

I would like my Funeral Director to be

I would like to be

Buried

Cremated

I would like my funeral to be a -

Funeral Service

Requiem Mass

If it is possible, I would like my coffin brought in to Church the night before before my Requiem

I would like my funeral celebrated at

Readings I like:

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Hymns I like are:

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I would like my remains to be interred at

Other suggestions

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.....

My Full Name

Catholic Parishes of Cardigan & Newcastle Emlyn



Guidance for planning funeral
liturgies
to help loved ones
and
family members

The purpose of this leaflet

It is always a difficult time when someone we love dies, especially in coming to terms with their loss, but also having to make many decisions regarding what happens next.

As Catholics, it is central to our belief that we are called to share in the life of Christ, as his love for us is eternal. This hope is something that is shown in our Funeral Liturgies, as they are not simply a celebration of our lives, but a commending of our souls to God, that we may share even more closely in His loving care.

For families in grief, who are experiencing at very close hand the death of a loved one, it is often difficult to try to work out how best to show their love in preparing their funeral liturgy. There are many things to consider, such as – where to have the funeral, what format it should take, what readings or hymns to select, and whether their loved one would have wanted to be buried or cremated.

This leaflet is intended to make that process a little easier by giving directions on what you would like in your own Funeral, and even if these wishes cannot be followed to the very letter, they give indications to make the choices of loved ones a little less difficult.

Some things to bear in mind

Funeral service or Requiem Mass

The funeral service consists of readings, hymns, a sermon and prayers. It may be celebrated in Church, at a funeral home or crematorium.

A Requiem Mass has at its centre the celebration of the Mass and is celebrated in Church.

Either form of Funeral Liturgy is available. If the person who has died practised their faith, and regularly attended Holy Mass, then it would seem appropriate to celebrate their funeral during Mass.

There is an old tradition of receiving the body of the person who has died into the Church the evening before their Requiem Mass, so they lie before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for their funeral. This may be available in your church – please discuss it with the Priest (in some parishes this is not possible due to insurance reasons or other services going on in the building).

Readings and Hymns

Readings from Sacred Scripture form part of the service or Mass. Generally there will be a reading (from either the Old or New Testament), a Responsorial Psalm, and a Gospel reading (read by a Priest). Prayers of Intercession can be provided by the Priest celebrating the Funeral.

Family or friends may be selected to read. Someone may wish to speak briefly about the person, but this will need to be given to the Priest in advance. Poems or secular readings are not read during the funeral service in Church.

Hymns that are well known are more easily sung by congregations, and need to be appropriate to the different parts of the liturgy (if a Requiem is to be celebrated). The Priest can help with selecting hymns. (alternatives are always worth selecting, for example, we do not sing Alleluia during Lent). Secular music is not sung or played in the Church. Usually two hymns are sung at funeral services, and up to four hymns may be sung at Requiem Masses. One or two hymns are sung at committals in a crematorium.

Burial or cremation

Either is available. Cremation is permitted and for Catholics, the cremated remains (ashes) need to be buried, not scattered.

It is advisable to state where the place of interment is to be, and if that is in a grave which is already occupied. (Some laws and regulations limit the number of people buried in each grave, or if ashes can be buried there).

Other considerations that might help your family

There are so many legal forms and documents that are required after someone's death it is often difficult to know where they are, and even details like date of birth, national insurance number, bank details, place of last will and testament etc.

It could be an idea to write down some of those details, and to keep them with this form, as well as to inform your family or loved ones where information they may need is kept.

Please Note –Coronavirus pandemic legislation will have restrictions that affect all funerals during this difficult time.

We hope the above information has been of help to you, and will be of help to your family and loved ones. If you need any help, please do not hesitate to contact the Priest. God bless.