

GIRM (379 - 385)

379. The Church offers the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ's Pasch for the dead so that, since all the members of Christ's Body are in communion with one another, what implores spiritual help for some, may bring comforting hope to others.

380. Among the Masses of the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for Solemnities that are Holydays of Obligation, Thursday of Holy Week, the Paschal Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law (ref. CCC 1176-1185)

381. A Mass for the Dead, on receiving the news of a death, for the final burial, or the first anniversary, may be celebrated even on days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, on days when an Obligatory Memorial occurs, and on weekdays other than Ash Wednesday or the weekdays of Holy Week.

Other Masses for the Dead or "daily" Masses may be celebrated on weekdays in Ordinary Time on which Optional Memorials occur or when the Office is of the weekday, provided such Masses are actually applied for the dead.

382. At Funeral Masses there should usually be a short Homily, but to the exclusion of a funeral eulogy of any kind.

383. The Faithful, and especially those of the deceased's family, should be urged to participate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for the deceased person, also by receiving Holy Communion.

384. If the Funeral Mass is directly joined to the rite of burial, once the Prayer after Communion has been said and omitting the Concluding Rites, there takes place the Rite of Final Commendation or Farewell. This rite is celebrated only if the body is present. (e.g., covid - private burial and delayed funeral)

385. In arranging and choosing of the variable parts of the Mass for the Dead, especially the Funeral Mass (for example, orations, readings, and the Universal Prayer), pastoral considerations bearing upon the deceased, the family, and those attending should be kept in mind.

Moreover, pastors should take into special account those who are present at a liturgical celebration or who hear the Gospel on the occasion of the funeral and who may be non-Catholics or Catholics who never or hardly ever participate in the Eucharist or who seem even to have lost the faith. For Priests are ministers of Christ's Gospel for all.

Ordo

The ordo has helpful information about what is permitted on various days given their ranking in the liturgical calendar. Simply check the ordo to see whether a funeral Mass is permitted. If there is no indication then it is forbidden. At times it may be possible to celebrate a Funeral outside of Mass on days the Funeral Mass is not permitted.

The key:

R1 Funeral Mass is permitted

R2 Funeral Mass and Mass on occasion of news of a death, final burial or the first anniversary (GIRM 381)

R3 R1 and R2 as well as Daily Mass for the Dead is allowed. When R1 or R2 are not permitted neither is R3