**ALL SAINTS CLOONEY**

**Funeral Service**

**Information Booklet**



Each funeral and each death is different. You might feel numb at first then a mixture of grief, gratitude, joy and anger - perhaps all mixed together. You might be hurting with the tragedy of an unexpected death, or perhaps you are grateful for a long and fruitful life.

Funerals can raise profound personal questions about the meaning of life and death, this is perfectly normal. There may not be much time around the funeral to properly reflect on these matters because you organising the funeral arrangements.

This booklet is designed to help you organise the funeral service of a loved one and answer any question you may have regarding the funeral.

On the death of a loved the first thing to do is to choose a good funeral director. If you are uncertain then ask someone to recommend one. Most reputable firms belong to either the Funeral Standards Council (FSC) or the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD). Both of these associations have codes of practice which include providing information about the service and prices a written estimate of charges and a detailed funeral account. The code covers a general and professional conduct and a produce of complaints.

Once a funeral director has been appointed he or she will quickly make an appointment with the client to discuss all the practical aspects of the funeral and to explain and answer questions about the procedure. These details will include items such as a date and place of service, burial or cremation, obituary notices, floral tributes and disposal of ashes. All these are significant matters that need to be decided, but the most important part of the discussion should centre on the funeral service itself, for this is what really matters, this is what people remember.

The next key person to contact on the death of a loved one is the minister. He will go to the hospital or family home and comfort the family through the reading of scripture and prayer. The minster will then arrange a convenient time to meet with members of the deceased family. This is essential especially if the family is not known to the minister. Certain factors can have a major bearing on the nature of the service and need to be taken into account. How old was the person who died, and what are the circumstances of the death? Was it sudden, peaceful, unexpected, tragic? What name was the person known by? Similarly the names of the immediate family members and close friends should be noted and referred to in the service particularly in the prayers. It may also be appropriate to mention the name of the deceased husband, wife or partner who has died previously—but only if their was a close loving relationship.

A vital part of the service involves celebrating the life of the person who has died. A personal eulogy composed and written by the family member or a friend usually has a greater impact that something prepared by the minister who is often repeating what the family has said, but with less effect. It is the natural part of the grieving process when someone has died from the family to engage in times of sharing and recounting memories. All that is required for the eulogy is for members of the family, or a close friend to write a few lines which describes their loved one. These should paint a picture of the deceased and so serve as a focal point for others thoughts and memories. Such writings provide an opportunity for personal contributions to the service by family ad friends. As to how it should be written there is no set format, for this should be very much a personal reflection. Some people write a brief biography, or life history, mentioning names, dates places and occupations. Other simply record loving and treasured memories. In some funeral services grandchildren have each written a few lines beginning. “My favourite memory of grandpa is …

“ These memories painted a moving and realistic picture of a loving old man. There is certainly room for humour and in many instances to include some remark or anecdote that will make the people smile will be quite in keeping with the celebration of the persons life, though the amount of humour should never be allowed to detract from the reverence and sanctity of the occasion.

Often these contributions will be read by the minister, on behalf of the family or friend. Sometimes those who have written something will express the desire to read the piece themselves. This is fine but not always easy. It is one thing to sit at home and imagine that you can do it, especially if you are used to public speaking. It is a very different thing on the day, when confronted by the coffin containing the body of your loved one, plus a large congregation and in the front row members of your grieving family. A simple safeguard involves the person typing out what they want to say and giving a copy to the minister so that when the time comes in the service arrives, an they find that emotion has got the better of them, the minister can read it on their behalf.

Participation by family members can make an enormous difference to the atmosphere and impact of the service. The more a service can be personalised the more it becomes a suitable remembrance of the one who has died.

The funeral service offers many opportunities for family and friends to be involved.

The following are just some of the personal touches that family and friends can take part.

Family and friends carrying the coffin into church or the crematorium.

The family choosing the Bible readings and hymns and music.

