



St Andrew's Cathedral
SYDNEY SQUARE

POLICY FOR ALL FUNERALS CONDUCTED AT ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

At St Andrew's Cathedral we have a great deal of experience in conducting and planning funeral and memorial services. As the oldest cathedral in Australia, we have held funerals for Prime Ministers, Governors and public profile people together with smaller intimate gatherings for dearly loved family members.

While it is our aim to assist the grieving family in every way, as the Cathedral Church of the City of Sydney we have a wider responsibility to the Anglican Church and the community as a whole. For this reason, we have a well-established policy for all funerals and memorials.

Every funeral service or memorial service is an important occasion. The funeral service provides a public opportunity for people to express their grief; extend sympathy to the bereaved; to honour the person who has died; and maintain our Christian witness and integrity.

This policy seeks to balance the interests of all parties and has been developed out of the experience of the many services held at St Andrew's Cathedral.

All aspects of a funeral or memorial service must be approved by the Dean of St Andrew's Cathedral. With this in mind, note the following:

Order of Service

Funerals and memorials must conform to the Service set out in 'The Book of Common Prayer (1662)'; 'An Australian Prayer Book (1978)'; or another Diocese Authorised Service approved by the Dean of St Andrew's Cathedral.

Clergy

The Chapter of St Andrew's Cathedral maintains a strict policy that only Cathedral staff or other licensed Anglican clergy of the Diocese of Sydney (by written invitation of the Dean) conduct funerals or memorials in the Cathedral. For this reason, please do not ask other clergy to participate until having discussed it with the Dean who alone has the authority to issue the invitation.

Sermon

The Chapter of St Andrew's Cathedral maintains a strict policy that only Cathedral staff or other licensed Anglican clergy of the Diocese of Sydney (by written invitation of the Dean) preach at services in the Cathedral. For this reason, please do not ask other clergy to preach until having discussed it with the Dean who alone has the authority to issue the invitation.

Eulogies / Tributes

In recent times eulogies have become common in funerals. There is a place for carefully written and well considered statements recording the contribution that the deceased has made in his/her lifetime. It is not an occasion for expressions of personal grief nor inappropriate evaluations of the character of the deceased. It is unhelpful to the organisers to have more than one person delivering the eulogy/tribute.

All eulogies/tributes must be:

- Strictly less than 1000 words - typed and provided to the Cathedral Administrator no less than 24 hours prior to the service. The combined total of all the eulogies must not exceed 10 minutes or 1000 words;
- Consistent with the theology and aims of the Cathedral;
- Delivered by people approved by the Cathedral. The Cathedral will provide the eulogy to the congregation in either printed or electronic form after the service.

Bible Readers / People Praying

Having family members, close friends or dignitaries publicly involved in the service may be of help. Reading the Bible and reading the set prayers is a helpful way for this to occur. In choosing people to read the Bible/pray, please note the following:

- Persons reading the Bible/praying must be approved by the Cathedral;
- They must not make a personal statement prior to the readings/prayers;
- Bible readings begin with "a reading from (Bible reference, e.g. "John chapter 3, verse 16"), and end with "This is the word of the Lord".
- People of indefinite faith are welcome to read the Bible publicly;
- Only people who have clearly articulated their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ may lead in prayer.

Music

Music at the Cathedral is under the control of the Director of Music. The Cathedral policy is that all music must be Christian in nature; consistent with the theology and aims of the Cathedral; and sung in English. No musicians or instruments are authorised for use without prior permission of the Director of Music.

Order of Service / Printed Material

The order of service is planned in consultation with the minister involved with the service and is approved by him alone. For this reason, please do not begin any printing until the minister has given approval.

Approved by the Dean of St Andrew's Cathedral