn in their hearts and so inspire their every thought, word and deed so that they may selflessly shepherd God's flock entrusted to their care.  
**We Pray to the Lord**
2. **We Pray for Peace in the World:** Lord, because of hatred man has known the ravages of war. Cameroon our dear Fatherland is bleeding from a near genocidal conflict from the selfishness of a few unconscious lot. Our brother Gwei stood vehemently for Justice and peace. We pray that you may touch the hearts of leaders to work for sincere and lasting peace. May we be able to experience peace in our hearts and in our homes.  
**We Pray to the Lord**
3. **Let us pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Bernard N Fonlon.** Heavenly Father, it is your will that all may be saved and come to the glory of your kingdom. Look with mercy and compassion on the soul of your servant our brother and friend, Ben Fonlon whom you have called to yourself at a tender age. Grant him pardon for all his shortcomings and a place in your

heavenly kingdom with the angels and saints.

**We pray to the Lord**

4. **Gwei Fonlon loved us** and worked very hard for the unity and solidarity of all he served. His social out-riach at all levels, especially as Master of Ceremonies, was unmatched. His brutal departure leaves a big void in our midst, friends and family alike. Reward him abundantly for his assiduous and selfless serve to your people and give us the grace and strength to continue keeping alive what he stood for.  
**We pray to the Lord**
5. **Let us pray for the Fonlon family** especially for Keisha his wife, .... His children, his mother and siblings in this moment of profound grief and sorrow. God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ experienced the pain and distress of death at the passing away of his friend Lazarus and more so at his impending death at while he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. We commend the lives of Gwei's wife, his children and members of his family, especially his unconsoling mother into your hands. Protect them from all evil, assure their daily needs, guide them through this painful moment of isolation and keep them evermore united.  
**We pray to the Lord**
6. **We pray for the sick**, especially all diagnosed with cancer in all its forms and variants. Lord strengthen them in their pain, be with them in their discouragement. Make them know that it is not a death sentence; perform the miracle and extend to them your healing touch to the joy and satisfaction of their family and friends.  
**We pray to the Lord**
7. **We also pray for all those who have died** from complications of cancer. May the Lord in his Mercy and compassion forgive them their sins and grant them a place in his Heavenly Kingdom.  
**We Pray to the Lord**
8. **Let us pray for ourselves** present at this celebration as we bid farewell to our brother and friend. Lord, teach us to be messengers of peace and love. May we be generous enough

to pray, encourage and provide the support and comfort the family needs now. Protect us throughout this funeral weekend and bring us back safely to our various destinations.

*We pray to the Lord*

9. Let us pray for a while in silence for our personal needs and the needs of the church (*Pause*)

We now ask Our Lady Queen of Apostles to intercede for us as we sing...

### ○ COME TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

○ come to the throne of Grace;  
○ come to the heart must pure;  
To Mary, our hope of life, In whom salvation is sure

**Refrain:**

○ lady of Fatima, hail! Immaculate Mother of Grace;  
○, pray for us, help today, The hope of the human race.

Lord, you know the many needs your people have in this life. In your love listen graciously to our prayers and petitions for the repose of the soul of Bernard Ngafin Fonlon, your son. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY

#### WHATSOEVER YOU DO

**Chorus:** Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me. (2x)

- |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. When I was hungry, you gave me to eat; When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink. Now enter into the home of My Father.<br><b>Chorus</b> | 2. When I was homeless, you opened your door; When I was naked, you gave me your coat. Now enter into the home of My Father.<br><b>Chorus</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3. When I was weary, you helped me find rest. When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears. Now enter into the home of My Father.  
**Chorus**

### TRUTH IN MY INWARD BEING

- |                                                                                                |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Truth in my inward being, wisdom in my Secret heart,<br>○ Lord that's what you desire. (2x) | 3. We bring our gifts to you Lord, In form of bread and wine ○ Lord, that's what you desire. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Refrain:**

Willing Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
Willing Spirit, This is our sacrifice. (2x)

- |                                                                                              |                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. We offer our minds and hearts, To you ○ God at this table ○ Lord, that's what you desire. | 4. Bless them and change them, ○ Lord, Into your body and blood ○ Lord, that's what you desire. |
|                                                                                              | 5. All glory be to the Father, And to the Son and the Spirit ○ Lord, that's what you desire.    |

### ALMIGHTY FATHER, TAKE THIS BREAD

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Almighty Father, take this bread Thy people offer thee.<br>Where sins divide us take instead One fold and family.   | 3. ○ God, by Angels' choir adored, Thy name be praised on earth;<br>On all men be thy peace out-poured Once promised at his birth. |
| 2. The wine we offer soon will be Christ's blood, redemption's price; Receive it Holy Trinity,<br>This Holy Sacrifice. |                                                                                                                                    |

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra, gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

## OUR FATHER

Pater noster qui es in caelis santificetur nomen tuum; adveniat regnum tuum;  
fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra. Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie; et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris; et ne nos induca in tentationem;  
sed libera nos a malo.

