

MUSIC FOR FUNERALS
AT
SAINT MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS CHURCH and SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH
IN
THE PARISH OF SAINT PHILIP NERI BIRKENHEAD

Director of Music: Stella McGann (contact via Parish Office)

Depending on Covid 19 restrictions, we are able to offer an organist, soloist, a group of up to three singers, or a choir of around eight singers. Stella will be able to advise families which options are available at the time of the funeral. She will also be happy to advise you, by phone or email, on your choice of hymns or music.

Generally speaking, we have found that music or singing at particular moments during a funeral service can be both comforting and uplifting for the family and friends, but more importantly they can help to focus their prayers for the deceased, and for themselves. Currently, Covid 19 restrictions do not allow congregational singing, so the presence of a singer or choir has greatly helped enhance the liturgy during these difficult times. We are fortunate in having a group of musicians who are able to offer live music at services in our parish, particularly as, following Diocesan regulations, recorded music is not allowed, other than in very exceptional circumstances.

Moments when music is appropriate during a
Funeral Service

- **Entrance**
as the coffin is carried into church, usually followed by the immediate family
- **Opening Hymn**
- **Psalm**

This is sung after the first reading. Psalms are pieces from the Old Testament which were written specifically for singing.

- **Acclamation**
which greets the reading of the Gospel
- **Final Blessing and incensing of the coffin**
- **Final hymn**
which can also be the music to accompany the exit from the church, or can be sung while the mourners are still in church and then a further hymn or piece of music can accompany the exit.

Moments when music is appropriate during a Requiem Mass

In addition to the above, the following are usually
sung at Mass in both churches in our parish:

- **The parts of the Mass**
Holy Holy, Acclamation, Amen and Lamb of God
- **Offertory Hymn**

Communion Hymn

CHOICE OF HYMNS

Families will want to choose hymns or pieces of music which are familiar to them, have been used at previous family occasions, or are were favourites of the deceased. If the family already has a list of hymns they would like to include, Stella can advise at which point they can be used. Below are some suggestions, but there are many more which would be appropriate. The words to most of these will be found in the hymn book *Laudate*, or can be found on the internet

- **Entrance**

Ave Maria, Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, The Lord Bless You and Keep You, and other classical pieces can be sung, or uplifting popular pieces can also be suggested -e.g *You Raise Me Up, You'll Never Walk Alone, Bridge Over Troubled Water*

- **Opening Hymn**

Here I am Lord, Abide With Me, All Are Welcome, Christ Be Our Light

- **Psalm**

This is intended to reflect the theme of the readings, but generally a setting of the 23rd Psalm (The Lord is My Shepherd), or other psalms such as *Centre of my Life, As The Deer Yearns, O Lord I Know You Are Near* would be suitable

- **Acclamation**

This will be chosen depending on the liturgical season and the Gospel chosen

- **Final Blessing and incensing of the coffin**

May the Choirs of Angels, The Hand of God Shall Hold you

- **Final hymn/Exit**

How Great Thou Art, Hail Queen of Heaven, The Servant King, The Old Rugged Cross. The Day Thou Gavest. A Gaelic Blessing Hymns or songs suggested for the entrance or opening would also be suitable

Requiem Mass

- **The parts of the Mass**

Different Mass settings can be offered e.g. *Gathering, Celtic, Mass of Christ Our Saviour*

- **Communion Hymn/Songs**

Bread of Life, Bread for the World, Soul of My Saviour, O Bread of Heaven, Panis Angelicus, Ave Verum

FEES

The organist's fee is usually £60

Singers do not charge a fee, but donations, which are given to parish charities are gratefully accepted. These are generally in the region of:

Funeral service: £40 per soloist, choir £100

Requiem Mass: £50 per soloist, choir £100

*Please arrange to have the above paid by your
Funeral Director on the day of the Funeral*