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# **DIRECTIVE ON THE CELEBRATION OF A FUNERAL MASS ON HOLY SATURDAY**

May 3, 1996

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It has come to my attention that Funeral Masses have been celebrated in different parts of the diocese on Holy Saturday. This practice is totally contrary to the spirit of the liturgy and the significance of the Church's silent wait for the glorious celebration of the resurrection at the Easter Vigil. It is totally illicit to celebrate a Funeral Mass on Holy Saturday during the day. A funeral service is perfectly desirable and possible. The Funeral Mass must be delayed till the following week or at the convenience of the family. Neither bishop nor parish priest can dispense from this essential requirement.

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Rev. John Michael Sherlock  
Bishop of London

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