



**St Mary Help of Christians  
Catholic Church  
Old Coulsdon**

## **Funerals**

When a person dies, whether expectedly or not, it's a shock. Before you can come to terms with the loss, you are thrown in the deep end of the whole business of the Funeral. The first thing to do is to get a Death Certificate from the Doctor (G.P. or Hospital). Sometimes, when the death was sudden, a post-mortem is required, but this will not delay the Funeral. Once you have the Death Certificate, you need to phone your Register Office for an appointment to go to register the death. You can then contact your chosen Undertaker/Funeral Director and they will guide you through all the subsequent steps. They will contact the Crematorium or Cemetery to see what time and day is available, and they will liaise with the Priest to finalise arrangements. Normally, we have a Funeral Mass at 10am followed by Cremation or Internment. Occasionally a family will choose not to have a Mass, but the Celebration of Christ's Resurrection in Mass is a source of help and comfort and allows the Parish Community to be with the deceased's family and friends. The Priest (or Deacon) will see the family to offer sympathy and work out the details of the Funeral – Readings, Readers, Hymns and an appreciation of the deceased. The Parish will be invited to pray for the one who has died the Sunday after the death, but we pray for the dead at every Mass, throughout the year. In November, the "Book of the Dead" is available for you to write the names of your deceased relatives and friends. This Book is put on the Altar at each Mass, and the people named in the Book are prayed for.