

All Saints RC Church
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Parish Guidelines for the Preparation of Funerals at All Saints Church, Hassop

The following guidelines have been prepared by All Saints RC Church for the relatives and friends involved in the organisation of a funeral here in Hassop. We appreciate that this can be a difficult and often daunting time for relatives, and those involved in planning the funeral may not be familiar with the procedures here in our Church. We hope the following guidelines will help you as you discuss your plans with the celebrant, and will ensure a fitting and respectful occasion.

Please feel free to contact the parish office to discuss any concerns, questions or special needs you may have, so that where possible we can accommodate your requests.

Parking

All Saints Church does not have a designated car park and parking on the road is very limited. If the number of cars arriving in Hassop could be kept to a minimum that would be helpful.

Seating

Our church is small with a capacity for only 100 seated comfortably. Whilst there is some standing room at the back of church, this must be limited to ensure we have safe access to the rear doors in case of an emergency. Please note that the choir loft is reserved for the choir and musicians only. Therefore, if you think that there will be a substantial number attending the funeral please let us know in advance so we can make adequate arrangements. We have our parish rooms connected to the church in which we can seat a further 50 people should it be required. A sound feed is in place so mourners in these rooms can still hear the service.

Ushers

If there is a relative or family friend who would be willing, it is useful to have someone on hand to guide people to their seats, particularly to encourage some to sit in the parish rooms if the church is becoming too full. Also, they can direct people to the toilets if necessary as the location of these is not immediately apparent.

Tribute

This will take place at the beginning of Mass. We respectfully suggest that this is kept to no more than 5 minutes. It may be worth considering a friend or family member accompany the reader to support them at this difficult time.

Liturgy

The celebrant will guide you through choices for readings. If you have your own intercessions (bidding prayers) you would like to use during Mass please ensure these are approved by the celebrant prior to the day of the funeral. We suggest about 4 prayers, preferably read by adults or young people of secondary school age who may be better able to cope with the occasion than younger children. Please discuss your music/instrumental requirements and choices with our choir leader in good time so that everything can be put in place for you.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is taken **only** by those who take it in their own local church community (Anglican or Catholic). We welcome all visitors and therefore, if they do not take communion, they are invited to come forward for a blessing at this time. For this, they need to indicate to the ministers by crossing their arms across their chest. If people wish, they can just remain seated. After the close family have taken Communion first, the rest of the congregation coming for communion or a blessing should come forward from the rear pews first, alternating from each side of the aisle. If the usher could guide people with this it will avoid any congestion. A second usher may be required to guide those into church from the parish rooms, once the procession for communion in the church has nearly reached the front.