



On behalf of St Charles' parish community, I would like to express our sympathy on the loss of your loved one.

This is always a profoundly sad and difficult moment for our lives and our community will remember you in our prayers throughout this time.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that we can celebrate your relative's Funeral Mass in a dignified way in accordance with the Church's liturgical law. I hope that this celebration helps to provide comfort and hope at this difficult time.

To help prepare for the Funeral I will normally meet with immediate family members in person. If this is not possible for some reason, it is also possible to meet by Zoom and I can provide a link.

To arrange a meeting then please contact me at 0141 889 2614 or email stcharles@rcdop.org.uk

Fr. Jim

In this leaflet we would like to make you aware of some of the main aspects of the Funeral as celebrated in the Church.

Hopeful Prayer for Consolation and Resurrection

As Catholics we have the Risen Lord as the centre of our funeral liturgy. Jesus—and our hope of your loved one's sharing in His resurrection—is the principle focus of what is to take place.

In the Christian traditions of other Churches, and in other traditions, such as Humanism, much time is spent remembering the person who has passed away. We remember as well, but we do so while encountering the central mystery of God's love and saving action through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. While in the presence of the Lord and this mystery in our liturgy, we grieve and remember, we pray and receive grace.

Prayers before the Funeral

While less often now than in the past, some families desire to bring the body of the deceased to the family home for some time before the funeral. If you wish the priest/ deacon (when available) to come to your home to recite the rosary or otherwise pray with you then please speak with Fr Jim to see if either is free to do so.

Reception of Remains

Ordinarily, the funeral rites begin with a Vigil the night before the Requiem Mass. During this brief service, the remains of the deceased are welcomed into the church. This service might be led by the Priest or the Parish Deacon.

Due to the availability of Clergy this not always be possible but we will do our best to fulfil a request for a Vigil Reception.

At its conclusion, if the priest is present, there might be the opportunity for those present to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) in preparation for the next day's Eucharist

Some families will prefer to have the Reception of the Remains just before the Funeral Mass itself.

Liturgical Music for the Funeral Mass

When you meet with Fr. Jim, he will guide you in the various choices of the Funeral Mass

We would normally have four hymns at a Funeral Mass. The selection given below may be a good starting point for choosing hymns. Due to the Church's rules concerning Mass and Liturgy, and also due to broadcast licensing laws, it is not possible for us to play pre-recorded music in the Church.

Our parish organist may be available. It would be normal to give a donation to the organist for their service.

Suggested hymns

*Abide with me, Amazing Grace, Because the Lord is my shepherd, Be not afraid,
Be still for the presence of the Lord, Be still my soul, Be thou my vision, Do not be afraid,
Eagles wings, Hail Queen of Heaven, Holy Virgin, I the Lord of Sea and sky,
I rise from dreams of time, I watch the sunrise, O Lord my God/How great thou art,
Soul of my Saviour, Sweet heart of Jesus, The Lord's my shepherd*

Entrance:

Offertory:

Communion:

Recessional:

Scripture Readings for the Funeral Mass

The Liturgy of the Word will consist of :

First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading (*optional*); and **Gospel** (*the Gospel being proclaimed by the Priest*).

One or two family members may read all the readings that precede the Gospel. It may be possible for the psalm to be sung. It is also possible for a parish reader to proclaim the readings since the pressure of reading at a Funeral Mass can be sometimes be overwhelming for a family member to contemplate.

You are able to choose the readings from the selection that the Church provides in the Lectionary for Mass. You can find those by using the link below. During a funeral liturgy in the Church, we are only able to read from God's Word, the Bible.

If you have a something from another source that you would like to be read during the funeral rites, this will be possible at the Crematorium or Graveside.

The readings are available by **FOLLOWING THIS LINK**.

(<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/OCF/OCF-Lectionary.pdf>)

One choice should be made for each of the following.

First Reading from **O-1 to O7** or **N1-N15**

Psalm from **P1-P10**

Gospel from **G1-G19**

If you are finding difficulty in making choices for the readings or hymns then speak with Fr Jim and he will be glad to help you.

Homily

Our intention is that the Homily, given by the Priest or Deacon, will fulfil what the Church expects of us by way of giving the hope that comes from our faith and belief in Jesus and all that flows from his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

We also intend this to be personal to the deceased and so we would appreciate some information about their life, what was important to them and what they were like as a person that we can then bring into the Homily. When we meet to speak about the funeral we can take the opportunity for the Priest/Deacon to become more familiar with the Deceased's life through our conversation. You may also wish to provide notes, then or later, some of which as appropriate we will incorporate into the Homily. These may be emailed to stcharles@rcdop.org.uk

For various reasons, in St Charles' Parish we do not have family members giving personal reflections (a eulogy) at the Funeral Mass. A family member may speak at the Vigil Service on the evening before, or may speak at the Committal service at the Crematorium. Likewise, someone can give a short appreciation of the deceased at the Cemetery. There is no pressure to do so however.

Livestream

Those who are unable to attend the Mass will be able to participate through the live stream on our **parish website** (www.stcharles-paisley.org.uk); our **YouTube Channel** (www.youtube.com/c/StCharlesChurchPaisley) or our **Facebook Page** (www.facebook.com/stcharlespaisley)

FAQs

- AS WITH ALL SERVICES IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH there is no charge or set fee. However, as the priest depends on the generosity of the parishioners for his income, a donation to the priest and/or the parish offered would be gratefully received.
- At the request of the family there may be the opportunity for a retiring collection, to make a donation to a place (hospice) or a cause (organ donation or cancer research) which has been a support to the deceased or their family. Please speak to the priest in order to arrange this.
- Most often a Catholic funeral takes the form outlined above, but it need not always be the case. It may be, perhaps, that the person who has passed away has not, for one reason or another, practised their faith in some time. Or it may be the case that the family is not practising. It is possible to approach your Parish Priest and ask him for a

simpler service, whether at the graveside, the funeral home chapel or the crematorium. Please feel free to phone the priest or to ask the Funeral Director to do so on your behalf.

If you have any further questions then please feel free to phone Fr Jim on 0141 889 2614 or email stcharles@rcdop.org.uk.

The privacy notice on our parish website outlines our policy on data management