

T H E P A R I S H O F
SAINT COLUMBKILLE'S
RUTHERGLEN • S C O T L A N D

INSTRUCTIONS ON PREPARING A FUNERAL LITURGY

Updated July 2025

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INTRODUCTION

On the occasion of a funeral families are invited to make early contact with the clergy of the parish and spend some time in discussing the appropriate arrangements. When a Requiem Mass is celebrated these arrangements will normally involve the following:

- 1 The Priest will help you choose the readings which best express the quality of Christian living of the deceased and set before us the basis of our faith - the Resurrection of Christ and our hope of Resurrection. Members of the family can be asked to deliver the readings during the Mass, but be mindful of the situation that the family will be facing on the day of the funeral. The Priest will also choose the Gospel Reading. Secular readings or poetry are not acceptable as part of the Liturgy. Normally the Responsorial Psalm will be sung by a Cantor.
- 2 Bidding Prayers may also be led by a relative or friend of the family after consultation with the celebrant of the Mass.
- 3 The parish can provide an organist and a cantor to support the congregation in the singing. Any other provision must be discussed in advance with the celebrant of the Mass. The hymns will normally include an Entrance, Responsorial Psalm/hymn, Offertory, two Communion Hymns and a recessional hymn. The Communion hymns should always have a Eucharistic theme and hymns in honour of the Blessed Virgin or other Saints are not appropriate at this point in the Mass. Secular music or songs are absolutely excluded from the Funeral. A selection of sample hymns may be found toward the end of this booklet.

4 **A eulogy is permitted at the start of the Mass.**

It can be a beautiful way to honour their life during the Requiem Mass. If you choose to offer a eulogy, it's typically shared by a family member or friend at the start of the Mass. Keep it brief, about four minutes, to fit within the liturgy's flow while sharing a heartfelt tribute, any more than this time is not suitable for the setting of the church. Reflect on the person's life—their faith, kindness, or moments that showed who they were. Speak from the heart, perhaps sharing a story that captures their spirit or how they touched others. Tie it to the hope of resurrection, central to our Catholic faith, to uplift those gathered. Write your thoughts down and practice aloud to ensure it feels natural and stays concise. The text must be sent to the priest in advance.

Family members who are involved in arrangements should participate to the extent that they feel able under the circumstances. The Celebrant of the Requiem Mass/Service will be happy to provide such support as required from the wider parish community (e.g., readers etc).

The appropriate title for an order of Service in the Catholic Church is:

***REQUIEM MASS
FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF***

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

The Psalm is usually sung by a Cantor. The clergy will help you choose a suitable psalm.

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Bidding Prayers

The response is: **Hear our prayer**

1. For our sister/brother (Name) who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that she/he may be raised up on the last day.

Lord in your mercy

2. That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God.

Lord in your mercy

3. We pray for (Name) and all the members of the XXXXX and XXXXX family that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Lord in your mercy

4. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Lord in your mercy

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MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Abide with me
Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Do not be afraid
Morning has broken
Praise the Lord, ye heav'ns adore him
You shall cross the barren desert

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

I the Lord of Sea and Sky
The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm)
Make me a channel of your peace
Eagle's Wings

OFFERTORY HYMNS

Be still and know I am with you
Be still and know that I am God
Be still my soul
Make me a channel of your peace
My God, accept my heart this day
Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

COMMUNION HYMNS

I am the Bread of Life
O Bread of Heaven
Peace, perfect peace
Soul of my Saviour
Sweet Heart of Jesus
Sweet Sacrament Divine
The Lord's my shepherd

POST-COMMUNION REFLECTION

Guardian Angel
Ave Maria (Solo)
Panis Angelicus (Solo)

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THE FINAL COMMENDATION

Saints of God, come to his (her) aid!
Hasten to meet him (her), angels of the Lord!

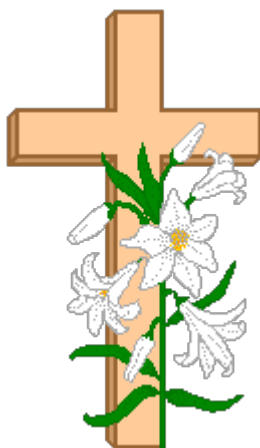
R *Receive his (her) soul and present him (her) to God the Most High.*

2 May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham. R

3 Eternal rest grant unto him (her), O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him (her). R

EXIT HYMNS

*Be thou my vision
Hail Queen of Heaven
Jesus, remember me
Lord of all hopefulness
Immaculate Mary
Walk with me, O My Lord*



*Other hymns are permitted.
Please discuss your choice of hymns with the priest.*

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Other Arrangements

- **Ashes**

If a cremation is part of the funeral arrangements, then please adhere to the guidance from the Catholic Church. The ashes of the loved one should be buried as a whole and not scattered or made in to trinkets.

- **Car Parking**

You should note that there are limited car parking spaces available in the church car park.

Kirkwood Street operates a permit system for resident's parking only. Parking Attendants patrol the street regularly and issue a £60 fine to those without a permit.

Parking is available at Rutherglen Exchange shopping centre – entrance via Greenhill Road, at a cost of £1 for 3 hours.

- **Flowers for the Church**

The Parish can recommend two florists that we use on a regular basis and are therefore familiar with the church building:

1. Janette Mitchell 0141 643 0085

2. Nadine's Creative Flowers 07709 202121

You can of course employ any other florist of your choice.

- **To arrange an Organist/Cantor**

See the priest and he will arrange for you.

- **Contacts**

Father Mournian
frmournian@rcdom.org.uk

Organist – Frank McPhail
f.mcphail@ntlworld.com

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