### *Acclamation after the Our Father (For the Kingdom)*

Quia tuum est regnum, et potestas, et gloria  
in saecula.

## AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam

## COMMUNION

### I COME TO THEE ONCE MORE MY GOD

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. I come to Thee once more,<br>my God! No longer will I<br>roam;<br>For I have sought the wide<br>world through, And never<br>found a home. | Yet in the brightest still I<br>pined For more abiding<br>rest.                                                                          |
| 2. Though bright and many<br>are the spots Where I have<br>built a nest,                                                                     | 3. Riches could bring me joy<br>and power, And they were<br>fair to see;<br>Yet gold was but a sorry<br>god To serve instead of<br>Thee. |

- |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Then honour and the<br>world's good word<br>Appeared a nobler faith;<br>Yet could I rest on bliss that<br>hung And trembled on a<br>breath?   | But then it came and went<br>so quick, It was but for an<br>hour.                                                                              |
| 5. The pleasure of the passing<br>hour My spirit next could<br>wile;<br>But soon, full soon, my<br>heart fell sick Of pleasure's<br>weary smile. | 7. And thus a not unkindly<br>world Hath clone its best<br>for me;<br>Yet I have found, O God!<br>no rest, No harbour short<br>of Thee.        |
| 6. More selfish grown, I<br>worshipped health, The<br>flush of manhood's power;                                                                  | 8. For Thou hast made this<br>wondrous soul All for<br>Thyself alone;<br>Ah! send Thy sweet<br>transforming word To make<br>it more Thine own. |

## NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

- |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Nearer, my God, to thee,<br>Nearer to thee!<br>E'en though it be a cross<br>That raiseth me:<br>Still all my song would be,<br>'Nearer, my God, to thee,-<br>Nearer to thee!' | Yet in my dreams I'd be<br>Nearer, my God, to thee,<br>Nearer to thee!                                                                                                     |
| 2. Though, like the wanderer,<br>The sun gone down,<br>Darkness be over me,<br>My rest a stone;                                                                                  | 3. There let the way appear,<br>Steps unto heaven;<br>All that thou send'st to me<br>In mercy given:<br>Angels to beckon me<br>Nearer, my God, to thee,<br>Nearer to thee! |

## YES, HEAVEN IS THE PRIZE

- |                                                                                                                   |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Yes, heaven is the prize My<br>soul shall strive to gain;<br>One glimpse of Paradise<br>Repays a life of pain. |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

### Chorus:

'Tis Heaven, 'tis Heaven is  
the prize 'Tis Heaven, 'tis  
Heaven,  
Yes Heaven is the prize.

2. Yes, heaven is the prize! My soul, oh! think of this; All earthly goods despise, For such a crown of bliss. **[Chorus]**
3. Yes, Heaven is the prize! When sorrows press around. Look up beyond the skies, Where hope and strength are found. **[Chorus]**
4. Yes, Heaven is the prize! Oh! 'tis not hard to gain. He surely wins who tries; For hope can conquer pain. **[Chorus]**
5. Yes, Heaven is the prize! The strife will soon be past: Faint not, but raise your eyes,

And struggle to the last.  
**[Chorus]**

6. Yes, Heaven is the prize! Faith shows the crown to gain; Hope lights the way and dies, But Love will always reign. **[Chorus]**
7. Yes, Heaven is the prize! Too much cannot be given; And he alone is wise Who gives up all for Heaven. **[Chorus]**
8. Yes, Heaven is the prize! Death opens wide the door, And then the spirit flies To God for evermore. **[Chorus]**

6. Mercy I cry, O Lord wash me clean; And whiter than snow my spirit shall be.
7. Give me again the joy of your help; Now open my lips, your praise I will sing.
8. Happy is he, forgiven by God; His sin blotted out, his guilt is no more.

9. You are my joy, my refuge and strength; Let all upright hearts give to the Lord.
10. My Soul will sing, my heart will rejoice; The blessing of God will fill all my days.

