

Instructions for my Funeral Mass

Instructions for my Funeral Mass was first piloted by the Pastoral Care Project in care homes in 1997.

This document grew out of the neglect of the spiritual needs of the very vulnerable who were not receiving the sacraments and many who were not having a funeral mass. We are indebted to them for inspiring us to produce this document, which in turn is now being used by many, many individuals and dioceses.

'it is so beautiful and so practical'

Launching the national document in 2012 Rt. Rev. David McGough lead Bishop to the Pastoral Care Project said, "The document which began here in the Archdiocese of Birmingham is now available throughout the country. It has a delightful introduction by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, who was our Archbishop for many years and now Leader of the Catholic Church in this country. It is so beautiful and so practical."



Bishop David continued, "People do need to make preparations for their funeral and actually they do feel a lot better if someone can open up the subject with them."

"Anyone who has worked in pastoral ministry will often have known someone whose faith was an important part of their life. However, because of the isolation in which people often live, if they haven't made it quite clear the type of funeral they want, they can end up with one that is nothing like they would have wished for - it does not express the person of faith and trust they were. This document is a very practical way of enabling that to happen."

Offering help to complete the Instructions for my Funeral Mass document with someone is one way of being a pastoral companion whilst giving practical assistance. Perhaps a few people within parishes could consider this as an apostolate - the Pastoral Care Project is willing to offer assistance and resources.



The following extract from a letter received from the Thompson family confirms the value and importance of Instructions for my Funeral Mass.

"In January 2011 our beloved brother, Michael, died very suddenly at home at the age of 54 - our family was devastated. As well as having to plan a funeral which is something we had never had to do before, we had to consider our mother with dementia who was aware that somebody in the house had died but struggled to comprehend that it was her eldest son.

We did not know where to turn for help with arranging his funeral. To be honest we found the prospect of being responsible for such an important part of someone's life completely daunting. Through contact with the Pastoral Care Project we received a copy of Instructions for my Funeral Mass. The form was very simple to use as it covered all the main points which needed to be considered, and it meant that we were well prepared for meeting with the funeral director and the priest.

We also found the letter within the document from the Archbishop very comforting and reassuring, as we wanted to make sure we were giving our brother a Catholic funeral. We are grateful to the Pastoral Care Project for this document and for their support."

Using the document and reading the letter within it from the Archbishop gave us comfort and reassurance when we needed it most."

Funeral Donations

The Pastoral Care Project appreciates and thanks all those who have chosen the Pastoral Care Project as their charity for funeral donations.

Would you consider choosing the Pastoral Care Project as your charity when completing 'Instructions for my Funeral Mass'?

Your act of kindness would be a noteworthy way of helping others in their time of need.

Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer.

Instructions for my Funeral Mass[©] Is a resource for:



- Parishes and Dioceses
- Funeral Directors
- Eucharistic Lay Ministers of Holy Communion.
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Legion of Mary
- Knights of St Columba
- Parish visiting & Ministers of Holy Communion
- Hospital Chaplaincies
- Care Homes and Hospices
- Families caring for relatives
- Organisations working with and for the care of vulnerable people.
- Individuals who wish to plan their funeral

Instructions for my Funeral Mass[©] document is produced by and available to purchase from the Pastoral Care Project. Please visit the website www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk for an order form or contact the office on 01675 434035 for further information.