

10. Burial

In the case of a burial as opposed to cremation, the committal will take place at the burial ground. Should the burial take place away from Johannesburg, the church may commission a St Michael's representative to be present.

11. Interment of Ashes

St Michael's has a very lovely Garden of Remembrance in which the interment of ashes takes place. Arrangements for an interment are made through the office (011 706-6050) at least a week in advance. The priest will lead the service which is simple and prayerful (APB pp 558-559). The location of both the interment site and the plaque is determined by available space and is at the discretion of the church.

12. Memorial Plaques

Only wall plaques are available. Forms can be obtained from the parish office, and plaques should conform in size and style.

13. Prayers at home

Death among black people is both a family and a community affair. When a member of a family dies, an informal chain of information sharing is started, where the family members and members of the community are notified of the death.

As early as day one, after the announcement of the death in the family, close and distant relatives converge on the home to offer their condolences and support to the bereaved family. The family elders in particular often stay with the family for the period of mourning.

Community members and friends visit the home on a daily basis to offer condolences with prayers and hymn singing usually in the early evening. Members of the community may also lead prayers during the day. The daily prayers continue until the day before the funeral.

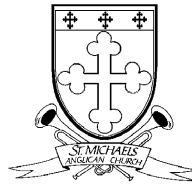
The church at this time also plays an important role as it offers spiritual comfort to the family. The family may also invite their priest or minister to conduct a more formal service at home on one of the days before the funeral.

14. Year's Mind

On the anniversary of a person's death, we will pray by name for that person at each of the Sunday morning services, ending with the words "*Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord: And let light perpetual shine upon them*".

15. Counselling

Do you need someone to talk to? St Michael's has a number of Anglican counsellors. Requests for counselling can be made through the church office.



*St Michael's Church
P O Box 67184
Bryanston 2021*

Priests:

*The Revd Godfrey Henwood (Rector)
The Revd. Linda Schwartz
The Revd. Barbara Schormann*

Deacon:

The Revd Martha Gordon

*Phone: 011-706-6050/1/6
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Christian Funerals

The services which are provided for use in connection with death and the reverent disposal of a human body are part of the church's continual celebration of the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the giving of the Holy Spirit which together constitute what has been called the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Christians are incorporated in this Paschal Mystery through baptism, and for one who has already died with Christ in that sacrament, and now lives with him in faith (Romans 6:3-11), death marks but a stage in the journey towards the fulness of eternal life with the risen Lord

(1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

(Introduction: An Anglican Prayer Book 1989)

Thank you for your enquiry about a Funeral at St Michael's. We would like to help you and to take your enquiry seriously, but we do ask that you take us seriously too and to consider your Christian commitment. In Christian funerals we thank Almighty God for the life of the person who has died, and commend him or her to the loving mercy of God.

We do not sit in judgement on anyone, but at the same time we ask that all participants in the funeral come in an attitude of respect for God, and consideration for the well-being of those who mourn.

Canon law, in the Anglican Church, requires that the coffin be present in the church, except in exceptional situations, such as when a person is lost at sea. By request the coffin may be draped with a pall. A memorial service may be held, in church or at home, not as a replacement but in addition to the funeral (APB p553). So for example, where the funeral takes place in England, there may be a memorial service here at St Michael's. Services held outside of the church (e.g Retirement Villages) may take the form of a memorial service.

1. Date

The date and time of the funeral needs to be arranged with St Michael's and with your Funeral Directors. Once this is done, you should arrange an interview with the priest who will be conducting the funeral. The priest will discuss the format of the service with you.

2. Service

The service follows the Anglican Prayer Book (APB) format (pp 533-552), and may include the Eucharist (Requiem Mass). The service begins with the entrance of the priest during the reading of a selection of verses from Scripture, followed by a prayer. Then follows the reading of a psalm, and other passages, the sermon and prayer time including a prayer for the bereaved. The service concludes with the committal.

3. Eulogy

A Eulogy is a short talk celebrating the life of the deceased. This may be delivered by a member or friend of the family, or included within the sermon by the priest. Where the former is the case, care should be taken to ensure that the content of the Eulogy is suitable for the reverence and awe of a Christian service. Where possible a copy of the Eulogy should be faxed (011 706-4709) or e-mailed (in advance) to the Church office. There may be more than one eulogy.

4. Hymns / Music / Audio Visual presentations

Hymns may be chosen from the list (see below) or some other source, provided that in the case of the latter, the organist has been consulted. In certain situations (e.g with very small funerals) you may choose to have no hymns. Usually there are two hymns, one at the start of the service, and one at the end, following the committal. You may also, by arrangement with the organist, choose suitable music to be played before or after the service. Where the hymns are not from the church hymn books, you will need to ensure that words are available. The office can assist in this regard, or your Funeral Directors. Other forms of music, such as CD's are permissible and a sound engineer will be organised to assist with this. Audio/Visual presentations are only permissible in the hall after the service, with the assistance of the sound engineer.

Suitable hymns

- 13 *Abide with me, fast falls the eventide*
- 82 *Jesus lives, thy terrors now*
- 192 *Praise, my soul*
- 214 *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*
- 426 *The Lord's my shepherd*
- 428 *Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son*
- 122 *How sweet the name of Jesus sounds*
- 135 *Rock of ages, cleft for me*
- 182 *Let saints on earth in concert sing*
- 205 *Now thank we all our God*
- 216 *O God of Bethel*
- 402 *Now is eternal life*

5. Order of Service

Some people arrange with the Funeral Directors to have a printed order of service, including the words of the hymns. These are usually arranged with the Funeral Directors and may include a colour picture, poetry, photograph, or tribute.

6. Pall-Bearers

It is usual for the coffin to be placed in the church at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the funeral. The Easter candle is lit and placed near the coffin. After the committal or blessing, the pall bearers (6 in all, either men or women) will be invited to come to the front. They will then exit, followed by the family, during the final hymn. This gives the family a brief time to say their final farewells before the hearse leaves. You may choose not to have pall bearers, in which case the coffin stays in the church until the congregation has left.

7. Flowers

The church, except in Lent and Advent, has a large arrangement of flowers below the cross. Most people also opt to have an arrangement of flowers on the coffin, which can be arranged with the Funeral Directors. Additional flowers can be arranged with the Parish office.

8. Tea

The church will organise tea, coffee, cold drinks, and various eats. This should be arranged when you fix the funeral date with the church. Estimated numbers are required. The tea is usually held in the hall, and the ladies of St Michael's Fellowship serve the tea. (R30 per head)

9. Donation and Fees

There is a fee of R1200 which covers any costs incurred by the Church **excluding** tea and extra flowers. There is no fee for the priest but a donation to the church is welcome. A suggested donation of R750 will be paid into the Rector's Discretionary Fund, to be used for those in need. You will be billed for all the costs after the service.