



A Seasons Italian Funeral. Incomparable.

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Our Italian funeral arrangers and directors take pride in organising funerals for Italian Catholic families with careful attention and respect to all customs, rituals, faith-based protocols and any specially tailored requirements.

What matters most to us is guiding you toward the most memorable and fitting tribute possible to the person we are to farewell. This means we surpass the basics of a Catholic Mass and truly tailor your service to the faith and cultural background of the deceased, their family and their friends. We seek to touch everyone who attends, and reflect to all, the unique spirit of the departed.

Seasons also know the smallest details are hugely important. When it comes to your flowers, photos, music, video and religious icons, your arranger will ensure every detail is exactly as wished.

Once the funeral has been organised with your Seasons personal Italian funeral arranger you contact the Parish Priest to plan the funeral service. Each Priest will have chosen requirements for the conduct of Christian Funeral Rites. If you require assistance your Seasons funeral arranger can help organise a Priest, particularly if they are Italian speaking, and the church.

Seasons are proud to have a long association with the Catholic Church in Western Australia. Whilst our dedicated Italian arrangers are well versed in its cultural intricacies, we do recommend that you discuss any specific issues that you have relating to the Catholic Church, faith and funerals with the Parish Priest in charge of the church you have chosen.





# The Highlights of a Seasons Italian Funeral Service

What makes a Seasons Italian Funeral Service an incomparable tribute is the care we take to offer choices appropriate to cultural traditions.

A Seasons Italian Funeral Service offers thoughtful choices to create a fitting tribute:

- A Funeral Mass at your church of choice
- Italian traditional and non-traditional music
- A funeral procession past the family home or a place special to the loved one
- A Rosary Service
- A Catholic arranger or conductor
- An Italian speaking Priest
- Meticulous attention to the smallest of details like flowers, photos and religious icons
- 24 hour, 7 days a week contact with your arranger or conductor

## The Catholic Funeral Service

Although traditionally a Catholic Funeral Service passes through three distinct traditional tributes, Seasons are extremely conscious that many families seek to remember a unique loved one with a unique service. To fulfil your needs our arranger will work as close to you as possible to individualise each component of the service as much as possible.

## First, the Vigil Service

Different cultures have different customs for the night before the funeral and many Italians in Australia still adhere to the traditions of the Vigil Service. Some choose to visit the home of the close relatives of the person who died to sit with them and share their grief. Some choose to visit the funeral home, view the body and pray. Some choose the custom of praying the

rosary at the church. Some choose to recite the rosary in the funeral home, offering families the opportunity to conduct their personal celebrations and share thoughts and memories in a less formal way. Whichever way you choose, Seasons will create a Vigil meaningful to you.

## Then, the Funeral Mass

The funeral service is usually celebrated with a Mass of Christian Burial with prayers for the deceased. This Mass is an expression of belief in the resurrection. At a Christian funeral, we praise God and give to him our dead relative, commending him or her to God's love.

## Finally, preparing a Mass of Christian Burial

When you discuss the Funeral Mass with the Priest, you may find it helps you to express your

love for the deceased in a way that is unique. You may choose to make a special booklet, to serve as a memento. The Catholic funeral liturgy is a time to welcome, give thanks and bid farewell and your chosen Priest will explain to you all of the liturgy's components.

During the introductory rites, the community welcomes the body into the church. It is also a time to welcome those who have gathered to pray in support of the family and to honour the deceased. This is when the coffin or casket will be sprinkled with holy water and the pall and symbols are placed.

A moving way to make the service unique is through readings. Through them your family and friends can hear God speak. It is often possible to choose a reading from both the Old and New Testaments as well as Gospel reading. Again, it is important to discuss this with your Priest.

The Prayers of the Faithful (also called the General Intercessions) can provide another way to personalise the celebration of a loved one's life and to enable family members to participate.

The Priest may invite a close family member to speak some words by way of welcome and remembrance. This is an opportunity to recall respectfully and lovingly a little of the deceased's life. Please speak to your Seasons funeral arranger if you would like some guidance writing this. At the end of the Mass the Priest offers final prayers at the coffin granting absolution to the deceased. The coffin is then sprinkled with Holy Water and Incensed.

## Final Committal

For most Catholic ~ Italian Funeral Services, the final part of the service is the Final Committal. This is held at the graveside or crematorium. The rite of committal is there to comfort in the difficult moment of letting go. It begins with a short invitation, scripture verse and prayer over the place of committal. Once the body of the deceased has been committed, the rite concludes with prayers of intercession for the deceased and a prayer over the people. As with every aspect of a Seasons Funeral, the Final Committal can be tailored to your requirements.

## For a life worth celebrating

Talk to your arranger about further ways to personalise the funeral service of your departed loved one. For you, we want to make it a wonderful life-long memory.

## 24 hours a day, every day of the year

Seasons Italian funeral directors are available 24 hours a day to arrange funeral services for members of the Italian community. Please contact us at any time to discuss your personal funeral requirements.



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[www.seasons.com.au](http://www.seasons.com.au)



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