A family member or friend reading a poem.

A family member or friend reading prayers.

A member of the family placing the deceased photograph or an item which relates to their favourite hobby on the coffin.

An appropriate piece of music being played as the deceased leave the church.

Obviously such personal and heart rendering contributions would release powerful emotions of grief and sadness but this is perfectly acceptable at a funeral for it is a sad time and in times of sadness the normal thing to do is cry.

The important thing is the discussion which should be placed between the family and the minister. Through a sharing of ideas it ought to be possible to produce a service that is honest, appropriate and a means of great comfort to all who attend. Most of all it should be fitting and a lasting tribute to the loved one who has died and one which they themselves would be proud off.

One important fact that needs to taken into account when preparing the service is the length of time. Services at a crematorium normally follow on every half-hour. Allowing ten minutes for entering the church, this means that the time allocated to each service is usually twenty minutes. If the family want to include hymns, extra readings, eulogies and symbolic actions as suggested above the time limited would certainly be exceeded. It is possible to book a double slot which would allow a service up to fifty minutes but the funeral director would need to know early on, normally at the time he or she makes the booking at the crematorium. Although this would incur an extra cost, this is far better than having to omit parts of the service at the last minute. A service in the church does permit greater flexibility but the funeral director would still need to know the approximate length of the service in order to book the appropriate time of the arrival at the crematorium or cemetery.

One possible solution of alleviating this problem of time , while allowing for personal contributions is to have a service of celebration and thanksgiving in the church or family home before the service of commendation and committal at the crematorium.

The majority of people who attend a funeral will have very little appreciation or understanding of what they are doing or why they have come. If asked they would say they have come to pay their last respects to the one who has died.

This is very true but it is much more:

They have come to mourn a life that has now come to an end

They have come to express their condolences to the family and friends who are feeling a deep sense of loss and pain.

They third reason which is often not appreciated is that they are there to commend the deceased person into the care of god, and then seek the dignified committal of the body.

The funeral service is the final act of love which and individual or family can offer to their loved one and should be approached with dignity, respect and devotion.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE AT CHURCH

 RECEIVING THE COFFIN AT THE DOOR

The coffin may be received at the door of the church, and the minister may say

We receive the body of our *brother/sister* ....

with confidence in God, the giver of life,

who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead.

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death

of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

may continually put to death our evil desires

and be buried with him;

that through the grave and gate of death

we may pass to our joyful resurrection,

through his merits, who died and was buried,

and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

## SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

The minister says the following sentences.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,

and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.' *John 11: 25,26*

1 am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,

nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8: 38, 39*

We brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out.

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

 *1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21*

## GREETING

The minister says

We meet in the name of Christ

who died and was raised

by the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you all

**and also with you.**

The minister introduces the service in these or other suitable words:

We have come here today to remember before God our dear *brother/sister* .... ; to give thanks for *his/her* life, to leave *him/her* in the keeping of God *his/her* creator, redeemer and judge, to commit *his/her* body to be *buried/ cremated*, and to comfort one another in our grief, in the hope that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore we pray that here today we may know the peace of Christ in communion with all God's faithful servants.

Standing

God of all consolation,

whose Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears

at the grave of Lazarus his friend:

Look with compassion on us your children in our loss;

give to our troubled hearts the light of hope,

and strengthen in us the gift of faith,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Hymn.

## PENITENTIAL KYRIES

The minister may say

As children of a loving heavenly Father,

let us seek the forgiveness of God,

for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

Call to remembrance, O Lord, your compassion,

and your loving kindness, for they have been from of old.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Remember not my sins nor my transgressions,

but according to your mercy think on me.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

O keep my life, and deliver me, put me not to shame,

for I have put my trust in you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The minister says

May God our Father forgive us our sins

and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom

where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen**.

## THE COLLECT

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept, and the minister says the Collect.

