

Music and Hymns

It is a good to choose a gathering song, which is accessible for the entire congregation to sing. Instrumental music is preferable at the Presentation of the Gifts, though a hymn reflecting the action of presenting the gifts of bread and wine may be sung.

A communion hymn should be familiar and easy for the congregation to sing without undue reference to words, e.g. a song with a repetitive chorus.

When the distribution of Communion is finished, as circumstances allow, a reflective hymn to assist silent prayer or a hymn of thanksgiving may be sung. The "Song of Farewell" may be sung during the sprinkling with holy water and incensing of the coffin. Otherwise this is done in silence.

The final hymn may be replaced with suitable instrumental music. If a hymn is chosen, it should speak of our faith in the resurrection and eternal life.

Other parts of the Mass such as the Gospel Acclamation, the Holy Holy, the Lamb of God and the Final Commendation should also be sung.

Choosing hymns or songs that were the deceased person's favourites are often not appropriate for the occasion of mourning, or liturgical celebration and congregational participation. They may be more fitting to play and listen to at smaller, intimate gatherings to commemorate the person.

The Vigil for the Deceased

*Any music that is appropriate for the funeral mass is also appropriate for the funeral vigil. Below are some that are particularly appropriate. This would also be the time to incorporate a song that was significant to your loved one.

Amazing Grace
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Jesus Remember Me
Keep In Mind
O God Our Help in Ages Past
We Walk By Faith

The Funeral Mass (or Liturgy Outside Mass)

Gathering/Preparation/Concluding Songs

Alleluia! Sing To Jesus
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Come To Me
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
How Great Thou Art
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Lift High the Cross
On Eagle's Wings
Soon and Very Soon
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
We Will Rise Again, You Are Mine, You Are Near

Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words
Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd
Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord I Lift My Soul
Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light
Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting
Psalm 84: How Lovely Is Your Dwelling
Psalm 84: Happy Are They
Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 116: I Will Walk in the Presence of God
Psalm 130: With the Lord There Is Mercy

Gospel Acclamation and Eucharistic Acclamations

*Music chosen for the gospel acclamation and the Eucharistic acclamations should be taken from the parish repertoire. The Pastor, Parish Director or Pastoral Musician can assist with these selections.

Communion Songs/Processionals

Eat This Bread
Gift of Finest Wheat
Here I Am, Lord
I Am the Bread of Life
In the Breaking of the Bread
Keep In Mind
Now We Remain
One Bread, One Body

Song of Farwell

*Music at this time should be taken from the text in the Funeral Rite, "The Song of Farwell." It may not be a psalm or other song that does not have the text from the "Song of Farwell."

Saints of God Come to His/Her Aid, May the Angels Lead You Into Paradise

The Rite of Committal

Often, there is little or no music at the graveside or committal service. There may be a short, familiar refrain sung during the procession, or at the beginning or conclusion of the service.

The Words of Remembrance

Words of Remembrance, recalling the life, deeds and special stories of the deceased are best given by only one family member or friend as part of the Introductory Rites, that is after the greeting by the priest, and before the placing of Christian symbols. These words should avoid a purely biographical account or series of anecdotes, which are more familiar in so-called eulogies and more appropriate after the vigil or at the reception. The length of the words of remembrance should be in keeping with the length of the homily, that is five to seven minutes, so that the liturgy is balanced and progresses evenly. These words should be written out, and if possible, shared with the celebrant beforehand.

After the Funeral

Month's Mind Mass

This is usually celebrated 4 weeks after the death of your loved one where the deceased is remembered in a special way during the mass. If you talk to the funeral team or Parish secretary they can help you arrange this.

November Remembrance Mass

Every November we have a special Mass of Remembrance for all our loved ones who have died during the previous year. You will receive an invitation to join us at this Mass to remember and pray for your deceased loved one.

Useful Numbers

Parish Office: 01 459 3520