

The following regulations are to be followed at all funerals:

1. Appreciations or eulogies by family members or friends of the deceased should not take place in the Church but may take place after the Rite of Committal in the cemetery or when the family and friends gather.
2. The ambo is for the proclamation of the Word of God.
3. Readings at the Funeral Liturgy should be taken from the Lectionary.
4. Secular songs, poems and texts devoid of a Christian content are out of place in the Funeral Liturgy.
5. A post-Communion reflection of a prayerful nature can be given after Communion but this should be agreed beforehand with the Celebrant and should not be used as a cloak for a eulogy.
6. As is clear from the directives on the Funeral Rite, the deceased should not be condemned or canonized in the homily.
7. If a visiting priest is officiating at the Funeral Mass he should be informed of these regulations and asked to abide by them.
8. Clear arrangements, allowing people the opportunity to offer sympathy to the family of the deceased, should be put in place in each parish.
9. In some places it seems that the 'funeral planner' has made an appearance. Priests should only engage with the family in relation to the Funeral Rite.