

Mary Help of Christians Catholic Parish, South Woden ACT

PARISH OFFICE

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FUNERAL SERVICE INFORMATION

(V.10 24/1/2024)

Personal & Contact Information

All information contained within this envelope is CONFIDENTIAL and remains the property of the person writing the information and Mary Help of Christians Parish. The information provided is intended to be a guide in the event of the death of the person providing the information which will assist the Parish and family in the celebration of the Catholic Funeral Rites. All information contained within this envelope will be destroyed seven (7) years after lodgement with the Parish unless updated.

This document is designed as an instrument ONLY to help you discuss your funeral with your family. It is not a legal document and nor does it take into account particular life situations. This Parish will take every care to respect your wishes. Those arranging the funeral MUST discuss your wishes with the Priest or Deacon celebrant who will also be able to assist your family with particular relevant matters.

Always thankful for the life I have been given and the many opportunities that I received during the course of my life I would be grateful if you would be mindful of the following requests and suggestions when it comes time to celebrate my funeral.

FULL NAME: _____

KNOWN AS: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NEXT OF KIN: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Wills

(To die "intestate", that is dying without having made a Will, places a great burden upon your family. You are strongly urged to make a Will.

MY WILL IS LODGED WITH: _____ DATED _____

Type of funeral

Upon your death there are many decisions that have to be made by your family/next of kin. The first and obvious decision that has to be made is the type of Funeral Service. Basically, you have four choices:

- a. The Catholic Funeral Rites and Requiem Mass (Holy Communion) at a Catholic Church
- b. The Catholic Funeral Rites (no Holy Communion) at a Catholic Church
- c. The Catholic Funeral Rites at the Funeral Home/Crematorium, or
- d. The Catholic Funeral Rites at the Graveside only

I WOULD PREFER (CHOOSE ONE OF THE ABOVE)

If you choose to have your funeral celebrated at another Catholic Church, please name:

I WOULD PREFER MY FUNERAL BE CELEBRATED AT:

Church: _____ Suburb: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO BE BURIED: YES / NO

If applicable, please name of cemetery.

The local cemeteries are: Woden, Gungahlin and Queanbeyan _____

I WOULD LIKE TO BE CREMATED: YES / NO

If applicable, what would you like done with your ashes: _____

The Ceremony (Rite of Christian Burial)

The Catholic Funeral Rite is a very simple and yet profound ceremony. The Funeral Rite itself basically consists of three (or four) very distinct parts:

The Introductory Rites

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Eucharist (in a Requiem Mass only), and

The Final Commendation

The Introductory Rites is where we place over your coffin a white Pall (which is a reminder of your baptism—this is optional), we light the Easter Candle (which reminds us of Christ's resurrection and his victory over death) and we bless your coffin with Holy Water. **Words of Remembrance:** This is the most appropriate time to have short reflection on the life of the deceased, before the celebrant prays the Opening Prayer. Family Reflections can also be done at the end of the funeral service before the Final Commendation.

I REQUEST A PALL: YES / NO

I REQUEST WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE: YES / NO DELIVERED BY: _____

Choosing Scripture Readings

The Liturgy of the Word takes place immediately after the Opening Prayer when everyone sits to listen to God's Word. You will need to choose a First Reading, a Psalm (which may or may not be sung), a Second Reading (which is optional). You should ask family or friends to read these selections. Then choose a Gospel which the priest or deacon reads. At the conclusion of the Gospel there is a Homily concentrating on our faith in the Resurrection which can also touch on the life of the person whose Funeral Rites we are celebrating.

Listed below are suggested readings that are appropriate for Funerals. However, if you have another text from Sacred Scripture that is appropriate then do not hesitate to discuss including it. It is not appropriate to use non-Scriptural texts during this part of the Service. Often couples use the Readings and music from their spouse's funeral. This can be comforting to some families too.

Old Testament Readings – *Family or friend to read*

Job 19: 1, 23-27	"...I know that my Vindicator lives..."
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11	"...A time to be born, a time to die..."
Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9	"...The souls of the just are in the hands of God..."
Wisdom 4: 7-15	"...The just person, though they die early, shall be at rest..."
Isaiah 25: 6-9	"...Then the Lord will wipe away the tears..."
Isaiah 35: 1-10	"...Here is your God, he comes with vindication..."
Isaiah 41: 8-10	"...I have chosen you and not cast you off..."
Jeremiah 17: 5-10	"...I, the Lord, alone probe the mind and test the heart..."
Ezekiel 34: 11-16	"...I myself with search for my sheep..."
Ezekiel 37: 12-14	"...O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise..."
Proverbs 3: 13-18	"...Happy are those who find wisdom..."

Responsorial Psalm (if not sung) - *Family or friend to read*

Psalms 129	"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord"
Psalms 23	"The Lord is my Shepherd"
Psalms 24	"Lord, make me know your ways"
Psalms 37	"I know my Redeemer lives"

New Testament Readings - *Family or friend to read*

Romans 5: 1-5	"...We know that affliction make for endurance..."
Romans 8: 35-39	"...Who will separate us from the love of Christ?"
Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9	"...we believe that we will also live with him..."
Romans 8: 14-23	"...all who are led by the Spirit of God..."
Romans 8: 31-39	"...if God is for us, who is against us?"

Romans 14: 7-12	"...if we live, we live for the Lord..."
Romans 5: 5-11	"...but God proves his love for us..."
1 John 3: 1-2	"...See what love the Father has given us..."
1 Corinthians 1: 26-31	"...let him who would boast, boast in the Lord..."
1 Corinthians 15: 20-23	"...so all will be made alive in Christ..."
1 Corinthians 15: 51-57	"...Listen, I will tell you a mystery..."
2 Corinthians 4: 6-10	"...the old order has passed away; now all is new!"
2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10	"...for we walk by faith, not by sight..."
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18	"...I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race..."
Philippians 3: 20-21	"...Our citizenship is in heaven..."
Revelation 14: 13	"...I heard a voice from heaven..."
Revelation 21: 1-7	"...Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth..."

