
The Christian burial

An informative guide from the Basel Churches



Dying and death are part of life

If we are directly affected by the death of a family member, there will be questions to deal with: What do I have to do now? Who do I have to notify? Who can help me overcome my grief?

The three established regional churches – the Evangelical Reformed, Roman Catholic and Christian Catholic – would like to offer you initial assistance in this difficult time with this leaflet on «Support for family members. Saying goodbye and the funeral».



Contacting the parish office

If you require a Christian burial or a discussion, it is important that you contact the parish office which is responsible for you as soon as possible. You will find the address, telephone number or email address in the telephone directory (keyword «church» or «parish») or in the Internet (enter the keyword «parish» plus place of residence). If in doubt, the Basel church administrations will be pleased to help during office hours:

Roman Catholic Church Tel. 061 690 94 44 ▪ www.rkk-bs.ch
Evangelical Reformed Church Tel. 061 277 45 45 ▪ www.erk-bs.ch
Christian Catholic Church Tel. 061 322 43 77 ▪ www.ckk-bs.ch

If it is important to you that a priest or pastor who is known to you accompanies you or conducts the funeral service, please express your wish when contacting the parish office. Please bear in mind that the parish office is not completely free to consider e.g. your wishes with respect to the date or personnel. The parish office in your neighborhood will be pleased to help you with these wishes and any questions.



Date of the funeral service

First, clarify the date of the funeral service with the responsible spiritual advisor. Afterwards state the agreed and desired date and time when registering the burial at the «Anmeldung Todesfälle und Bestattungen» office. This wish is normally able to be fulfilled

The funeral service in your parish church

It is possible to hold the funeral service in the familiar surroundings of your parish church. Clarify this possibility and the details in a discussion with the priest or the pastor who will conduct the service.

Which costs arise?

The pastoral support, saying farewell to the departed with the funeral service and interment are free of charge for church members. Additional costs which will be invoiced may arise for special wishes (floral decoration, music, etc.). Also discuss these questions in confidence with the responsible person in the parish.

A religious funeral service despite leaving the church?

If you desire a Christian burial, but the departed left the church, discuss the matter with the priest or pastor. Explain the circumstances and your motives quite openly. You will be met with understanding and pastoral support!



The period of mourning

The period of mourning is a painful time. People who are close to you, spiritual advisors or other practitioners can be of help to you in discussions in this respect. Please feel free to directly contact a church pastor who you trust.

The shared remembrance of the departed can also be very helpful. The custom of a memorial service around the 30th day after the day of passing (thirtieth day, month's mind) is a familiar one in the Roman Catholic tradition as well as the so-called year's mind (annual mass in honour of the departed).

The custom in the reformed church is to announce the name of the departed from the pulpit in the next congregational service. In the Christian Catholic church congregation, the departed is commemorated on the Sunday after the funeral and on All Hallows in the congregational service.

Your parish office will be pleased to advise you if you have any more questions.