

Funeral Planning Aid

**Church of Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew
Hitchin
Herts SG5 1QS**

At this testing time of the death of your loved one, we would like to offer you our love and sympathy. Please know that every Mass remembers those that have died and those that mourn, and we hope that our Church's prayer gives you comfort and consolation.

This booklet was created with the hope of sharing this sad task and supporting you in this difficult time. We hope this booklet will be helpful especially if you are not of the same faith as your loved one. Therefore, this booklet also contains an explanation of the funeral process. If you are confident in working with that process, a collection of Bidding Prayers can be found at pages v-vi and a planning sheet can be found at pages vii-viii.

There are a number of other sources that can help you make this funeral appropriate for the deceased and following the Church's traditions, and your parish priest can also offer more personal advice and assistance to you in your time of need.

We hope this booklet will serve to help and advise you in this trying time.

Funeral Process

Funeral Liturgy

The funeral liturgy is the main celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. This celebration usually takes place within the church, and may either be a funeral Mass or a funeral liturgy outside Mass. A funeral liturgy outside Mass is no less sacred than a liturgy held with Mass. It is possible that the deceased had already made their choice, but in the majority of cases, Mass is more appropriate if the majority of funeral-goers regularly take part in Mass, or if the majority are Catholics.

During the Liturgy, readings, which you can choose [page number], are taken from the bible that comfort us and strengthen us through our time of need. These may not be replaced by non-biblical readings, but if appropriate, poems or other readings may be incorporated into the words of remembrance spoken by a member of family or a friend late in the liturgy.

Music is also encouraged to be used throughout the Mass and Service, and should remain in harmony with our faith if non-religious. There should also be room left for silence, to allow thoughts, memories and prayers of the bereaved to be reflected upon.

Committal

The committal generally follows immediately after the funeral liturgy, taking place at the graveside or at the crematorium, depending on what you have chosen. This choice may have already been voiced by the deceased and, if not, you must decide which you prefer. A burial has always been a traditional part of the Christian funeral, and therefore has a richer ceremony stemming from this tradition. Although cremation is a relatively new addition to the ceremony, it is a dignified way to say farewell and may be the most suitable choice in your circumstances. Other, lesser known, committals are burial at sea and woodland graves, which you may find more suited to your loved one.

Bidding Prayers

The response to each prayer is 'Lord hear our prayer.'

1. Let us pray for _____. In baptism he/she died with Christ may he/she now share in the fullness of his resurrection.
We pray to the Lord.
2. For the grieving family, relatives and friends of _____, that you may find strength and consolation in your Christian faith and in the love and the support of this community.
We pray to the Lord.
3. We pray for all those we have loved and have died. We remember especially the deceased members of the _____'s families. Lord give them the reward of their goodness.
We pray to the Lord.
4. We pray for those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for _____ during his/her illness.
We pray to the Lord.
5. May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her son was dying, help those who mourn and be with all of us in our time of need.
We pray to the Lord
6. We pray for those here today, that our memory of _____whom we loved inspire us with a renewed love for all our sisters and brothers.
We pray to the Lord.

7. God of all consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light in time of darkness, and faith in time of doubt.

We pray to the Lord.

8. For all parents who grieve over the death of their children; that they may be comforted in the knowledge that they rest in God.

We pray to the Lord.

9. We pray for all of us here today and for all members of our Church; that we may be prepared for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next.

We pray to the Lord.

We welcome you to compose your own, if you feel this is suitable.

We also offer some other resources within which you may find more suitable bidding prayers.

Do not hesitate to consult your priest if you are in need of assistance.

Funeral Planning Sheet

Date of Service		<input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Mass <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral service
Time of Service		<input type="checkbox"/> Crematorium <i>Name</i>
Time of Committal		<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery <i>Name</i>
Music requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> Organist <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <i>Details of music and when to be played</i> <i>The organist is arranged by the Funeral Director unless you arrange one yourself</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Soloist <i>Details of music to be sung and when</i>	
Funeral	Family in with coffin <input type="checkbox"/> Family in church when coffin enters <input type="checkbox"/>	
Procession music	<i>The organist will play music if there is nothing in particular you want to have played or a CD track for the occasion.</i>	
Opening hymn	Hymn No	
	Name	
Readings	<i>Please note if any readings to be read in other languages</i>	
First Reading	<i>Scripture Reference</i>	Reader
Responsorial psalm/Hymn	<i>Scripture Reference or Hymn No</i>	Reader <i>or if to be read</i>
Gospel Acclamation	<i>To be intoned by Priest if no cantor Reader reads verse after Priest intones Priest repeats Acclamation (Alleluia except in Lent) immediately before and after Gospel</i>	Reader <i>same as Psalm if read</i>
Gospel	<i>Scripture Reference Read by the Priest Silence</i>	
Bidding prayers	Reader (s)	
Offertory hymn	Hymn No	Name
	Procession of gifts to be taken up by: <i>(normally 2/3 people)</i> <i>Please let Priest know if you do not want to take the gifts up.</i>	

Holy Holy	<i>Said or Sung</i>
Eucharistic Prayer	<i>Chosen by the Priest</i>
Memorial Acclamation	<i>To be intoned by Priest if no cantor and repeated by congregation</i>
Lamb of God	<i>Said or Sung</i>
Communion Hymn	<i>Hymn No</i> <i>Name</i>
Before final commendation	<i>Eulogy or special readings</i> <i>To be delivered by:</i>
Key points to note for Eulogy	
Recessional music for procession following coffin	
Crematorium or Graveside	<i>Special notes</i>

Priest

Funeral Directors

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Brief glossary of terms

Psalms: a sacred song or hymn, in particular any of those contained in the biblical Book of Psalms and used in Christian and Jewish worship.

Homily: a religious discourse which is intended primarily for spiritual edification rather than doctrinal instruction.

Readings: Excerpts taken from the Bible.

Liturgy: a form or formulary according to which public religious worship, especially Christian worship, is conducted.