Gospel Readings (Read by the Priest)

Mark 15: 33-39, 16: 1-6	"...he has been raised, he is not here..."
Matthew 5: 1-12	"...the eight Beatitudes..."
Matthew 7: 21-25	"...a wise man who built his house on rock..."
Matthew 11: 25-30	"...come to me...and I will give you rest..."
Matthew 25: 31-46	"...come, you whom my Father has blessed..."
Luke 4: 38-41	"...You are the Son of God..."
Luke 12: 35-40	"...be prepared, for at an hour you do not..."
Luke 23: 44-46, 50-53, 24: 1-6	"...today you will be with me in Paradise..."
John 1: 17-27	"...your brother will rise again..."
John 6: 37-40	"...all who believe in the Son will have eternal life..."
John 12: 23-28	"...If a grain of wheat falls in the ground and dies..."
John 14: 1-6	"...There are many rooms in my Father's house..."
John 17: 24-26	"...the world does not know you, but I know you..."
John 19: 17-30	"...Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit..."

FIRST READING: _____

PSALM: _____ SAID/SUNG: _____

SECOND READING (optional): _____

GOSPEL: _____

HOMILY (SERMON): *This is where the priest or deacon will use the scripture passages you have selected to connect to your life and your loved ones.*

Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions)

The intercessions are an opportunity to 'personalise' prayers from the family for the deceased and the mourners. You may have a few or several prayers here but six would normally be the maximum. Get a member(s) of the family to read them. Here are some samples that should be adapted by you or your family to reflect your particular life and circumstances:

Reader: For dear N, that she/he may be received into the presence of God, a reward she/he so richly deserves. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: For N's husband/wife, his/her children, their spouses and grandchildren, that they may be comforted by knowledge of her/his great love for them. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: For N's extended family and old and new friends who loved her/him for her/his enduring interest in their lives and welfare. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: For those who cared for N during her/his months at the (name of the institution/residence), that God may reward them for their special care and compassion. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: For all of us, that we continue to espouse the family values that N presented in her/his life. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: For all those suffering in the world, especially, that God may comfort them and that we may continue to remember them in our prayers. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer

If you choose to have a Funeral Mass the Liturgy of the Eucharist is now celebrated. Then after Communion the final part of the Funeral Rite takes place – The Final Commendation.

*The **Final Prayers of Commendation** are the Church's prayers for the dead and using the rich symbol of incense (that our prayers might rise like incense) we pray that God will forgive you and welcome you into Paradise. Once again, there is nothing that you need to choose in this section.*

Music for your Funeral

If you are having a Church Service, it is quite fitting to have music at your funeral. If you are having hymns it is best to choose hymns that people know. You may also choose appropriate dignified music which may be played by CD, iPod, USB. Copyright laws must be adhered to if lyrics are displayed in a booklet or on screen. Check with your Funeral Director and their license.

The following are a tiny selection of some appropriate hymns for a Funeral Service.

Isaiah 49 (I will never forget you my people)
The Galilee Song (So I leave my boats behind)
Hail Redeemer, King Divine
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
On Eagle's Wings (and I raise you up)

Blessed Are They
Hail Queen of Heaven
Strong and Constant is my Love
Soul of my Saviour
How Great Thou Art
Here I am Lord

Suggested Psalms that can be sung

The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23)
Shepherd Me O God
Taste and See (Psalm 33)

PowerPoint Slides

PPT slides are currently popular at funerals. With our church lighting on a large screen they do not reproduce very well. Consider using them at the place of gathering after the burial or cremation as they work better on a large TV screen.

To help the Priest or Deacon get to know you

To help the Priest or Deacon in his preparation and to assist him in planning his homily, would you now include a broad picture of who you are—it's a rough overview of your life; where you came from, what was important to you, what did you value? If it is more convenient, do not hesitate to type this information on a separate sheet and include it in this envelope. The headings which follow are a simple guide only.

First Section: *Who you are—the early years.*

Name of your parents and their occupations—where did they come from?

Names of your brothers and sisters in order of birth (dates)

Where were you born?

Where were your early years lived?

Your early education

What were your early memories—at school what did you want to be?

Second Section: *Your life story after school*

After school what did you do?

Who did you marry— how did you meet?

Arrival of any children?

Where did you live?

What were your hobbies, life interests?

Section Three: *I would like to be remembered as:*

My biggest regret: This might be difficult. It is a tool for you to examine your life. Use it only if you feel comfortable doing so.

The best moments of my life:

*As already stated, this envelope is intended to be a guide as we plan your Funeral Rites. It is appropriate for you to include in this envelope any other information that you would like to be considered, such as your wording for the newspaper funeral notice or a picture for the cover of your funeral booklet or any other information you would like to leave your family/friends. Don't be afraid to discuss these details with your family and remember to update this information. As already stated, don't hesitate to include on a separate sheet of paper any other information that you think is important. However, remember that this information is **confidential** and will remain the property of the Mary Help of Christians Parish and will only be disseminated at the discretion of the Parish Priest.*

DOES A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAVE A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION: YES / NO

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Notes

A Gift in your Will - Making a gift to your Parish is a meaningful way to help fund the future mission and maintenance of the parish. It could also assist in the education of future priests and deacons. To make a bequest, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing will by adding a codicil. A useful website for more information is: includeacharity.com.au

Thank you for your consideration.

Fr Emil Milat