

In the face of death, Jesus offers us the greatest possible hope. In the Bible he says:

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? **John 11.25-26**

A Christian funeral service is all about that hope, which is proclaimed with warmth and dignity through items like prayers, Bible readings and the minister's address.

Please read this guide before contacting the church about a funeral service. The minister will need to meet with a contact person at least five days before the service.

## Order of Service

■ Essential Items ■ Optional Items

- Procession** The minister leads pallbearers into the church building or cemetery.
- Welcome** The minister welcomes attenders and leads an opening prayer.
- Hymn(s)** Up to three hymns across the service selected with the minister.
- Eulogy** One or two family members or friends speak for around five minutes.
- Bible** Old and New Testament readings selected with the minister.
- Address** The minister speaks about Christian hope for around five minutes.
- Prayers** A few traditional prayers optionally including the Lord's Prayer.
- Burial** If service began in church building, attenders relocate to cemetery.
- Invitation** If applicable, minister can direct attenders to after-service gathering.

- A short slideshow may be run before or after, but not during the service.
- No open sharing. We suggest using an after-service gathering for this.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can we modify the service as presented above?

Aside from the optional items, we generally don't modify the service, which has been carefully crafted to both honour the deceased and present Christian hope.

## Does the service have to begin in the church building?

We can provide a service in the church building, at the cemetery or both.

## Can we choose music to play before or after the service?

The contact may choose instrumental music for this. Songs with lyrics are subject to the minister's agreement. Either way, the contact may need to provide music files.

## Who produces the service booklet / order-of-service?

If the contact wishes to do this, please send the minister a draft for approval before printing. Alternatively, the minister can produce a service booklet that you approve.

## How much time does the funeral service take?

30 minutes to one hour, depending on variables (e.g. whether hymns are sung).

## What is the capacity of the church building?

The church building has capacity for  persons.

## Can another minister or celebrant conduct a funeral in the church building?

Funerals in our church building can only be conducted according to the rites of our church by a minister who has been duly authorised by our organisation.

## Do we need to pay the church for the funeral service?

Not if the funeral will be local. If it involves travel, we may request a contribution toward the minister's travel expenses directly or via the Funeral Director.

# Funeral Planner

Full Name of the Deceased

Service Date

Service Time

Location(s)

☐ Church Building

☐ Cemetery

Funeral Director

Date of Birth

Date of Death

Age

Cause / Circumstances of Death

Significant Relationships, e.g. 'Name (Wife)', add '+' if deceased

Life Story Highlights, e.g. Faith, Culture, Work, Interests

‘Name (Relationship)’ of Primary Contact	
Phone Number	Email Address
‘Name (Relationship)’ of Secondary Contact, e.g. for Service Booklet	
Phone Number	Email Address
Booklet / Order of Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Produced by Minister <small>Approved by Contact</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Produced by Contact <small>Approved by Minister</small>
Hymn / Song Requests	
Hymn / Song Accompaniment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Live Musician(s)
‘Name (Relationship)’ of Eulogy Presenter	
Suggested Old Testament Reading	Reader
Suggested New Testament Reading	Reader

I [Primary Contact] request the arrangement of a funeral according to the provided guide. I will fully cooperate with the church’s process and accept all the minister’s decisions about the service.

<b>Signature</b>	
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