

Planning a Funeral in the Catholic Parish of Lockleys

Below you will find the basic elements for a funeral liturgy celebrated in the Lockleys Catholic Parish.

- These will need to be thought of as you plan the Funeral Liturgy and suggest the people you would like to have involved.
 - Please don't hesitate to contact Joan Walsh or Fr Michael if you have any queries at all.
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A. Opening Rite

1. Gathering around the coffin at the entrance to the Church.

- Who will gather and accompany the coffin to the sanctuary of the church?

2. Symbols of the deceased's life and faith.

- A pall (a white cloth remembering the person's baptism) is placed over the coffin as we gather in the sanctuary.
- Other symbols are gathered by the family. These help remember the person's faith and life. They are placed on a small table next to the coffin.
 - i. What are these symbols?
 - ii. Who will carry them and place them on the table?

B. Liturgy of the Word

The family chooses readings from the Bible. These readings speak about God and Jesus and the mystery of eternal life.

- The family chooses a Gospel reading which the priest reads. A selection of Gospel readings can be found [here](#):
- The family can choose a reading from the Old Testament part of the Bible OR/AND a reading from the New Testament.

A selection of Old Testament readings can be found [here](#).

A selection of New Testament readings can be found [here](#).

- A family member or someone else that the family chooses would read these readings.
 - i. Who will read the first reading?
 - ii. If there is a second reading, who will read this reading?
- After the First Reading (from either the Old Testament or New Testament), someone may read a “Responsorial Psalm”—it is a prayer which Jesus himself would have prayed. A selection of Psalms can be found [here](#).
 - i. Who will pray the Responsorial Psalm?

C. Prayers of the Faithful

After the priest’s homily, family members offer prayers (about four to five) composed by the family, praying for the deceased. Suggestions can be found [here](#).

- Who will be offering the prayers?

D. Liturgy of the Eucharist

If a Funeral Mass is celebrated and bread and wine distributed to those gathered:

- Who will bring up the gifts of Bread and Wine to the Altar?
- Who will help distribute the Bread and Cup at Communion time?

E. The Eulogy

Towards the end of the Funeral Liturgy and before the Rite of Commendation, a family member or one well-known to the deceased offers a eulogy. This should be kept to 5-7 minutes.

- Who will offer the Eulogy?