

The Catholic Churches of

Christ the King & Our Lady of Lourdes

with St. Augustine's



Planning a Catholic Funeral

Notes for bereaved families

We offer our sincere sympathy to you, your family and friends in your bereavement.

The Catholic community joins you in grieving for your loved one and offers you a range of ways to give thanks to God for their life, to ask for the forgiveness of their sins and to affirm our hope in the resurrection. Just as there are stages in the process of grieving, the Church encourages us to say farewell to our loved ones in three main stages:

- The Prayer Vigil, usually the evening before the funeral;
- The Funeral, which may be a Mass or a Funeral Service;
- The Committal at the cemetery or crematorium.

However all these rites are not appropriate in every situation and the parish looking after the funeral will be happy to help you decide on what is best for you and to choose appropriate readings, prayers and music.

The Prayer Vigil

The Vigil may be held in the home of the deceased person, in a funeral home or in the church. The mood of the Vigil is one of quiet support, with readings from scripture and prayers. It may include the Rosary and appropriate poems and songs.

The Funeral

This is the community's main celebration and prayer for the deceased person. This could be a Funeral Mass, but if the majority of the mourners would not be able to participate fully in a Mass, it may be a Funeral Service. The family and friends of the deceased can be involved, if they feel able, in a variety of ways:

- Placing on the coffin symbols of Christian faith, such as the pall (a large white cloth which reminds us of Baptism), a crucifix and an open bible.
- Placing other symbols of the person's life on a table near the coffin.
- Reading the scripture passages or the intercessions.
- Speaking briefly in memory of the deceased person.
- Bringing up the gifts of bread and wine (if it is a Mass).

The Funeral usually takes place in the parish church but, if it is not a Mass, it may sometimes be appropriate to hold it in the chapel of the cemetery or crematorium immediately before the Committal.

The Committal

The final act of saying farewell is a brief service at the graveside or at the crematorium. When a body is cremated there may be a further brief service for the burial of the ashes some time later.

Music

The use of music in the various stages of the funeral is important, and carefully selected hymns and music will enhance the service, bring back memories of a loved one and provide consolation for the bereaved. It should be borne in mind that the Catholic Church has a vast library of music to suit all needs. Some music (or words) which would not be appropriate for use in church may be better suited to the crematorium or the cemetery. Your local parish will be pleased to give advice and guidance.

Please contact the parish looking after the funeral before finalising any arrangements with the Funeral Director.

Useful Resources:

- **Christ the King Bereavement Group.** Within the parish we have our group, who support relatives and friends of people who have died. Please call 76591618.
- **Cruse Bereavement Care.** Somewhere to turn when someone dies. Daytime helpline: 0844 477 9400
www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk email helpline@cruse.org.uk
- **Grieg Recovery.** A Cognitive Behavioural Model. An internet community of persons dealing with grief, death, and major loss
www.griefnet.org email support@grief.net
- **Sands.** A Stillbirth & neonatal death charity. Supporting anyone affected by the death of a baby promoting research to reduce the loss of babies' lives. Helpline: Tel: 020 7436 5881 www.uk-sands.org email: helpline@uk-sands.org
- **Survivors of bereavement by suicide** exists to meet the needs and break the isolation of those bereaved by the suicide of a close relative or friend. Helpline: 9am to 9pm 0844 561 6855. www.uk-sobs.org.uk email sobs.support@hotmail.com
- **Support after Murder and Manslaughter** is a national UK Charity supporting families bereaved by Murder and Manslaughter. Tel: 0845 872 3440 www.samm.org.uk email: samm.national@gmail.com

Christ the King & St Augustine's



Christ the King

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Sunday	9.00 am	Mass
	12 noon	Mass
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer: 1 st Sunday of the Month
Monday	9.15 am	Mass
Tuesday	9.15 am	Mass
Wednesday	12 noon	Mass
Thursday	12 noon	Mass
Friday	9.15 am	Mass
	9.45 am, 6.30 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00 pm	Mass
Saturday	10.00 am	Mass
	10.30 -11.30 am	Holy Hour & Confessions
	6.00 pm	Mass for Sunday
	7.00 pm	Confessions

St. Augustine's

Heathcote Street, Coventry, CV6 3BL

Sunday	10.30 am	Mass
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass
Saturday	11.00-11.30 am	Confessions: First Saturday of the Month