

# FUNERALS at ST THERESA'S and ST JOSEPH'S Catholic Churches



When someone we love dies, there are many things to arrange, and the most important is the person's funeral. For Catholics, a **Requiem Mass** is offered as the best way of showing our continued love for the deceased. On rare occasions a simple Funeral Service may be more appropriate and a rite is provided for this.

## What does the Church teach about death?

**Death** is a consequence of **Original Sin** – if we had not sinned then our bodies would go straight to **Heaven** as Our Lord's did in the Ascension and Our Lady's at the Assumption. However, since Christ has conquered death on the Cross, our sorrow is tempered by hope in the **Resurrection**. We trust that on the last day our mortal our sins have been forgiven in Baptism and Confession, but the *effects* of sin still remain, and this is why we still have to undergo **Purgatory** – the love of God working to cleanse us and make us able to enter into God's presence. We can help the Faithful Departed to pass more swiftly through **Purgatory** by our prayers. The greatest prayer we can offer is the **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**. A Mass for the dead is called a **Requiem** – meaning a Mass offered that they may rest in peace.