

First things first

- You are in Charge of the liturgy and not someone else, not even the Funeral Director
- Your Roof, your rules - clarify with your Rector/Regional Dean/Synod Office
- Funerals are not done on Sundays unless there is a need to do so (health issues)
- Committals are not to be done in the dark.
- Liturgical colour for the service is white: same as Baptism and Resurrection - connection with Jesus.
- If you have a funeral pall - please make use of it. - Theology of a Pall
- Date and time of the Services that need to be done - not set in stone until you have agreed
- Recognize that this is a deep privilege and honour for you to walk with your fellow parishioners in this way
- Funeral Directors are a great help (and at times a great hinderance) use them and their knowledge to deal with the situation. They serve the family and their needs, you lead them to the throne of God to help God help them.
- Some advice if you have to participate in an NKO. (Have a plan, stick to the plan, be ready for anything; you are there for the grievers; not about you.

The Funeral Interview

- A funeral Interview story or two - Charlottetown, Labrador
- Location, date and time for it to happen - prefer a neutral place.
- You have two ears and one mouth - listen twice as much as you speak
- Take the Liturgy form with you and use it to keep you on track, to get what you need and to help the people think about what needs to be done next.
- Lead from out front - as a shepherd leads the flock.
- Take a Service Book and a hymn book with you - Secular music must not have a message that would degrade the Gospel/Christian Values and must have a positive mention of God.
- Help them to make lists of things they need to attend to
- Listen to the stories the grieving tells about their life and the life of the Deceased
- Make sure that they have way(s) to connect with you (Phone, email)
- Setting up Eulogies/Family Tributes - 10 minutes before the Liturgy
- MAID/Suicide

The Funeral Service and Committal

- In speaking publicly at a funeral - listen to identify something in a person's life that connects to the Christian life.
- Talk about Jesus, hope and the resurrection - Remember, Rest and Resurrection
- Know what you know about life death and the beyond - learn about what the Church believes
- Know that there are two forms of service within the BAS and there is one form of Burial in the BCP
- Know that we need to stick to music that the Church uses
- Know that it is okay to say no when you need to - gently and pastorally
- The Moosehide procedure - Committal - Learn to take missteps in stride

The Liturgies themselves

- BAS or BCP? Know who you are burying and know who is going to be there to participate in.
- Know that there are 2 liturgies in the BAS - Form 1 and Form 2; recommend that you stick to form two because it is simpler and easier to work with.
- If you are involved in the funeral of a First Nations person - make sure to get advice on what traditional pieces might need to be included - blanket and name removing ceremony before you leave the Church.

Last things

- Funerals **should not** be long and involved services - they should be kept simple and to about 40 minutes at the Church. Motion - standing up and sitting down is good for those who are in grief. People need to stand for the Creed if it is to be used and if that is the custom for the Prayers of the People.

- Remember that the service is the point when the healing begins for those who have suffered this loss. If the loss is personal to you, then you need to find time to grieve and to deal with thing away from the griever - and it is very important to do this. Remember that their loss is not your loss - be aware of transference!
- Follow up - email, phone call, visit. Not doing it causes pain and people to drift away.
- There is such a thing as a 'good' death and that as Christians, we do not have to fear death - Christ is with us all the way including through the valley of the shadow of death. Speak of the hope we have in Christ and that we will see or loved ones again.
- Patience is key in all that we do, and it will be tested - Virtue is earned not given.
- Concentrate on Jesus and the Gospel - the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life to live with loved ones in Christ.