

*In death as in life, God promises to be faithful to us. As you prepare your own funeral or that of someone you love, be assured that you are held in prayer.*

This leaflet will assist you in planning a funeral in the Christian tradition. We believe that it is important to hold a service: to grieve our loss, to celebrate the life, and to proclaim our belief that death is not the end.

### **VISITATION OF THE SICK AND LAST RITES**

If you or a loved one are ill or in hospital, please keep your church family informed. Hospital visitors are available to visit and pray with you, and bring you the sacrament of Holy Communion if you desire. When death is near, it is appropriate for a loved one either to contact the priest directly or to ask the nursing staff to find a priest from the “on-call” list. The sacrament of anointing and prayers for the dying are the Last Rites performed for a soul about to enter the new life.

### **ARRANGING THE FUNERAL DATE AND TIME**

As soon as is practical after a death has occurred, the priest should be contacted to set up a meeting with the family regarding the planning of a funeral. Please do not release any information to media (newspapers, Internet etc.) before confirming the date and time of the funeral with the priest performing the service and the place where the service will be held. Family considerations like traveling relatives should be taken into account when setting a date and time.

### **FUNERALS IN THE CHURCH**

Normally, a funeral will be held at St. Timothy’s as the Christian place of worship where the deceased was a

participant. In rare instances, the priest may be able to take a funeral service at a seniors’ residence or other appropriate place for pastoral reasons.

### **FUNERALS FOR PERSONS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHURCH**

We would be happy to assist families of former members of the church or persons with no church background, depending on their needs and the availability of the priest and facilities. Although a deceased person may not have had a current association with a Christian community, that does not lessen the grace that God has for each human.

### **CASKET OR CREMATION?**

The remains of the deceased should be present for the funeral service, either in a casket or as ashes in an urn or other container. The choice is entirely dependent on the wishes of the deceased and his or her family. In the rare event that the remains are not available for the funeral, a memorial service may be celebrated. It is the policy of St. Timothy’s not to have an open casket at the funeral; viewings must be pre-arranged at another location, e.g., a funeral home. Once the casket or urn is brought to the church, it is covered with a fine cloth called a “pall” and it will not be seen during the service. This symbolizes that whether rich or poor, buried in cardboard or walnut, we are equal before God.

### **INFORMATION FOR THE DEATH REGISTER**

The church keeps records of all births, marriages, and deaths celebrated in the parish. This information is passed to the Anglican Archives of British Columbia

for statistical and genealogical purposes. The following information will be needed for the entry: full name of deceased, date of birth and death, date and place of death, and name and address of next of kin.

### **MUSIC**

If you would like music at a funeral, our church musician will provide this service on organ and/or piano. The honorarium for the musician is included in the fee structure. If you decide to have family or friends help with the music for your service, they are welcome to work with the musician. In the event that our church musician is unavailable, we would be happy to find another qualified musician to substitute.

### **FLOWERS**

Decoration of the church is arranged by contacting Saint Timothy’s Altar Guild. The honorarium for the Altar Guild is included in the fee structure. The Altar Guild will arrange by request a small table for the urn and picture, or put out a pall for the casket. Any flower arrangements are to be provided by the family or friends, and may be delivered to the church on the date with prior consultation. These may be removed from the church after the service or remain as a thanksgiving at the following Sunday service.

## RECEPTION

It is sometimes possible to provide space for a funeral reception in the hall immediately following the service. Please include this in your first conversation regarding funeral dates and times. Food and drink are to be provided by the family, although we can suggest some local businesses which might provide catering for you. Use of the kitchen may be available, but the family must provide helpers to clean up if catering staff are not hired for this purpose. A separate private occasion liquor license is the responsibility of the family if alcoholic beverages are to be served.

## GRIEF COUNSELING

The church can offer referrals to counseling upon request. The ongoing worship life of the community is a great comfort and support for many Christians, and we warmly welcome recently bereaved families to stay and pray with the people of St. Timothy's as they grieve.

## FUNERAL FEE SCHEDULE

Fee \$800, to be distributed as follows  
(separate cheques or envelopes):

Church	\$500	The Parish of St. Timothy
Musician	\$200	
Altar Guild	\$100	St. Timothy Altar Guild

For active members of St. Timothy's, there is no charge for priest, church, or Altar Guild unless the family wishes to make a thank offering. The honorarium for the church musician is \$200.

## FUNERAL RECEPTION FEE SCHEDULE

Fee \$200 The Parish of St. Timothy  
If the Altar Guild is willing and able to serve tea and coffee, then an additional donation of \$200 is made to the St. Timothy Altar Guild.

## SERVICE FOR SCATTERING OF ASHES

Fee \$500 The Parish of St. Timothy

## OFF-SITE SERVICE

(graveside/interment not following funeral in church)

Fee \$500 The Parish of St. Timothy

For more information, please contact

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# FUNERALS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S



A Parish of the Anglican Church of Canada,  
Diocese of New Westminster