

Information for families
around the time of a

Funeral



Marking the passing of a loved one is a moment of great significance for family, friends, and the wider community.

The Cathedral offers a unique setting for this very personal occasion.

We hope that the information in this booklet will assist you in planning a service that honours the loved one who is no longer with us, affirms our core beliefs as people of faith, and renews hope for the future we share together.

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At the time of a funeral

Christ Church Cathedral is a place of pilgrimage and prayer.

The Cathedral provides a setting of quietness and sanctity for funerals and memorial services. Each day, people come to light a candle and pray quietly for themselves and their loved ones, living and departed.

As a Parish Church, the Cathedral is a familiar and sacred place where some families have celebrated Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Funerals and Weddings over several generations.

As the Cathedral Church for the City of Grafton, the Cathedral hosts civic memorials, including the annual Police Memorial Service.

A funeral at the Cathedral can be a quiet and intimate gathering, or an occasion to draw on our rich liturgical and musical traditions to celebrate the faith we share with the whole people of God across time and beyond time.

Our Church



Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton

The Cathedral Church of Christ the King was built in two stages, with the earliest phase constructed in 1884. The Cathedral was effectively completed 50 years later when the western half of the current building was constructed, including the Baptistry. The Cathedral replaced an older timber church built in 1854.

Planning the service

A funeral service in one of our churches can be a quiet and intimate occasion or a more formal service that draws on the rich liturgical and musical traditions of the Cathedral. Our clergy work with your family and your funeral director to plan a service that reflects the character and the faith of the person whose life we are celebrating.

Options for the service

- ❖ A simple but dignified service at one of our three churches.
- ❖ A more formal liturgy at the Cathedral.
- ❖ A Requiem Mass with Holy Communion.
- ❖ Funeral Chapel service.
- ❖ Graveside only prayers.

Ecumenical & interfaith ministry

All Anglican funeral services must have a distinctive and authentic Christian character. We use the authorised funeral rites published in official Anglican Prayer Books.

When it is appropriate to do so we may include material from other sources, including poems and prayers from a range of spiritual traditions.

Religious leaders from other faith communities may also participate in a funeral with the consent of the Dean.

Family symbols

We encourage families to choose a small number of symbols that represent the character of their person. Their favourite interests and perhaps areas of high achievement. These can be placed around the casket prior to the service beginning or presented at the beginning of the service by members of the family. This is often a good role for grandchildren as it does not require them to speak and yet the symbols can be highly evocative of the loved one.

Military and civil honours

The Cathedral is always happy to incorporate into the funeral service an opportunity for military service or other significant civilian service to be recognized and celebrated. This mostly commonly occurs when a member of the local RSL Sub-Branch lays a poppy and reads the Ode.

Readings from sacred texts

There will always be at least one reading from the Bible, but the number of readings and the choice of passages is largely at the discretion of the family. Biblical passages which are often used at a funeral are listed towards back of this booklet.

It can also be appropriate for poetry—as well as readings from other spiritual traditions—that have special significance to the family to be included in the service. There are different ways of doing this, and the priest taking your service will discuss which options work best for your family.

Music

Live music adds a special dimension to a funeral.

The Cathedral has a rich music tradition, and we are blessed to have a fine pipe organ as well as a very gifted Director of Music.

We also have a baby grand piano in the Cathedral.

It is also possible to have other live music, including other instruments and vocalists. The Director of Music coordinates all requests for music at funerals, including the selection of hymns and other songs.

The priest officiating at the funeral will be able to advise you on music that is especially suitable for use in the Cathedral, as well as other options for music at the graveside or during the wake.

Digital music can be included at various points in the service, in consultation with the priest taking the funeral.

Technology

The Cathedral is a large building with rich heritage values, but we also offer contemporary technologies to support funeral services.

We have high-speed WIFI available for live-streaming of services as well as free public WIFI for visitors.

We can arrange for digital slideshows during the service or at the reception afterwards.

The audio system supports digital input from CDs and USB sticks.

Speeches

A well-crafted eulogy can greatly enhance a funeral service, as it provides an opportunity for family members or a close friend to speak about the person who has died. Their character, idiosyncrasies and personal achievements are best described by someone who knew them well and loves them. We recommend having a single eulogy during the service, even if it is shared among more than one speaker. A better time for informal reflections on the loved one who has passed may be found at the wake after the service.

Catering

The Parish Centre in the Cathedral grounds offers an attractive venue for hospitality your guests after the service.

Facilities include a modern catering kitchen, free WIFI throughout and a large digital screen for audio and video presentations.

Our catering team will be pleased to provide traditional country catering for your family and guests, or you can hire the venue and use an independent caterer.

Memorial Garden

Our Memorial garden beside the northern wall of the Cathedral offers a special place for the ashes of our loved ones to be interred.

There is no cost to have ashes interred in the memorial garden at Christ Church Cathedral.

The names of those whose ashes are in the memorial garden are recorded in a Memorial Book within the Cathedral and remembered in our service for All Saints and All Souls at the beginning of November.

Memorials and Bequests

Our capacity to care for the heritage buildings at the Cathedral precinct largely depends on the generosity of people who have contributed the Grafton Cathedral Precinct Maintenance Endowment by way of a bequest.

The Cathedral also offers various opportunities for loved ones to be remembered with a memorial gift.

If you would like additional information about memorials and bequests, please contact the Cathedral office.

