

St Patrick's Church, Mayobridge

Planning of your Loved One's Funeral Mass



A funeral is a time of sadness and mourning. But for Christians it is also a time to rejoice, for Jesus Christ has won a great victory over death and made it possible for us to pass through to new and eternal life. This is our unwavering hope.

The Church encourages you to be as fully involved as you can in planning the Funeral Liturgy. In the liturgy, we celebrate the life of faith of your loved one; we commend him or her to the Lord, we support and pray for all those who mourn.

We encourage family members and friends to take part in the Liturgy of the Word by reading the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm (if not sung), the Second Reading, Gospel Acclamation (if not sung), Prayers of the Faithful and Communion Reflection. In planning the liturgy, you will need to:

Readings:

- Select the Readings for the Funeral Mass. The readings are a central part of your loved one's funeral. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament. This is followed by the Responsorial Psalm. The second reading is taken from the New Testament and followed by the Gospel Acclamation.
- It is preferable to have a different reader for each. The texts are generally quite short. This is a help if you are nervous, but it does mean that you have to make sure that you get the message across to those who are listening. First, make sure that you feel no problems with pronunciation. Read the text out loud to get the feel of the sentences. Remember that you will tend to read too fast, so learn to pause and control your speech. Be clear on what is the main point of the passage. It is to be read out loud. Remember that the congregation will be particularly interested on this occasion in what is being said. They will not be concerned with how you read as with what you are saying. You are sharing in the work of building up

their faith and hope, helping to give comfort and consolation.

- If you wish the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation can be sung.
- After the Homily the General Intercessions or more commonly known the Prayers of the Faithful are read. The Prayers of the Faithful are always introduced by the priest. We pray not only for the deceased and his or her family and friends but also for all the dead and those who mourn them, and for the needs of the wider community. The priest will assist you with your choice of prayers. Family members should read one each. There are normally four or five prayers. The priest concludes the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Provide the priest with some biographical information about your deceased loved one that will help him in preparing the funeral homily. Also the readings and Prayers of the Faithful and the names of those who will read them.

Offertory:

Offertory Procession
Family members or friends bring the gifts for the Offertory of the Mass to the altar. Normally, four gifts are brought – the chalice, the altar bread, the water and the wine, but it may be reduced to two or more if you so wish.



If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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In a Catholic funeral we pray that our deceased brother or sister be admitted into paradise. We also derive strength from family and friends and lend our support to others in what can be a very difficult time. We hope that you find this information of some help when arranging the funeral of your loved one.

Old Testament Readings

(Old Testament Readings, pick one)

Responsorial Psalms

New Testament Readings

(New Testament Readings, pick one)

Gospel Acclamations

Gospel Acclamations in Lent (Choose One)

Prayers of the Faithful

An Outline of the Funeral Liturgy

Introductory Rites*

At the entrance to the church the body is sprinkled with holy water, a reminder of baptism.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading (New Testament)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory* (Bread and wine are brought to the altar)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Communion*

Communion Reflection

Final Commendation and Farewell

The body is sprinkled with holy water and honoured with incense.



