

How to arrange for a funeral to be conducted at St Andrews

If you would like to hold a funeral at St Andrews, please let your funeral director know, who will then contact us.

In order to maintain our buildings and grounds so that the public can continue to use them, we must charge a fee for funerals of people not associated with our church family.

Authorised by the Elders on 23 June 2015.

ST ANDREW'S

Wagga Wagga

GOSPEL ▲ COMMUNITY ▲ MISSION

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Funerals at St Andrews

The sting of death

Death is an awful enemy. Death is a dreadful thief. Not just because it reduces us to dust and ashes, but also because it robs us of so much. It not only takes away our health, our strength and our life, but it also destroys the people we love. It destroys our friendships and it destroys our family. It brings such sorrow and grief, which can even be experienced as physical pain.

Hope beyond the grave

The good news is because Jesus lived a perfect life, died for our sins in our place on the cross, and was raised from the dead, now anyone who calls on his name will be saved from God's judgement, and share forever in God's New Creation. A world where never again will there be crying. Or pain. Or death.

God desires the St Andrews church family to be a big way the people of Wagga get a foretaste of what that New Creation is going to be like. As people see our church family loving one another and extending this love to others, this is supposed to point people to Jesus, who loved our church family first, and makes our love for others possible.

Therefore a major part of our mission as a church is to tell people about Jesus, and to love people to help them hear about Jesus. (Of course that's not the only reason we love people. It's also a good thing in itself that glorifies God).

Loving the most people we can

As a church we want to help the *most* people we can hear about Jesus, and to love the *most* people we can to help them hear about Jesus.

Our approach is to have a city wide network of gospel community groups, who in Jesus' name genuinely and intentionally love another and their neighbours. To help this happen, much of our Minister's time goes into building up, training and equipping leaders in our church family who then in turn build up, train and equip others.

Which funerals does our Minister conduct?

In order to prioritise this approach towards telling the most people about Jesus, and loving the most people to help them hear about Jesus, our Minister is ordinarily only available to conduct the funerals of people who were associated with our church family, as explained in the following box.

As his duty and privilege our Minister conducts Christian funerals for:

- Those who regularly attended services in the St Andrews Parish, whether or not they were formal members.
- Those who regularly attended services in the St Andrews Parish, before infirmity made it impossible for them to do so, whether or not they were formal members.
- The immediate family of those who regularly attend services in the St Andrews Parish, whether or not these attendees are formal members.
- The immediate family of those who regularly attended services in the St Andrews Parish, but who can no longer do so because of infirmity, whether or not these past attendees are formal members.

Our Minister is ordinarily unavailable to conduct other funerals.

“Services in the St Andrews Parish” includes Presbyterian Church of NSW services that are held/were held at: St Andrews Wagga Wagga, Knox Koorungal, Scots Church of the Pioneers Oura, St Ninian’s Gumly Gumly, Tarcutta Presbyterian Church, and at St Stephens Downside.

“Immediate family” includes a person’s parents, spouse, siblings and children.

Other options

In order to love people during a very difficult time, and to point people to the great hope we have in Jesus, we have a Funeral Celebrant who conducts Christian funerals for those people who were not associated with our church family.

In addition, to help grieving families, we make our building available for funeral directors and Christian ministers to conduct funerals.

Focusing on life rather than on death

Jesus came so that we might have life, and have it to the full. Indeed, he said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever trusts in *me*—even though they die—they will live; and whoever lives and trusts in *me*, will never die”.

In order for you and your loved ones to have life to the full, we invite you to join us on any Sunday as we discover what it means to trust in Jesus and what he has done.

Because when we put our trust in Jesus and what he’s done, he doesn’t just forgive our sins, he changes us. That change is always for the better, and it won’t just benefit you, but everyone you know and love.



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