



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

PREPARING YOUR FUNERAL



In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you, as a practising Catholic, to reflect and consider how you would like your funeral to be celebrated. Leaving a record of your wishes in this way will help your loved ones when the time comes.

Thinking about your own death can be a daunting and humbling task, however, planning key parts of your funeral in advance offers an important opportunity to talk things through with your loved ones, sharing your thoughts and ideas together. By choosing readings that are special to you, particular hymns, or the liturgy, you can help those closest to you to make important decisions at a difficult time, with certainty - particularly if they are not familiar with the Catholic faith.

This document will, we hope, help to alleviate some of the uncertainties and concerns that you or your loved ones may have. Please do not hesitate to speak to your Parish Priest or Deacon if you need further help or support, they will be very happy to talk things through with you.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GIVE A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT TO A FAMILY MEMBER, CLOSE FRIEND OR THE EXECUTOR OF YOUR WILL, ONCE IT YOU HAVE COMPLETED IT.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Registered name:

Preferred Name (*Some people are not known by the registered name on their birth certificate or official documents*):

Date of Birth:

Next of Kin:

The name of the person executing my Will:

The name of the person/people who will arrange my funeral:

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

You may wish to use the services of a funeral director. If you have a pre-paid funeral plan it is important to include where the documentation for this is held.

Preferred Funeral Director:

Pre-paid plan? Yes / No

Documents for this are held:

FUNERAL LOCATION

Your funeral can be celebrated at your local parish church, or another church you have a personal connection to. Funeral services (not a Mass) can sometimes be held at a cemetery or crematorium chapel.

My preferred church or venue for my funeral is:

READINGS

My preferred First Reading

Psalm (can be sung or read)

Second Reading (optional)

INTERCESSIONS

The Church has a particular format for Bidding Prayers, your parish priest will be able to help and advise you.

TRIBUTE (EULOGY)

A tribute to the person who has died may be given at the beginning or towards the end of the service. It should last three to five minutes and be checked by the celebrant beforehand. You may prefer to leave the eulogy until the reception, after the funeral.

I know who will be giving the eulogy Yes / No

The name of this person is:

MUSIC

Music can enhance a funeral service and provide consolation to the bereaved. The Christian music or hymns you choose should encourage prayerful celebration.

I would like the following music or hymns:

BURIAL OR CREMATION WITH BURIAL OF ASHES?

The Catholic tradition centres around a coffin or ashes being buried in a churchyard or cemetery. Being buried in this way is believed to promote the prayers and remembrance of the person's loved ones and the wider Christian community. It is not permitted to scatter ashes.

Burial: Yes / No

Cremation: Yes / No

Place of burial or burial of ashes:

Burial in an existing plot? Yes / No

Plot location and ref no:

Cemetery and number of plot (if available):

FUNERAL LITURGY

Catholic funerals include a Requiem Mass in a Church, followed by a burial or cremation and the burial of ashes. A funeral service without a Mass is also possible. This can be celebrated at a church, cemetery chapel or crematorium.

Requiem Mass in Church with burial / cremation? Yes / No

Funeral Service in Church with burial / cremation Yes / No

Funeral service in cemetery chapel with burial? Yes / No

Funeral service in crematorium Chapel? Yes / No

RECEPTION OF THE BODY

Catholics can request that their body rests in their chosen church overnight on the evening before the funeral liturgy. The body can be brought to the church at the beginning of the funeral liturgy if you prefer.

Your personal Bible and crucifix may be placed on top of the coffin. Nothing else is placed on the coffin during the liturgy, unless a baptismal pall has been used.

I would like my body to be brought into the Church at the beginning of the funeral liturgy: Yes / No

I would like my Bible and/or crucifix to be placed on top of the coffin: Yes / No

Making funeral plans now can give you peace of mind and help your friends and relatives fulfil your wishes at a very difficult time. If there is anything else you would like to highlight, you can write it here:

Signed:

Name:

Date:

Witnessed by:

Name:

Date:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

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The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity no. 252878

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