

Funeral Mass Pew Sheet Guidelines

Reviewed February 2019

The templates, for Funeral Mass and Funeral Liturgy preparation, are meant to help a family to prepare a pew sheet leaflet (booklet) to assist the congregation in our diverse society to follow the funeral ceremony.

These templates have been prepared in Word so that it can be adapted to programs (like Publisher or InDesign) easily. Both are available for download on our website www.ofw-adelaide.org.au

These guidelines, used in conjunction with your selected ceremony template, can assist in planning a personalised service within the tradition of the Funeral Mass.

Resources such as the Book of Scripture Readings, Psalms and sample intentions for the Prayers of the Faithful can also be useful in preparations. Music and Hymn resources vary around communities and parishes. When choosing hymns it is good to seek ones that are known ecumenically e.g. Amazing Grace, The Lord's My Shepherd.

As a guide, please see the recommendations contained within the 'Funeral Preparation' section of our website for suggestions in both these areas.

Also included on our website is a document outlining the details the participation by family and friends in the Mass. This can be helpful for those unsure of who needs to do what.

Points of Note:

- You may choose to place an image of the deceased on the cover.
- Sometimes the Rite of Committal is done at the end of the Mass and is joint to the Final Commendation, especially when there is to be a Rite of Committal later (*refer to the Order of Christian Funerals page 123ff - Rite of Committal with Final Commendation*). Nothing more is required in the Pew Sheet when this is the case.
- It is important to understand that most things that people want in their funeral rites can be included, however, everything has its rightful place. For example, some music may be best played at the wake. As well as digital projections (powerpoint presentations etc.)
- The eulogy is meant to be balanced within the ritual and ought not be too long. It is not meant to give the whole history of a person but to emphasis the things that were inspiring. The actual Greek word 'eulogy' means 'to speak well of' - literally good words.

Should you have any questions in relation to preparation of your funeral ceremony, our team are happy to provide additional assistance.

