

Diocesan Repertoire for Funerals

As with all celebrations of Eucharist, the Guidelines of the Church¹ for Music in the Liturgy must be observed:

1. Musicians are not performers at liturgy but they are ministers who, with others, contribute to the prayerfulness of the celebration.

- the cantor or psalmist sings the psalm (from the ambo)
- the choir is part of the assembly
- the cantor or choir director is to lead and sustain the people in the
- singing, preferably from in front of the assembly
- the organ or other musical instrument sustains the singing of the choir and congregation or is used at other times for appropriate selections.

2.

The Musical Core	Music Enrichment	Further Musical Enrichment
Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Accl. Holy, Holy, Holy Memorial Acclamation Great Amen, Song of Farewell	ProceSSIONAL Song [Lord's Prayer] Communion Song	Preparing the Table Response to the General Intercessions Recessional Hymn

3. There are special rites proper to funerals that require additional music:

• Final Commendation

- Song of Farewell
- Recessional Hymn: Since the mourners are leaving the church something very familiar should be sung [helpful if responsorial in character], or an organ selection.

Making Musical Choices

Acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer: should be taken from those that are familiar to the congregation, as the one used at Sunday Mass.

Psalm: Many of the Psalms used on Sundays are also appropriate; and especially pss 23, 25, 27, 42, 62, 116, 118, 119, 122, 123.

There are many settings available for Psalm 23. A popular setting for Psalm 91 is “On Eagles’s Wings” by Michael Joncas.

Gospel Acclamation: one that is regularly used in the parish.

Opening Hymn: to express belief in eternal life and the resurrection of the dead. Often hymns of praise do this. [Music needs to be ecumenically sensitive.]

Commendation and Farewell: The song of farewell should be sung to a melody simple enough for all to sing.

Well-Known Melodies for Funerals

	CBW III	CBW II
Sing with All the Saints in Glory	406	[tune 625]
Rest in Peace	643	
For the Beauty of the Earth	531	624
O God Beyond All Praising	561	
Praise My Soul the King of Heaven	565	650
All Creatures of our God and King	543	620
All People That on Earth Do Dwell	578	621
How Great Thou Art	554	637
O God Our Help in Ages Past	644	640
The Lord is My Shepherd	607 etc.	410
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	647/10a	56
Jesus, Remember Me	380	
Eye Has Not Seen	482	

The Strife is O'er	395	503
Alleluia, Give Thanks	383	496
Jerusalem My Happy Home	601	
In Paradisum	639	559
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	10a	56
Saints of God, come to her/his Aid	10b	58
Songs of the Angels	10c	
May Flights of Angels	640	600
Healer of Our Every Ill	363	
Salve Regina	469	609
Here I Am Lord	520	
O Lord, You Died that All Might Live	642	
Into Your Hands		682

¹. Refer to "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" 1975 or 2002.

Also: "Guidelines for Music in the Liturgy", leaflet published by the Archdiocese of Kingston, May 2005

Funeral Resources Available from the Resource Library

Order of Christian Funerals: This Canadian edition includes extensive pastoral notes, complete rites for adults and for children, and a wide variety of texts to be used in special circumstances (e.g. tragic death suicide, cremation). Nine models for the Liturgy of the Word and two for Evening Prayer are also included in this edition for Vigil or Wake Services. 10.007

Facing Death Together - Parish Funerals: Practical advice, true stories of pastoral situations is given as well as notes toward rites to use when disconnecting life-support, when organs are donated or bodies given to science after death. (1998) 11.123

Videos

New Order of Christian Funerals: Given at a diocesan study day by Father Kroetsch, when he was director of the National Office for Liturgy. In this video, he explains the changes in the new rite, the reasons for change and pastoral concerns about Christian funerals. He "walks" the participants through this new ritual book. (1990) 11.715

Death and Bereavement: This video offers practical information on how to help families process the death of a loved one, plan a funeral liturgy, and adjust to a person's death in the months of bereavement following the funeral. The video also discusses such subjects as suicide, the death of an infant, and cremation. 13.732

Death and Life - Preparing for the Catholic Funeral Mass: Tips for Pastoral Ministers - it explores and explains ways that the funeral Mass brings strength, understanding, and comfort for those grieving over a loved one who has died. Father Champlin shares with the bereaved family ways family members can participate in planning and celebrating the funeral liturgy. ORE 16.701

MUSIC OPTIONS FOR CELEBRATING FUNERALS

To accompany:
"Order of Christian Funerals"