

FUNERAL ETIQUETTE

The following is produced as a guide and an answer to many of the most commonly asked questions.

Q. What time do I arrive at the service?

A. Five or ten minutes prior to the service is sufficient as long as you feel comfortable. This gives the Funeral Director time to obtain signatures in the memorial book and to seat mourners. It is very difficult for mourners to know what to say to Family prior to the service, and the reverse applies.

Q. What is a Memorial Book?

A. A Memorial Book is a book the Funeral Director attempts to get all the mourners to sign at the funeral service. Sometimes memories of attendees can get a little hazy, but the book allows Family to review attendees at a later date. Your Funeral Director will also give each mourner a "Thank you for attending" card personalised with a photo of the deceased.

Q. Where do I sit?

A. The Funeral Director will take you to a reserved seat. It is a good idea to advise him/her prior to the service if you would like reserved seating.

Q. What happens when the service finishes?

A. The Funeral Director will guide the Family to a location where condolences will be offered from the mourners. On completion, the Family should move to their vehicles for transport home or to a location for refreshments.

Q. What about pallbearers?

A. Your Funeral Director will discuss the provision or necessity prior to the service. He will appoint one bearer to arrange and direct the others. Generally, it is wise for the Pall Bearers to be seated in a position that is easily vacated when required.

Q. What happens to the flowers?

A. The casket spray usually stays with the casket. Any other floral tributes will be delivered or left at the Family's discretion. All the cards are removed and presented with the completed Memorial Book. A useful suggestion is to take the flowers to a Nursing Home or hospital. Please be advised by your Funeral Director, as some places really appreciate this gesture, whilst others are offended.