Merciful Father,

hear our prayers and comfort us,

renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead,

strengthen our faith

that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection;

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

## A READING FROM THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT

***is read .***

Romans 8: 18-21,31-5,37-39 ***or*** 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26,35-38,42-44a,53-58

***Alternative readings:*** Isaiah 61: 1-3; Lamentations 3:22-26; Wisdom 3: 1-5,9 or 3: 1-9

1 Corinthians 15: 3-6; Philippians 3: 7-14; 2 Corinthians 4: 14-18; Revelation 21: 1-7

## A PSALM

Psalms 23, 42: 1-7, 90, 116:1-9, 118: 14-21, 130 ***are suitable.***

## A READING FROM THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT

***is read.***

John 5: 19-25 ***or*** John 6: 35-40 ***or*** John 14: 1-6,27 ***or*** Matthew 5: 1-10

 **THE SERMON**

##  THE PRAYERS

The prayers usually follow this sequence:

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed.

Prayer for those who mourn.

Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**
**On earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The prayers conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ

you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.

Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,

that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Farewell in Christ

The minister stands by the coffin and may invite others to gather around it.

God our creator and redeemer,

by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.

Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,

we now leave your servant .... in your gracious keeping;

in the name of Jesus our Lord, who died and is alive

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

***Hymn***

**BLESSING**

May the God of peace who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make your perfect and many he work in us what is pleasing to him through jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

The Committal at the cemetery

Sentences of Scripture

The eternal God is your refuge,

and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33: 27*

I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

I myself will see him with my own eyes. *Job 19: 25,27a*

Blessed are those who mourn,

for they shall be comforted. *Matthew 5: 4*

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the heart of man conceived

what God has prepared for those who love him. *1 Corinthians 2: 9*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,

who was, and is, and is to come. *Revelation 4: 8b*

The minister says

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1: 3

## PSALM

Psalms 23, 42: 1-7, 90, 116:1-9, 118: 14-21, 130 *are suitable.*

Man that is born of a woman has but a short time to live

and is in need of mercy.

Like a flower we blossom and then wither,

like a shadow we flee and never stay.

In the midst of life we are in death;

to whom can we turn for help,

but to you, Lord, who are justly angered by our sins?

Lord God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

holy and most merciful Saviour,

Judge of the living and the dead,

deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

You know the secrets of our hearts;

in your mercy hear our prayer,

forgive us our sins, and in your love keep us in life everlasting.

When the body has been lowered into the grave, or at a cremation, the minister says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

you have given us a sure and certain hope

of the resurrection to eternal life.

In your keeping are all those who have departed in Christ.

We here commit the body of our *brother/sister* .... to the ground

*(or to be cremated):*

earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,

and who shall change our mortal body

that it may be like his glorious body,

according to the mighty working by which he is able to subdue all things to himself Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

They are blessed indeed, says the Spirit,

for they rest from their labours. *Revelation 14: 13*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**On earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

The minister may say

God be in my head, and in my understanding.

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking.

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.

God be in my heart, and in my thinking.

God be at mine end, and at my departing. **Amen**.

The minister says the following blessing ng endings:

May God give to you

and to all those whom you love his comfort and his peace,

his light and his joy, in this world and the next;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE AT A FAMILY HOME

The funeral service in the family home is a more informal service but it is no less a lasting tribute to the loved one who has died. It is carried out in the same format as the funeral service in the church except there are no hymns sung in the service.

 ***ALL SAINTS’ CLOONEY FUNERAL SERVICES***

**Funeral Service in Church**

**Parishioner making contributions to the church through Freewill Offering (£100 PER YEAR CONSISTENTLY OVER A 3 YEAR PERIOD) or someone who has made a valuable contribution to the parish over many years and is no longer able to through old age, infirmity or illness. .**

**Church: No Fee**

**Rector: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Sexton: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Choir: £50.00 if required**

**Organist: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

 **Parishioner making no contribution to church**

If the person who has passed away is a non attender at church and making no appropriate contribution to Freewill Offering.

