

## **Funeral services in church at All Souls Earlsdon in a time of COVID-19**

It is possible for a Funeral Service and a Funeral (Requiem) Mass to take place in All Souls church.

It will not be normal practice at the moment for a body to be received into church the evening before a funeral.

Meetings with family members are likely to be in the Peace Garden behind church or by phone, email, Zoom etc.

A number of restrictions will apply to all funerals in church:

- Attendees are asked to **sanitise hands on entry**.
- **Social distancing measures** must be observed. **Stewards** will direct you to a seat. Members of a household may sit together.
- **Face coverings** should be worn.
- **Toilets** are accessible for emergencies only.
- The number of people permitted to attend a funeral service in church is **30**. This figure applies to all churches and other places of worship. As well as the priest, funeral director and staff, the government advises that only the following should attend:

members of the person's household  
close family members  
or if the above are unable to attend, close friends.

**It is important that anyone attending a funeral should not exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 or place themselves at risk.**

- Items can not be placed on the coffin during the service.
- **Congregational singing** is not permitted at this time, and an organist will not normally be present.
- Single-use service sheets may be used, but people should take these away with them as they leave church.
- The measures required at the place of committal come under the local regulations of the cemetery or the crematorium, and should be observed.

If you are involved in the organisation of a funeral we ask for your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the above restrictions are observed. They ensure the safe and dignified conduct of funerals at this time. Thank you.

Father Paul  
Parish priest

18 August 2020