

Additional Guidelines for Funeral Ministry

- 1. Support in Making Choices** As stated in the current diocesan Funeral Policy (page 4) the family is helped to choose the most pastorally appropriate form of funeral liturgy, that is, a Funeral Mass or a Funeral Service. The Funeral Service may be led by a priest, deacon or delegated trained lay person.
- 2. Funeral Leaders** Trained lay people can lead both the burial and cremation service in the *Order of Christian Funerals*. They can also lead other prayer moments as outlined in the *Order of Christian Funerals*.
- 3. Additional Symbols** The use of additional symbols is optional in any funeral liturgy. If families choose to use additional symbols, these always convey our focus on God and celebrating the Christian life of the person. The most appropriate time to introduce these is after the welcome and before the penitential act.
- 4. Floral Displays** These are used to convey comfort and consolation in the light of our belief in the resurrection.
- 5. Music Choice** The music choice is always an expression of our Christian faith and reflects gospel values. While a recessional hymn is considered the norm, an alternative piece of music, suitable for use in Church, may be considered, as the Christian funeral liturgy has been completed.
- 6. Technology** Pastorally appropriate use of technology is encouraged such as displaying words of hymns with PowerPoint, enabling participation and joining in prayer and song. Families should be made aware that some technology is not appropriate, especially when it detracts from the prayerful engagement of the Christian community. For this reason, drones should not be used in Church or church property.