

Have you thought of what you want for your Funeral Mass?



How do you go about making your wishes known?
Are you certain that your wishes will be adhered to?

A message from His Eminence Vincent Gerard Cardinal Nichols

The subject of death is so often a taboo subject in our secular society. But in the light of our Catholic faith it is one we should have the confidence to face. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on Easter Day transforms our understanding of death. Faith tells us that, through our Baptism, we already share that risen life of Jesus. This is a bond that nothing – including death – can ever destroy. That is why we have the confidence to pray these words, taken from the Funeral Mass:

"In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven."

Nevertheless, the prospect of death can worry us, and it's easy to put off to another day making the necessary arrangements, such as our Will, or our Funeral desires.

Completing this document will make it so much easier for your family or friends to make the arrangements for your Funeral at what will be a sad and difficult time for them. More importantly, if your family are not Catholics, or have lapsed from the practice of the faith, or where there is no family around to ensure that your wishes will be followed, it ensures that you will receive what is your right as a member of the Catholic Church.

For those who have relatives in care homes please make use of the section on the back page. This covers the ministry of the Church to the sick. This form is currently being used in a number of care homes and has proved to be most valuable for staff and relatives in relation to the sacraments and when to contact a priest.

May I suggest that when you complete this form you make copies as indicated on the form itself. Then you can keep this copy among your papers so that those who want to find out your instructions will find it there. The second copy could well be given to your Parish Priest who will be able to have it at hand when preparations are being made for your Funeral Mass. A further copy can be handed to the funeral director.

I am very grateful to Fr Philip Harris, to the parishioners of Our Lady of the Angels, Hareston and the Diocesan Pastoral Care Project of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, for all the work that they have done in developing this document. It has been well tried out in practice and found to be of great help. I am glad to make it widely available.

If you want some help or assistance in filling out the sections of this document, I hope that your parish will be able to identify a point or a person of contact for you.

By reflecting on the goodness of the Lord and the bright promise of immortality, we are helped so much in our considerations of our own dying and the care that we would like others to take in expressing that faith at that time. Indeed our hope is that by doing so they too will be strengthened in their faith and in the consolations it brings.

May God bless you

+ Vincent Nichols
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Instructions for my Funeral Mass

Vigil - Reception of the deceased into church
I would like to be brought into Church the evening before _____

Funeral Mass - Readings
These can be found in the Weekday Missal. The priest may wish to choose the Gospel reflecting the liturgical season, whilst supporting the family in their time of grief.

Scripture Readings
I would like members of my family to assist with the readings and prayers _____

Hymns
To help decide on suitable hymns a list can be found in the church hymn books.
Hymns _____

Flowers
My flower wishes are _____

Burial or Cremation
This act of faith is where the faith community gather at the grave of the deceased member.
I would like to be buried at _____
I would like to be cremated and my ashes interred at _____

Reception
My wishes for the reception afterwards are _____

Charity donations
I would like donations to be given to the following charity(ies) _____

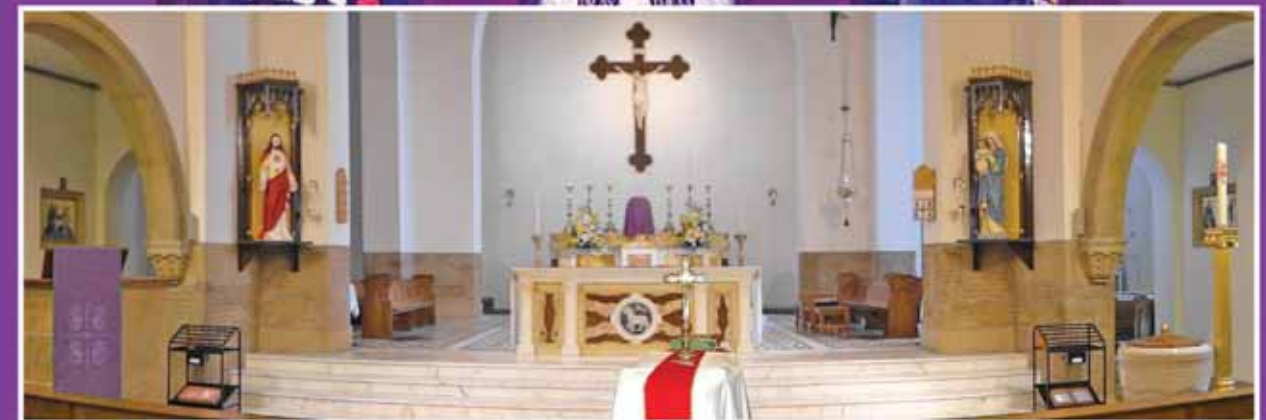
Funeral Directors
I have a prepaid funeral plan with _____
I would like my family to use the following undertakers, if possible: _____

My Will
My will & testament is lodged with my solicitor _____ Tel No. _____
My next of kin is _____ Tel No. _____
My power of attorney is _____

Any other requirements use a separate sheet where necessary
My name _____ Date _____
Signature _____
Address _____ Post Code _____ Tel No. _____
My parish church is _____ Tel No. _____

Please give a copy of this document to: your parish priest, your next of kin and the funeral director if pre-paid.
Further information at: www.liturgoffice.co.uk/resources and www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk

• Catholic Church in England and Wales •



Instructions for my Funeral Mass

This NEW document approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales may help!



Copies available from parishes or online from:
www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk

Tel: 01675 434035



Registered Charity No 1094766

Write to Pastoral Care Project, St Gerard's, Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3ED