

Anglican Parish of St Thomas Tāmaki

Funerals

Our contact details are: *Anglican Parish of St Thomas Tāmaki*

Phone no: *09 521 2697*

Our email address is: stthomastamaki@gmail.com

Our address is: *368 Kohimarama Road, Kohimarama
PO Box 25-462, St Heliers, Auckland, 1740*

Our website is: www.stthomastamaki.org.nz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomastamaki/>

© Anglican Parish of St Thomas Tāmaki, Diocese of Auckland,
Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia 2023

Thank you for considering St Thomas Tāmaki for the funeral planning needs for yourself or for a loved one. The loss of a family member or friend is a very difficult time for those left behind who may be faced with many different choices. This guide can be used at any time. You can make your wishes clear to your family well ahead of the time of your death. These include the details of the service, what readings and music you prefer and where you want your final resting place to be. Or you can rely on it when you are faced with these decisions because your loved one just passed away.

St Thomas Tāmaki has a policy that any person may have a funeral or memorial service at our church, regardless of membership. The service will be based on *A New Zealand Prayer Book* liturgy which provides a beautiful version of a Christian ceremony. Alternatively the *Book of Common Prayer* may be used.

Arrangements

Funeral directors normally liaise with the Vicar or Priest-in-Charge of the parish and deceased family, relatives and friends to organise a funeral. As soon as possible after being notified, the priest will contact the bereaved family to offer support and spiritual guidance and to discuss the format of the service. Ministry is offered to bereaved families irrespective of their church affiliation and every effort is made to provide a funeral service which is appropriate to the circumstances of the deceased and their family.

Funeral Services

The Anglican Church envisions the funeral rites as comprising two principal moments: the Funeral Liturgy and the Rite of Committal. The body may lie in state in the church immediately prior to the Funeral Liturgy. This practice permits family and friends to gather directly at the church and allows for a more natural flow of events at the beginning of the funeral rites in the church. This practice is very much encouraged whenever possible. Prior to the funeral, the family of the deceased will be asked to meet with the priest to plan the Funeral Liturgy. Family participation is encouraged throughout the Liturgy.

Following the Funeral Liturgy the body is taken for burial. Again, the church is present in this final act of celebrating the life of the deceased. The prayer of committal can be offered at the graveside or in a chapel.

If the body or ashes will not be present at the church, the ceremony is known as a memorial service.

The Rite of Committal consists of a Scripture reading and short prayers led by a priest, deacon or prepared layperson near the final resting place of the deceased person. This could be the gravesite, crematorium or cemetery chapel.

Planning a Burial Service

The liturgy used for funerals begins on Page 826 in *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. The prayer book allows for some flexibility and choices. Specific questions about the liturgy can be directed to the priest who will be presiding.

The main choices that are made in planning a service are the following:

- Scripture readings (two to four readings).
- Hymns (two to four hymns).
- Family words or a eulogy (two persons recommended maximum, although more can be accommodated).

Scripture:

Here are some suggested scripture readings. More options are available or you may choose different readings from the Bible.

Old Testament:

Isaiah 61:1-3
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
Psalm 23
Psalm 130

New Testament:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39
Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel:

John 10:11-16

John 14:1-6

For a service with Eucharist (Communion) a Gospel passage must be used.

Symbols

Symbols are an integral part of our liturgical life. Through them, the church celebrates and teaches our faith. In the celebration of Christian death, there are certain time-honoured symbols the church has chosen to represent our faith in the Resurrection. The Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ whose resurrection conquered the darkness of the world, should always be placed in a prominent and visible place near the body. Holy water recalls the water of our baptism. Incense, if requested, reminds us that our whole life as a Christian should be an offering of worship and praise rising up to God's glory out of gratitude for our life and our salvation. Music is also an important symbol. Therefore only liturgically appropriate music should be used during the Funeral Liturgy. Non-liturgical sentimental musical favourites of the deceased may be played before or after the Funeral Service or at the reception, but they should not be used during the liturgy itself.

Fees

The fee for the church and priest is \$500. If the hall is required, there is an additional charge of \$400.

There is a separate fee for the organist of \$150.

All prices exclude GST.

What will be the day and time of the service?

St Thomas Tāmaki can have funerals Monday to Saturday. Common times for funerals are 11.00 am or 1.00 pm. Funerals are not held on Sundays.

Family words or Eulogy

At an Anglican funeral service, the priest always offers a homily reflecting the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. Prior to this homily it is appropriate (but not necessary) for one or two family members or friends to offer memories or reflections about the deceased. These remarks should be typed or written down. This is for two reasons. Firstly, so that you know where to begin and end. Secondly, so that in the event that you find yourself unable to read it, the priest or someone else may read it on your behalf.

We recommend that remarks be no more than two double spaced pages and that you read it out loud to yourself on the day before.

Are you working with a funeral home?

St Thomas Tāmaki does not have a specific relationship with any one funeral home in the area. Davis Funeral Services, Kohimarama branch, is conveniently located adjacent to the church in the former vicarage. Please provide us with contact information so that we can coordinate with your chosen funeral director.

Where is the body or ashes to be buried or interred?

St Thomas Tāmaki's own cemetery is the now closed, but our Memorial Garden is available for the interment of ashes. Some families take the ashes with them to be laid to rest in a different location. Please let us know your wishes.

Will the service include Holy Eucharist (Communion)?

Sharing the body and blood of our Lord is an appropriate and powerful action for a funeral or memorial service. However, it is not required at a funeral service. Please know that at St Thomas Tāmaki, all baptised Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion.

Will the service include music?

A church service does not need to include music. If you desire music, our church organist can play a variety of pieces. Some families opt for only organ music while others include sung hymns. Families sometimes request that a friend or family member sing or play an instrument. This should be arranged through our Priest-in-Charge or Vicar's Warden who will schedule a rehearsal.