

## Key Concepts

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|----------------|---|--------------|--|
| <b>Pall</b>    | A cloth that covers a coffin. The word comes from the Latin pallium (cloak) | <b>Fauré</b> | Gabriel Fauré 1845 -1924 was a French composer |
| <b>Requiem</b> | A Mass for the dead (Latin for rest)  | <b>Rite</b>  | A religious ceremony                           |

## Music, Prayer and the Funeral Rite

- The significance of different forms of music used in worship and how music expresses Catholic beliefs about eternal life
- The symbols, prayers and texts of the Catholic funeral rite in Britain and how these express Catholic beliefs about eternal life
- The significance of Catholic prayer

## Key Sources of Authority

- "In baptism (name) received the sign of the cross. May he/she now share in Christ's victory over death." Taken from the Catholic funeral rite
- "In the waters of baptism (name) died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he/she now share with him eternal glory." Taken from the Catholic funeral rite
- "It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience." Gabriel Fauré

## Key Beliefs

### How does music express Catholic beliefs about eternal life (e.g.Fauré's Requiem)?

Music brings comfort and peace/calm. Fauré's requiem has been described as a 'lullaby of death'. The focus is not on sadness but on the hope of eternal life. Fauré's music for *In Paradisum* (part of the requiem) is gentle to show that life's trials have ended and the choir sings in a higher pitch, sounding like the angels in heaven.

### How does the Catholic funeral rite express Catholic beliefs about eternal life?

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Coffin covered with pall         | Reminder of baptism/ all are equal so all are worthy of salvation  |
| Cross & bible on the coffin      | Christians who live by the example of Jesus will have eternal life   |
| Coffin sprinkled with holy water | Reminder of baptism  |
| Paschal Candle is Lit            | Catholics believe the dead will resurrect as Jesus did   |
| Readings about eternal life      | Comfort the grieving and bring hope  |
| Incense is used                  | Honours the person whose body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Symbol of prayers rising to heaven   |
| Prayers for the dead             | Catholics pray for the dead to be welcomed into heaven (and spend less time in purgatory).<br>'Eternal rest, grant unto him/ her O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him/ her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen.' |

### Why do Catholics pray?

Prayer is 'the raising of the mind and heart to God' (Catechism). Reasons for prayer include Adoration, Thanksgiving, Repentance, Intercession (asking God to help others), Petitions (asking God to help you).

### What are formulaic prayers?

Prayers that are well known or have a set formula (e.g. Hail Mary, Lord's prayer, Rosary -make sure you know these prayers). Some prefer these because they have more authority and allow a Christian to focus without having to think what to say.

### What are extempore prayers?

Prayers that are spontaneous, when Christians use their own words to speak to God. Some prefer these because they are more personal.

## Exam Practice

Explain three features of a Catholic funeral rite. (8)

"Prayers are too personal to just be read from a prayer book." Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

## Key Connections

- What is the link between Catholic Baptism, Funerals and Easter?
- Compare and contrast Catholic and Jewish funerals.