

Planning your funeral in church

If you would like to leave some guidelines for those who will have the task of organising your funeral, this form is intended to be a helpful way of documenting your wishes for some of the main elements of a church service. The form in itself is **not a legally binding document**. It is simply to help you help those who will organise your funeral, so that they have some idea of your wishes.

When you have completed the task, you need to leave a copy with your next of kin or executor or with your solicitor to keep with your will, or somewhere at home where it will be found easily, eg with your insurance documents or such.

<i>Your full name</i>	<i>Your date of birth</i>
<i>Your current address</i>	
<i>Your next of kin's full name</i>	
<i>Your next of kin's full address</i>	
<i>Tel no</i>	

<i>Have you made a will?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>If so, where is it kept?</i>	<i>Who is the executor?</i>	

First of all, please choose what kind of service you would like. Tick the appropriate box:

<i>A full Requiem Mass</i>	
<i>A short funeral service in church (not Mass but with readings and hymns)</i>	
<i>A simple service at the Crematorium with readings and hymns</i>	

At each of these services there will be a choice of Scripture readings and music. Normally any hymns or music chosen should be something that reflects the religious nature of the occasion and the Christian understanding of death as a way into new life with Christ.

If you wish to give some indication of any hymns you would like to be sung at the service, do so below. If you would like to look at the readings from the Bible that are used at funerals, you can ask your parish priest who will show you where to find them in the Lectionary. Then quote your choice below.

<i>Hymns and readings</i>

After the service in church, would you prefer burial or cremation? Please tick the appropriate box:

<i>Burial</i>	
<i>Where?</i>	

<i>Cremation</i>	
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If you choose cremation, have you any requests as to the disposal of the ashes? Please bear in mind that the Church's teaching is that they should be buried in a cemetery.

<i>Disposal of the ashes</i>

<i>Signed</i>	<i>Print your name</i>	<i>Date</i>

You would need to make arrangements for any other requests for your funeral with your next of kin, your executor or your solicitor. Please understand that there may be some requests that cannot be accommodated, for whatever reason.

You might like to look at a very helpful website prepared by the Catholic church of England and Wales: www.artofdyingwell.org. There is also a good book "Into Your Hands" – ask your parish priest for details.