



Alan McGuckian SJ  
Bishop of Down & Connor

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Lisbreen, 73 Somerton Road, Belfast. BT15 4DE  
bishop@downandconnor.org  
+44 (0)28 9077 6185

11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Father, Dear Deacon

I am pleased to introduce a new resource for our diocese called, ***A Family Guide to Planning and Celebrating a Funeral in the Catholic Church***. This guide, thoughtfully collated by a number of clergy and lay leaders, aims to provide families with comprehensive support during the challenging time of planning a loved one's funeral.

This guide brings together key aspects of diocesan policy and liturgical guidance to help families navigate each step of planning a funeral. It offers valuable information on the Church's funeral rites, as well as practical advice to make the process of planning and preparation more manageable and meaningful.

This resource has been designed to be available in each parish and can be given to families at the time of a loved one's death. The hope is that it will be a source of guidance and comfort as families make important decisions, honouring both the faith and the life of their loved one.

The family guide is now available for order through the Pathways to the Future Office and can be obtained by contacting Claire Carmichael. [pathwaystothefuture@downandconnor.org](mailto:pathwaystothefuture@downandconnor.org)

I have also attached the PDF for you to have a first look.

I hope that this will be a welcomed resource for your parish bringing clarity and solace to families during their time of grief and bereavement.

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