## CONCLUDING RITES

### EXIT

#### PEACE PERFECT PEACE

1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? The Blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
2. Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed? To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
3. Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging Round? On Jesus' bosom nought but but calm is found.
4. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away? In Jesus' keeping we are safe and they.
5. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown? Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
6. Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us And ours? Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.
7. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease, And Jesus call us to heaven's perfect peace

### YES, I SHALL ARISE

#### Antiphon;

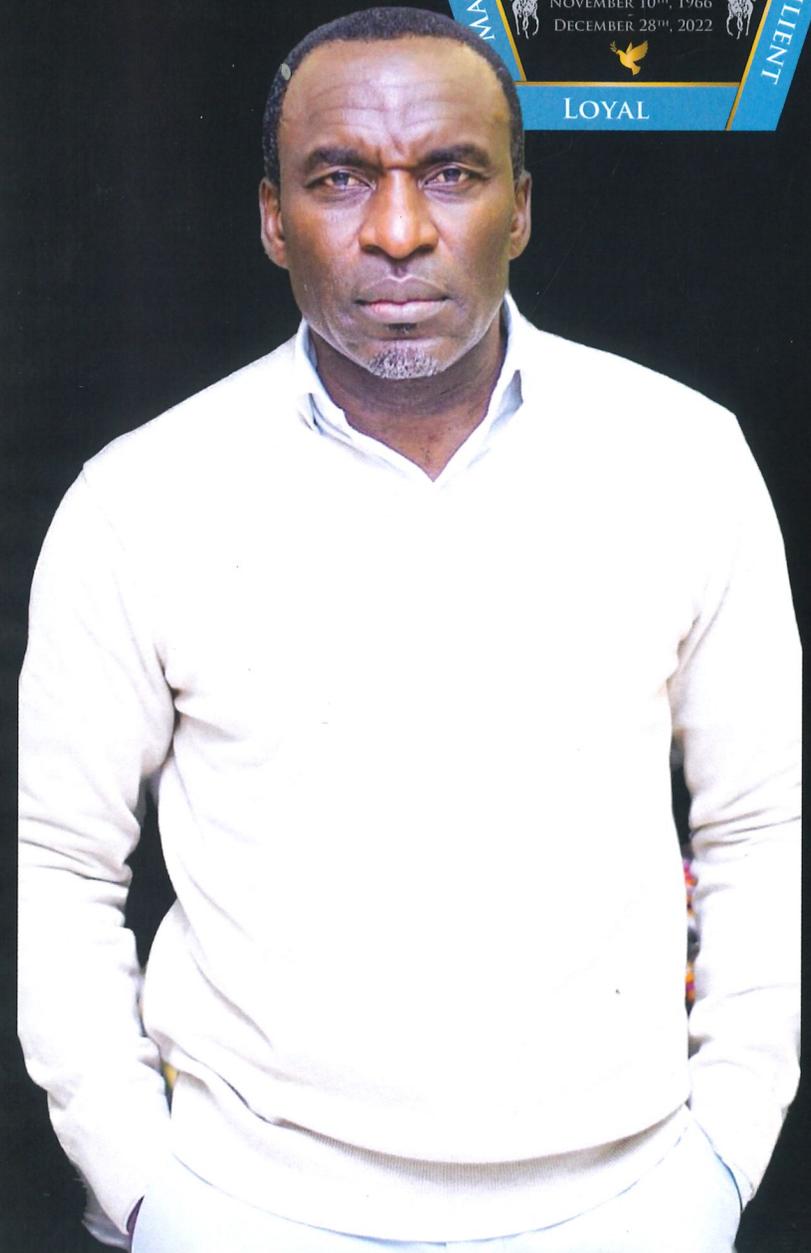
Yes, I shall arise, and return to my Father.

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; In you, O my God, I place all my trust.
2. Look down on me, Have mercy O Lord; Forgive me my sins, behold all my grief.
3. My heart and soul shall yearn for your face; Be gracious to me and answer my plea
4. Do not withhold your goodness from me; O Lord, May your love be deep in my soul.
5. To you I pray: have pity on me; My God, I have sinned against your great love.

# Weep Not For Me



Weep not for me though I have gone  
Into that gentle night  
Grieve if you will, but not for long  
Upon my soul's sweet fight  
I am at peace, my soul's at rest  
There is no need for tears  
For with your love, I was so blessed  
For all those many years  
There is no pain, I suffer not  
The fear is now all gone  
Put now these things out of your thoughts  
In your memory I live on  
Remember not my fight for breath  
Remember not the strife  
Please do not dwell upon my death  
But celebrate my life



# *Appreciation*

YOUR WORDS HAVE COMFORTED US,  
YOUR SUPPORT HAS STRENGTHENED US,  
AND YOUR LOVE HAS SUSTAINED US.

WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH  
FOR YOUR KINDNESS DURING OUR  
GREATEST SADNESS. WE EXTEND TO YOU  
OUR MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR  
ALL THE LOVE YOU HAVE SHOWERED  
US WITH; YOUR GENEROSITY AND LOVE  
WILL BE AS INDELIBLE IN OUR HEARTS  
AS THE MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED  
BERNARD NGAFIN FONLON.