

Preparing a Funeral

THE BEREAVEMENT TEAM

Margaret Beard
Margaret Cox
Christopher Gregory
Gail Lovell
Anne Millard
Margaret Newton

OFFICE ADDRESS

242 Parry St, Newcastle 2303

CONTACT US

by phone

0249791101
0249791252

by email

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

When someone close to you dies, even if it is expected, you will begin to grieve. Grief can bring with it intense emotions like pain and sorrow. These are very normal emotions to experience and sometimes one of the hardest things to do is focus on planning a funeral when your grief is still raw.

In the Catholic Church, a funeral Mass allows you to celebrate the life of a person through death into eternal life. It can help strengthen and comfort those in mourning by allowing them to reflect on the life of the person who has died.

It is also a time to share memories, celebrate the person's life and provide comfort to others who are also grieving.

In the Catholic Church, the funeral rites offer hope; the Church proclaims that death is not the end and is an expression of a belief in the resurrection.

If you have the responsibility of planning a funeral for someone you love and you would like the funeral rite to take place in the Newcastle Inner City Region, the Bereavement Team is here to help.

The funeral director you choose will make formal contact with the Parish Office on your behalf, but you can contact The Bereavement Team for support, information, and/or advice.

WHAT WE DO

- We support you in your time of need.
- We can support you arranging the Funeral Rite (e.g. selecting readings and music)
- We will assist and support you on the day of the funeral
- We offer support if you need a friendly listening ear, be it before the funeral or in the future.

After the date and time of the funeral has been arranged with the parish office, a member of the bereavement team will contact you to talk you through the steps involved in planning a funeral. Three initial decisions include selecting the church, choosing a Mass or Liturgy, and arranging a priest, deacon, or lay minister to preside.

SELECTING A CHURCH

The six churches of the City Pastoral Region are:



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton;
St Mary's Star of the Sea, Newcastle;
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Tighes Hill;
St Joseph's, The Junction
Christ the King, Mayfield West;
St Peter in Chains, Stockton.

MASS OR LITURGY?



A Mass includes the Introductory Rite, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Closing Rite.
A liturgy does not include Communion.

WHO SHOULD PRESIDE?



Only a Priest can preside at Mass. Who is available to preside will depend on the workload of the Priests on that day. A Deacon or layperson can preside at a Liturgy.

THE FUNERAL RITE

Team members will help you select readings. Typically, a minimum of two readings are selected:

READINGS?

Members of the team will help you select readings. Typically, a minimum of two readings are selected: the first reading from the Old or New Testament and the second reading is the Gospel. There is the option to have a third reading.

MUSIC?

You can choose live music or recorded music. During the liturgy the music should be religious in nature. Walking in and out of the liturgy can be more flexible in choice.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Words of Remembrance (also called a Eulogy) should be around 5 or 6 minutes in length. Those attending the service really want to hear about your loved one, but attention spans can be short.

PHOTO TRIBUTE

Many people choose to have a photo tribute to tell the story of their loved one. Usually around 3 to 4 minutes is a good length.

Once you've planned the Funeral Rite, the team members will be there on the day to ensure everything goes smoothly. Team members are available by phone if you need a listening ear at the time of the funeral, or in the future.



Sacred Heart Cathedral
841 Hunter Street,
Newcastle West



St Mary's Star of the Sea
54 Perkins Street
Newcastle



Immaculate Heart of Mary
28 Tighes Terrace
Tighes Hill



St Joseph's
Cnr Kenrick & Farquhar
The Junction



Christ the King
388 Maitland Road
Mayfield West



St Peter in Chains
13 Dunbar St
Stockton

WHY CHOOSE TO THE COLUMBARIUM?

The Inner City Pastoral Region has an outdoor columbarium at Sacred Heart Cathedral and an indoor Columbarium at St Joseph's, The Junction.

The Columbarium is an arrangement of openings in a wall, into which an urn containing earthly remains is placed as an enduring memorial to a loved one. The openings are covered with an inscribed plaque that acts as a memorial for the deceased and an attractive, practical alternative to burial in a cemetery.

The Sacred Heart Columbarium, located at the rear of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton, is set in a landscaped, tranquil garden atmosphere and provides a peaceful location for grieving, prayer, reflection and meditation.

The Columbarium at St Joseph's is located inside the church in a specially designed alcove, framed by stained glass windows.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

The Seasons for Growth Adult program provides a small group environment to support adults to understand the personal impacts of change, loss and grief, and develop skills in communication, decision-making and problem-solving.

Life is changed, not ended

Preface, Funeral Mass