

PREPARING A FUNERAL MASS

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Most of us are rarely asked to prepare a church service and may not know where to start. This guide sets out the options in choosing the ministers, the Christian symbols, the texts of the readings, and the music for a funeral Mass. The last page of this guide provides an outline of the funeral liturgy and a checklist of the choices.

Ministers

The parish priest presides at most funerals held at St Leonard's and St Philip Neri. Please contact the parish office on 9438-1011 about any other celebrants or concelebrants you wish to be involved in the liturgy.

The parish office has a list of music ministers (both singers and organists) who are familiar with the music equipment and PA in the church and are skilled in leading the singing of congregations at funerals. For details, please contact the parish coordinator at the parish office on 9438-1011, or the parish pastoral associate on 0414-436-017.

Aside from the priest and the music ministers, other ministers are needed in the liturgy and family members and friends are welcome to be involved. At least one person is needed to place the Christian symbols on the coffin; at least one reader (preferably three) is needed for the first and second readings and the general intercessions; at least two people are needed to bring up the gifts of bread and wine; possibly one or two extra ministers of communion may assist, if available; also a number of pall-bearers will be needed for the procession of the coffin at the end of the Mass. Any experienced altar servers are also welcome to assist the priest during the Mass.

There are two other considerations: (1) Who will provide hospitality, and where? (2) Will there be a booklet, and who will prepare it?

Christian Symbols

One or more symbols of the deceased's Christian life may be placed on the coffin after the sprinkling of holy water. Possible choices of symbols include a bible, a prayer book, a cross or crucifix, rosary beads or some other item of significance.

Texts

There are a variety of texts for the readings and the responsorial psalm. The parish can provide you a workbook for choosing those most appropriate, titled "Life is Changed not Ended."

Music

A guide to choosing music is also included in the following pages.

Need Help?

If you find the task of choosing the texts and music daunting, or you need assistance in any of the above, please say so. The parish priest or the parish pastoral associate can help you in this process.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

FUNERAL MASS

We shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God.

343 In the choice of music for the Funeral Mass, preference should be given to the singing of acclamations, the responsorial psalm, the entrance and communion songs, and especially the song of farewell at the final commendation.

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of us are rarely asked to choose music for a church service and may not know where to start. This list is provided to give some ideas, based on the acclamations, responsorial psalms and songs that are more regularly sung in the communities of Naremburn-Northbridge. (It is not an 'official list' of approved music.)

Sometimes there is already a starting point: the wishes of the dead person. These may have been written down, or you may know a favourite hymn or hymns which they would have wanted or which you yourself find inspiring or comforting. This list cannot include every possible hymn, but it contains some which have been found helpful and may help you think of others.

Much new music has been written in recent years. If you see a title here which you would like to know more about, the cantor and organist, or whoever will be leading the music, may be able to help you.

If you find the task of choosing music daunting, please say so. Our pastoral associate can assist you in this regard. In the same way you may not feel like singing, but there will be other people at the funeral who will sing for you.

ACCLAMATIONS

1

ALLELUIA

With voice from choice of texts

Celtic Mass	Fintan O'Carroll & Chris Walker
Mass Shalom	Colin Smith
Mass of Glory & Praise	Paul Mason
Lenten Acclamation	Marty Haugen

2

HOLY HOLY

Mass Shalom	Colin Smith
Mass of Creation	Marty Haugen
Mass of Glory & Praise	Paul Mason

3

CHRIST HAS DIED

Mass Shalom	Colin Smith
Mass of Creation	Marty Haugen
Mass of Glory & Praise	Paul Mason

4

AMEN

Mass Shalom	Colin Smith
Mass of Creation	Marty Haugen
Mass of Glory & Praise	Paul Mason

GUIDELINE for PLANNING a FUNERAL MASS

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

1

PSALM 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Crimond, or Gelineau, or Mason)

2

PSALM 24

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Willcock)

3

PSALM 26

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Mason)

or

R. Do not be afraid I am with you. (Willcock)

4

PSALM 41

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face? (Gelineau)

5

PSALM 62

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Mason)

6

PSALM 102

R. The Lord is kind and merciful. (Mason)

7

PSALM 114 AND 115

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. (Mason)

8

PSALM 121

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Mason)

9

PSALM 129

R. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord. (Mason)

SONGS

1

ENTRANCE SONG

All Creatures of our God and King

Amazing Grace

Be Not Afraid

City of God

How Great Thou Art

Nearer, My God, to Thee

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Sing a New Song

Strong and Constant

Though the Mountains May Fall

GUIDELINE for PLANNING a FUNERAL MASS

2

COMMUNION SONG

Eat This Bread
I Am the Bread of Life
In Faith and Hope and Love
Unless a Grain of Wheat
We Remember
Where There Is Charity and Love

3

SONG OF FAREWELL

I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Saints of God
Song of Farewell (Joncas)

4

PROCESSION OUT TO PLACE OF COMMITMENT

Instrumental Music is appropriate at this time, or
May Flights of Angels
On Eagle's Wings
Song of Farewell (Sands)

OTHER MUSIC

1

LAMB OF GOD (DURING THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD)

Mass Shalom Colin Smith
Mass of Creation Marty Haugen
Mass of Glory & Praise Paul Mason

2

OFFERTORY SONG (DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS)

As Gentle as Silence
Blest Are They
Jesus Remember Me
Prayer of St Francis (Make Me a Channel of Your Peace)
The Beatitudes

3

SONG OF PRAISE AFTER COMMUNION (instead of silent prayer)

Be Thou My Vision
For All the Saints
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Now the Green Blade Rises
Soul of My Saviour
Yahweh, I Know You Are Near

or one of from the list of Entrance Songs or Offertory Songs