

Funerals at St Margaret Mary Church

Ordinarily the church is contacted by the Funeral Director.

Funerals are either a Requiem Mass or Service. A vigil is available in Church the night before.

One of the clergy will normally, if possible, meet with the family of the deceased to talk about arrangements for the service. This will include:

***Readings:** at Mass these are all from the Bible. At services, appropriate reflections may be used after the Concluding Prayer, after discussion with the clergy.

***Hymns & music:** Music at a Funeral Liturgy should always be drawn from the broad repertoire of Christian hymns and compositions. A piece of music from another source may be used after the formal Liturgy has finished provided there is nothing in it inconsistent with the sacred nature of the place and the occasion.

***Retiring collection:** often, this is taken to support the upkeep and work of the church. However, it may also be taken for a charity of the family's choosing. Please note that collections can only be taken in church for those causes which are in harmony in their aims and objectives with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

***Order of service:** is coordinated by the clergy and emailed to the Funeral Director – with a copy to the family - who includes it in a booklet.

***Military Standard bearers and buglers** are permitted in church. The coffin is not, however, to be draped in a flag during the funeral liturgy, where baptism is our common and prominent identity. If, however, the family wants to have the flag placed on the coffin, it can be done when the coffin is being transported to and from the church where the main funeral liturgy is to be celebrated.

***Eulogies:** Sometimes, short eulogies (tributes) are given at the end of a funeral service by a family member or friend. If a cremation follows the service, we strongly recommend that these take place at the Crematorium. However, if they do take place in church, we advise that a great deal of consideration is given. A funeral is a time of deep and varied emotions and it can be very difficult indeed to speak publicly about a loved one. If no-one is able to speak, one of the clergy will read something written down. In any case, all eulogies should be short and written down, so as to form a framework and anchor whilst speaking. The content should be shared with the clergy before the service itself.

***Fees** are set by the diocese and are administered through the Funeral Director.

Fr Simon Ellis

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