

MUSIC FOR FUNERALS IN THE PARISH OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

at SAINT MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS CHURCH

and SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH

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

We can 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.

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.

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.

In addition, 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 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

These charges and suggested donations correct 2021