



# Funeral

arrangements

[Espoonseurakunnat.fi/funeral](https://Espoonseurakunnat.fi/funeral)

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CHURCH IN ESPOO



## **FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ESPOO**

When death comes close to us, our entire life appears in a new light. Our Christian faith tells us, however, that death does not gain a final victory over us: as Christians, we see the deceased off to rest in the hope of resurrection and new life.

### **TIME AND PLACE**

Contact the Service Centre of the Lutheran Parishes in Espoo to set up a time and place for the funeral service and to book a pastor and an organist. You will find the contact information on the back cover of this brochure. The Service Centre can also help you with matters related to burial plots, headstone or other monument design, or tomb maintenance. If the departed has been or will be cremated, please contact the Service Centre to set a date for interment of the ashes. Also, if you are organising a funeral service for a deceased resident of Espoo to be held in Helsinki, Kauniainen or Kirkkonummi, contact the Service Centre to request the services of a pastor.

A funeral service may be graveside or held in a church or chapel. In Finland, funerals usually take place about two or three weeks after death. Espoo churches and chapels host funeral services on any day of the week except Sunday and other church holidays. In two of our cemetery chapels, namely the Kellonummi Chapel and the Espoo Chapel, funeral services are also not held on Mondays. Please note that the Cathedral of Espoo is closed on Mondays, except in the summertime.

### **PRIVATE UNDERTAKERS**

You can find many private undertakers in Espoo. Contact an undertaker to buy a coffin or an urn and to arrange for transport of the remains. If you wish, you can also ask the undertaker to contact our Service Centre to make the practical arrangements for the funeral on your behalf. The undertaker can also assist you in other matters concerning the burial, memorial service and estate inventory. Please note that private undertakers charge a fee for their services.

## **A CHRISTIAN FUNERAL FOR A PERSON WHO WAS NOT A CHURCH MEMBER**

A person who was not a Church member may be given a Christian funeral if requested by their family, as long as this does not conflict with the wishes of the deceased. Contact the Service Centre's pastor on call to discuss this before you set a date for the funeral service. In Espoo, a funeral service for a non-member can be held in the Kellonummi or Espoo chapels on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Parish facilities may be used for a reception or memorial service after the funeral service. Please note that a payment is charged for use of the chapel and parish facilities. Church facilities may not be used for non-religious funerals or ceremonies of a non-Christian religion.

## **FUNERAL SERVICE**

- › Prelude
- › Hymn
- › Service led by the pastor
- › Hymn
- › Postlude

A funeral service is an occasion of worship. Please discuss the details of the service with the officiating pastor and organist.

If there is a coffin burial, the coffin is taken to the grave after the funeral service. Six pallbearers are needed to carry the coffin. In the procession, the next of kin walk immediately after the coffin.

In the case of cremation, the body of the deceased is typically blessed before it is cremated. Also in this case, it is customary to carry the coffin to the undertaker's car at the end of the funeral service. If this is not possible, the coffin can remain in the church or chapel. In the Espoo Chapel, the coffin always remains inside if there will be a cremation.





## **FAREWELL FLOWERS**

At the funeral service, flowers may be laid by the coffin either before or after the pastor speaks. If pallbearers take the coffin to the graveside, floral tributes may also be made there. If the body is to be cremated, flowers can be taken to the grave or to a specially designated place, such as the foot of the Wings sculpture in the Gräsa Urn Cemetery or the flower stand in the Tapiola Urn Cemetery. Relatives should talk with the undertaker and caretaker to agree on what should be done with the flowers after the service, because leaving them in the church or chapel is not permitted.

## **INTERMENT OF AN URN**

Interment takes place on an agreed date that must be two weeks or more after the funeral. In Finland, the ashes of a deceased person must be put in their final resting place within a year of the cremation. When the urn is interred, the closest relatives are usually present, and a cemetery caretaker guides them. As the urn is placed in the ground, it is possible to have a moment of prayer at the grave, and a pastor may be asked to lead the prayer. If ashes are interred in the urn grove of the Kellonummi Cemetery, relatives are not present.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

After the funeral service, a memorial service or reception can be held in parish facilities, at home or elsewhere. The use of parish facilities is free of charge for parishioners, but there is a fee for using parish dishes and tablecloths. The pastor and organist can take part in the gathering if the relatives so wish and invite them in advance. Written condolences are read at this occasion, and memories of the deceased can be shared in various ways.

## **REMEMBERING THE DECEASED**

The names of deceased parish members are read and prayers are said in the Sunday service of their home parish, usually on the Sunday following the funeral service. Prayers are also extended to the bereaved relatives. If a funeral service takes place somewhere else than Espoo, relatives must make sure that the home parish is notified.

On All Saints' Day, each parish holds an evening service to read again the names of all parishioners who have died in the past year and to light a candle in remembrance of each of them.