**Church Fee: £200.00**

**Clergy Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Sexton Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Choir: £100 if required**

**Organist Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Non Parishioner granted Church service**

If the person who has passed away is a non parishioner.

**Church Fee: £200.00**

**Clergy Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Sexton Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Choir Fee : £50.00**

**Organist Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

 **SERVICE IN THE FAMILY HOME**

**Parishioner making contributions to the church.**

If the person who has passed away is a member of the parish, attends church regularly and makes appropriate contributions to the Church through Freewill Offering / or someone who has made a valuable contribution to the parish over many years and is no longer able to through old age, infirmity or illness.

**Clergy Fee (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Non Parishioner making no contributions to the church**

If the person who passed away is a non attender at church and making no appropriate contributions to Freewill Offering.

**Clergy Fee: (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**Non Parishioner**

If the person who passed away is a non parishioner.

**Clergy Fee (standard fee paid by funeral director)**

**FUNERAL TEAS FEE**

All Saints’ Clooney can supply Funeral Teas in All Saints’ Clooney Parish Centre at the following rates

**Hire of the Hall and Caretaking Fee: £100.00**

**Catering: £4.00 per head**

**To order Funeral Teas contact Sarah at the Parish Office.**

**DONATION IN LIEU OF FLOWER**

Many families prefer only to have family flowers and request donations in lieu of their loved one to be forward to the church. This is greatly appreciated by the Church. This can be organised through the funeral director.

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Many people also like to provide flowers in church on a Sunday and this is a fitting way to remember somebody who has died and in memory. In many churches on the Sunday following a funeral the family are remembered in prayers during the service. Many families find this a special and helpful time to come and join the worship of the church as we remember those who have died in our prayers.

**COPING WITH BEAVEMENT**

**‘The Cost of Loving and Losing’**

Loss is a part of the cost of living and loving, indeed of simply being alive and giving of ourselves to others. It has been said that only the unloving and the unloved escape from the pain of grief. The opposite side of this is that the more deeply we love the more severe also can be the pain of loss. It is helpful to know a little of the process of healing which we go through. This will reassure us that the intense grief which we feel at first is natural and not a sign that we are falling apart or going mad. We could mention three aspects of life which are affected by grief.

**Our relationships with other people** We are all affected when somebody else suffers, a grieving person affects those around and some people feel embarrassed. To reduce the discomfort, other people may avoid us or try to reduce contact as much as possible. This is sometimes done for sincere and kind motives even if it is very unhelpful! People may cross the road when they see somebody coming who has been through bereavement, so that they do not have to talk about it. When they do meet, the subjects spoken of may include anything but the bereavement, because they think that you would not want to mention it and it would cause upset. Some people speak of feeling a sense of isolation and loneliness. Grief overshadows all normal relationships as we adjust to the change in condition, being a single parent, widow(er). To an extent we become different people.

**2. Our bodies** Our bodies react to bereavement in many ways. Headaches, stomach pains, back pains, arthritis, or many other complaints can suddenly become apparent and make us feel as though we are falling apart. Some people speak of intense tiredness and exhaustion. All of our reserves of energy can be used up simply in order to cope. This is a natural reaction to loss. The body passes through a crucial stage in the first 6-9 months and some people can die of a broken heart if they 'bottle up' their feelings and are unable to express and come to terms with their grief openly. It is important to look after ourselves, to eat and sleep properly. There is nothing wrong with spoiling ourselves a little either.

**3. Our feelings and state of mind** There are emotional stages through which most people pass. These stages are not neat and tidy and one may feel several of them going on at once. We are all different people and so we all have unique feelings. It is possible to swing from one stage to another, or indeed hardly experience one stage at all. This does not mean that the grief of one person is deeper than another, simply that we have different ways of experiencing and coping with loss.

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