Costs*

For a funeral service at the Cathedral, with organ or baby grand piano, the fee is \$750. This includes printing of a service booklet and all fees to clergy, organist and verger. Live Streaming to Facebook and YouTube is also available at an additional cost of \$250.

Additional fees apply for the choir or other musicians to perform at the service.

Fees may be waived in whole or in part at the discretion of the Dean.

*Prices current as at September 2023. Subject to change.

Resources when planning a funeral

The material listed here may serve as a guide as you prepare to meet with the priest and plan for the funeral service for a loved one.

Bible readings

Psalm 23

***R** I will fear no evil, for you are with me*

The Lord is my shepherd:

therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall make me lie down in green pastures:

and lead me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul:

and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil:

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me:

you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me

all the days of my life:

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

From Psalm 90

R *Teach us rightly to number our days*

Lord, you have been our refuge:

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the earth and the world were born:

from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **R**

You turn us back to dust:

and say, 'Go back, you children of earth'.

For a thousand years in your sight

are as yesterday when it is past:

or like a watch in the night. **R**

You cut them off like a dream:

and like the new grass of the morning.

In the morning it springs up and flourishes:

in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**

When you are angry, all our days pass away:

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The span of our life is seventy years,

or, if we have strength, perhaps eighty:

yet the pride of our toil is but trouble and sorrow,

for it passes away quickly and we are gone. **R**

Who knows the power of your wrath?:

who knows your indignation like those who fear you?

Teach us rightly to number our days:

so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

Psalm 121

R *My help comes from the Lord*

I lift my eyes to the hills:

from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord:

the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

The Lord will not allow your foot to slip:
your guardian will not sleep.

See, the one who watches over Israel:
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

It is the Lord who is your keeper:
the Lord is your shelter on your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day:
neither shall the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil:
it is the Lord who shall guard your life.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:
both now and for evermore. **R**

Other suitable psalms include:

Psalms 46; Psalm 71; Psalm 130; Psalm 139.1–11.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1–8

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace."

Romans 6.3–9

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

1 Corinthians 13:1–8a,13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 15.50b–58

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
Listen, I will tell you a mystery!
We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised imperishable,
and we will be changed.
For this perishable body must put on the imperishable,
and this mortal body must put on immortality.
When this perishable body puts on the imperishable,
and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:
‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’
‘Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?’
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable,
always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in
vain.

Matthew 5:1–12a

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."

John 14.1–6

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Other suitable passages include:

Romans 8.31–38 God's love in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 15 The resurrection of the dead

2 Corinthians 4.16—5.10 Living by faith and hope

Philippians 3.10–16, 20–21 God's purposes for us

1 Thessalonians 4.13–18 The coming of the Lord

Revelation 21.1–7 The new heaven and the new earth

John 6.35–40 Jesus the Bread of life, who raises us up

John 11.17–27 Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

John 20.11–18 Mary encounters the risen Jesus

Hymns and songs

| | |
|--|---------|
| Abide with me; fast falls the eventide | TIS 586 |
| All my hope on God is founded | TIS 560 |
| All things bright and beautiful | TIS 135 |
| Amazing grace | TIS 129 |
| Be still my soul, the Lord is on your side | TIS 123 |
| Fare well, we come to send you on your way | TIS 695 |
| God is love, let heaven adore him | TIS 153 |
| Guide me O my great redeemer | TIS 569 |
| I know that my redeemer lives | TIS 376 |
| Morning has broken | TIS 156 |
| Rock of ages cleft for me | TIS 222 |
| The king of love my shepherd is | TIS 145 |
| The Lord's my shepherd (traditional) | TIS 10 |
| The Lord is my shepherd | TIS 659 |
| When human voices cannot sing | TIS 682 |

Funeral Instructions

Some people find it helpful to record their preferences for their own funeral. The following document is one way of doing that, and we recommend having a copy on file in the Cathedral office as well as another copy among your personal papers for your executor to consult.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF GRAFTON

FUNERAL CUSTOMARY

Name: _____

I desire my funeral to be conducted in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church of Australia, and I specifically request that my funeral service be held at the following location:

Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton

Other (please specify): _____

I particularly request:

- A Eucharist (Requiem Mass)
- An inexpensive coffin
- Minimum use of flowers
- Cremation of my body
- Interment of my ashes in the Cathedral memorial garden

My preferences for music are:

Prior to the service: _____

During the service: _____

After the service: _____

Hymns / Songs: _____

My preferences for Bible readings are:

Other arrangements:

- I would like close family and friends to escort my body into the church.
- I would prefer my body to be in place before the Altar when my family arrives.

Suggested pall bearers: _____

Your Cathedral Faith Community

Our Vision

We seek to be a generous faith community centred around the person and teachings of Jesus—open to new insights from the natural and social sciences—and engaged with the wider community in compassionate action for the common good.

Our Community

As the 'mother church' for the Diocese of Grafton, the Cathedral Parish serves the broader Anglican community on the North Coast of New South Wales. As a Cathedral, it serves the civic community of Grafton and the Clarence Valley Regional Council. As a local Parish, it seeks to form and sustain an inclusive Christian community.

What we do

We engage in the five marks of mission identified by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Helpful links



Cathedral website

www.graftoncathedral.org.au



Mobile Giving

pushpay.com/g/graftoncathedral?src=hpp



CVAS Scholarships

<https://www.cvas.nsw.edu.au/scholarships>
www.cvas.nsw.edu.au/scholarships

Cathedral Contact Details

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**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
GRAFTON**

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds ... open hands ...