## **CHURCHBELLS**

All churches in Espoo ring their bells on Mondays at 4 pm for parishioners who have recently passed away. Relatives can also ask for a separate ringing of bells to announce the death of their loved one.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS**

Parishes offer grief support groups led by pastors and diaconal workers in which people who have lost loved ones can meet and share their experiences. Parish workers can also provide personal counselling. For more information, please contact the Service Centre or your own parish.

## **BURIAL PLOT AND MONUMENT**

Every resident of Espoo has a right to a burial plot, regardless of their faith or church membership. A burial plot can be claimed only after a death has occurred. The burial plot, possible cremation and collection of the urn, and burial of the

coffin or ashes are all matters to be arranged with the Service Centre, which can also arrange for maintenance of the tomb. If you wish to mark the grave with a headstone or some other kind of monument, discuss your plans with the cemetery gardener. Forms and instructions for making such plans are available in the Cemetery Services office. You can also print out the forms on our website.

In Espoo, new burial plots for coffins are available in the Kellonummi Cemetery and the Chapel Cemetery. New burial plots for urns are available in the urn cemeteries of Tapiola and Gräsa and in the Kellonummi Cemetery. Specially designated gravesites for veterans of war are available in the Chapel Cemetery, with burial plots for both coffins and urns.

The Gräsa Urn Cemetery, the Cathedral Churchyard and the Kellonummi Cemetery each have a memorial grove in which ashes can be returned to the earth under grassy turf without an urn. The Tapiola Urn Cemetery also has a memorial grove in which ashes can be interred either in an





urn or wrapped in dignified manner. At all cemeteries, it is also possible to inter ashes in a dignified manner in a biodegradable wrapping. Plain ash can be scattered onto a lawn in the grove of the Gräsa or Chapel cemeteries.

In the non-denominational section of the Kellonummi Cemetery, ashes can be scattered onto a lawn or in a wooded area. Urns buried in the ground must always be made of a material that will decompose. When ashes are placed in a columbarium in the urn cemeteries of Tapiola and Gräsa, urns made of non-decomposable materials are used.

For persons who were not residents of Espoo, burial plots are only available in the Kellonummi Cemetery. Interment is also possible in a memorial grove in the urn cemeteries of Tapiola or Gräsa or in the Cathedral Churchyard, as is the scattering of ashes in the Gräsa or Chapel cemeteries.

Scattering ashes or interring them in a memorial grove or urn burial plot is less expensive than a coffin burial. Please contact the Cemetery Services to inquire about fees or go to [Espoonseurakunnat.fi](http://Espoonseurakunnat.fi) for more information in Finnish.

## **CEMETERIES IN ESPOO**

### **Kellonummi Cemetery**

Kellonummentie 17

Burial plots for coffins and urns and a memorial grove. Kellonummi also has a non-denominational section with all these options, as well as an area where cremated remains can be scattered anonymously.

### **The Chapel Cemetery**

Pappilantie 12

Located near the Espoo Chapel, this cemetery features an area for scattering ashes, as well as new coffin and urn burial plots designated for Finland's veterans of war. There are also burial plots for both coffins and urns for non-veterans.

### **Cathedral Churchyard**

Kirkonmäentie 1

Located next to the Cathedral of Espoo. New burial plots are not available, but cremated remains can be interred in the anonymous section of the memorial grove.

### **Gräsa Urn Cemetery**

Olarinluoma 4

Located near the Olari Lutheran Church. All kinds of interment of cremated remains are offered here: new burial plots for urns, interment in a memorial grove, scattering on a lawn or placement of an urn in a columbarium.

### **Tapiola Urn Cemetery**

Kirkkopolku 6

Located near the Tapiola Lutheran Church. New burial plots for urns, a memorial grove and a columbarium.





## Funeral arrangements in Espoo

Arrangements concerning burial options, burial plots, headstones, monuments, funeral services and urn collection are to be made with the Service Centre of the Lutheran Parishes in Espoo. The Service Centre is open from 9 am to 3 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 9 am to noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Service Centre is closed on Fridays, weekends and holidays. At the moment, the Service Centre only offers phone and online assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Reservations

Funeral and memorial service facilities, pastors and organists  
Tel. +358 (0)9 8050 2601 | [varauspalvelut.espoo@evl.fi](mailto:varauspalvelut.espoo@evl.fi)

## Cemetery services

Coffin burials, burial plots and interment of urns  
Tel. +358 (0)9 8050 2200, fax 09 256 7212 | [hautatoimisto.espoo@evl.fi](mailto:hautatoimisto.espoo@evl.fi)

## Pastor on call

Tel. +358 (0)9 8050 2602

## Registrar's services

Register extracts for estate inventories  
Tel. +358 (0)9 8050 2600 | [keskusrekisteri.espoo@evl.fi](mailto:keskusrekisteri.espoo@evl.fi)  
Kirkkokatu 1, 02770 Espoo  
P.O. Box 200, 02771 Espoo

## Please check exceptions

to our regular office hours on our website at

[Espoonseurakunnat.fi](https://www.espoonseurakunnat.fi)

**KIRKKO ESPOOSSA**   
**CHURCH IN ESPOO**