

St. Joseph's, Helensburgh

Funeral Arrangements

We are sorry to hear of your bereavement. Please be assured of the prayerful sympathy and support of the parish Community of St. Joseph's. Our titular Saint, St. Joseph, has long been associated in Catholic tradition as the patron saint of those approaching death. We will do all that we can to exercise what the Church calls, *The Ministry of Consolation*.

No doubt, you will have been in contact with a Funeral Director who will guide you sensitively and professionally through the various aspects of preparing for the funeral.

In order to help with your planning and to lighten the burden of preparation during a stressful time, we offer some simple guidelines and we have produced a pro-forma to make sure that together we conduct this funeral in a way that will be dignified, respectful of the deceased and supportive and comforting for relatives and friends.

We would stress first of all what may seem self-evident: that any funeral celebrated in our Church will be a Catholic, Christian funeral which emphasises the Resurrection of Jesus and the eternal rest of the deceased as sharing in Christ's Resurrection. It will differ significantly from a purely humanist ceremony of farewell such as may be seen in the media.

We pray for the *Rest of the Soul* of this departed member of our congregation. We thank God for a life lived as a baptised disciple of Our Lord and we pray for the comfort and consolation of the bereaved. A Christian funeral is so much more than the 'celebration' of *one part* of a life. It is the prayerful respect for that life in the context of God's providence.

There are many choices for the funeral liturgy which can be made. We aim to help you with these, so that you can feel that your wishes (and indeed, the wishes of the deceased) are respected.

If there is any supplementary information that you need, or if we can help clarify anything, please do not hesitate to ask.

Monsignor John A. Hughes, *Parish Priest*

Details of the Deceased

Full Name & Address

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Dates of Birth and Death

(Undertaker)

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Next of Kin & Family Members (spouse, children, siblings etc)

N.O.K.

Contact Tel.

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Faith / Sacramental Life (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage etc., Parish)

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Reception of Remains

Previous Evening () Before Funeral Mass () Please indicate choice. ✓
Time can be arranged to suit.

Funeral Liturgy - Requiem Mass and Final Commendation

Readings - the Priest will guide you through the options here. (Intercessions)

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Readers / Intercessor (If wished, the Parish can supply these ministries.)

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Offertory Procession - involvement of relatives / friends / children

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Music - Normally, we should be able to provide an organist.

Choices for Hymns - *only sacred music may be used in Church.*

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Eulogy - Experience has shown that this presents many difficulties. It is strongly advised to have this at a later stage in the proceedings. Many now prefer to include a 'keepsake' insert for the Mass Booklet that friends can take with them as a personal memento.

Committal - Where and when the final part of the Funeral will take place.

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