

A Very Short Rubrical Primer for Parish Pastors

Funerals

Funeral Masses are celebrated in the presence of the body, or, for a good reason, even in its absence.

Funeral Masses are prohibited on:

- The Sundays of Advent
- The vigil of Christmas
- Christmas day
- The octave day of Christmas
- The Epiphany
- The Sundays of Lent and Passiontide
- The Sacred Triduum
- Easter Sunday
- Low Sunday
- The Ascension
- Pentecost Sunday
- Trinity Sunday
- Corpus Christi
- The Sacred Heart
- The Assumption
- Christ the King
- The Immaculate Conception

Funeral Masses are also prohibited:

- On first-class feasts that are holydays of obligation in the church where the Mass is to be celebrated.
- On the anniversary of the dedication of the church.
- On the titular feast of the church.
- On the feast of a principal patron of a town or city.
- On the titular feast or the feast of the holy founder of the order or congregation to which the church belongs.
- During an exposition of the blessed sacrament.
- In churches having only one Mass:
 - if the Mass of the rogations is to be said.
 - on February 2nd, if there is to be a blessing of candles
 - on Ash Wednesday, if there is to be a blessing of ashes.

Funeral Masses are permitted on all other days. The Mass is:

- For non-priests, the Mass ‘On the Day of Death or Burial’ (‘In Die Obitus seu Depositionis Defuncti’).
- For priests, the first Mass given for All Souls’ day, with the proper collects assigned in the missal among the ‘various prayers’ for the departed.

The sequence *Dies irae* must be said at funeral Masses, as must the absolution over the corpse. (If the corpse is not present, the absolution must be said over a catafalque).

Other Masses connected with deaths

On:

- the day of a death
- the day on which the news of a death is received

- the final burial in the church of a body that had already been buried elsewhere

a Mass of the dead may be said in accordance with the rules above, on any day of the 2nd class or lower except Sunday. The sequence *Dies irae* and the absolution over the corpse or catafalque are optional.

In the same way, on:

- the 3rd, 7th, and 30th days after a death or burial
- the anniversary of a death or burial, or the established annual recurrence of a foundation Mass, or the established annual commemoration of the deceased of some group

a Mass of the Dead may be said on any day of the 3rd class or lower, using the appropriate prayers. The Mass is, for priests, as above; for non-priests, also as above except that the Mass ‘In Anniversario Defunctorum’ is used for anniversaries. The sequence and the absolution are optional, as in Masses of the dead of the second class.

Weddings and wedding anniversaries

Weddings are usually celebrated with the following rites in the following order:

1. The solemnization of the marriage.
2. A wedding Mass, including the solemn nuptial blessing (imparted by the celebrant of the Mass).

Different clerics may preside over parts one and two.

Weddings during Lent or Advent require the ordinary’s permission. Whenever a wedding is permitted:

- On days of the 2nd class or lower other than Sundays, the wedding Mass is the votive Mass “For Bride and Bridegroom”.
- On Sundays and on days of the 1st class, the wedding Mass is the Mass of the day, but the collect of the Mass “For Bride and Bridegroom” is added to the day’s collect under the same conclusion. The nuptial blessing is given in the usual way.
- Note, however, that no wedding Mass or nuptial blessing is permissible during the Triduum or on All Souls’ day.

Anniversaries

A Mass to commemorate a 25th or 50th anniversary of a wedding may be said on any day of the 2nd class or lower. It should be the Mass of the Most Holy Trinity or any Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The votive collect ‘for thanksgiving’ (‘Pro gratiarum actione’) is added to the Mass’s collect under the same conclusion. After the Mass, the prayers found in the Roman ritual tit. 8, ch. 7, are said over the couple.

4th-class votive Masses may of course be said in thanksgiving for other anniversaries, in accordance with the usual rules.

List of Votive Masses

Excluding special ritual Masses, and Masses for certain places and special occasions, the following Masses may be said as votive Masses. The collects of these Masses, and the various collects for the Mass 'For any need', may be added, in last place, to the collects of any 4th-class day, at the discretion of the celebrant, provided that the total number of collects (including the collect of the day) does not exceed three. So may any suitable collect from the Masses for the dead.

Masses of Mysteries and saints

- Mass of the Holy Trinity
- .. of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
- .. of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- .. of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord
- .. of Christ the King
- .. of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist
- .. of Our Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest
- .. of the Holy Cross
- .. of the Passion of the Lord
- .. of the Holy Family of Mary, Jesus and Joseph
- .. of the Holy Spirit
- The Saturday Masses of Our Lady
- The Mass of the Immaculate Conception
- The Masses of Our Lady inscribed in the universal calendar or a universal one other than those that refer to the mysteries of her life (the Annunciation, Visitation, etc.)
- Mass of the Holy Angels
- The Masses of individual feasts of holy angels.
- The Mass of any saint (or group of saints) listed in the martyrology or an approved appendix thereto.
- The Mass of SS Peter & Paul
- The Mass of all the Holy Apostles

Masses for the needs of the whole Church

- .. for the election of a pope
- .. on the coronation day of the pope or its anniversary
- .. on the bishop's anniversary
- .. for vocations in the Church (W)
- .. for the upholding of vocations in the Church (W)
- .. for seeking and nurturing religious vocations (W)
- .. for the propagation of the Faith
- .. for the defence of the Church
- .. for the unity of the Church
- .. for any need
 - with the prayers 'for the freedom of the Church'
 - .. 'for all classes in the Church'
 - .. 'for the pope'
 - .. 'for prelates and the congregations in their charge'
 - .. 'for the bishop'

Masses for the needs of people and peoples

- Mass in time of war
- .. in a time of death
- .. for the remission of sins
- .. for pilgrims, travellers, and refugees
- .. for the infirm
- .. to ask the grace of dying well
- .. for any need
 - with the prayers 'to ask the help of the saints'
 - .. 'for politicians'
 - .. 'for the king'
 - .. 'for the family'
 - .. 'for preserving concord'
 - .. 'for defence from enemies'
 - .. 'in time of famine'
 - .. 'in time of earthquake'
 - .. 'to ask for rain'
 - .. 'to ask for fine weather'
 - .. 'for repelling storms'
 - .. 'in time of disease in animals'
 - .. 'for any necessity'
 - .. 'in any tribulation'
 - .. 'to ask for compunction of heart'
 - .. 'for the remission of sins'
 - .. 'for the tempted and troubled'
 - .. 'for repelling bad thoughts'

- .. 'to ask for continence'
- .. 'to ask for humility'
- .. 'to ask for patience'
- .. 'to ask for [the grace of] charity'
- .. 'for devoted friends'
- .. 'for our enemies'
- .. 'for prisoners'
- .. 'for sailors'
- .. 'for the safety of the living'
- .. 'for the living and the dead'.