



A Living Faith through your Will

We all would like to leave a legacy. . . to make a mark, to make a difference in the lives of our families and friends, and within our communities. A gift in your will to the Church, no matter how big or small, is a wonderful way to support your Catholic community, ensuring your faith lives on.

You could choose to remember:

- **Your Local Parish** – A gift in your will to your local Church will ensure future generations have places of hope to turn to and experience God's love, when they need it most.
- **Clergy Support Funds** – Supporting our seminarians, active clergy and our priests in their retirement, after they have dedicated their lives to serving Christ and His people.
- **The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth** – Supporting our mission of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.

Types of Gifts in Wills

- **Pecuniary gift** – also known as a cash gift, is a set sum of money.
- **Residuary gift** – also known as a share of an estate – is a percentage of everything you own after any cash gifts, specific gifts, debts and legal fees have been paid out.
- **Specific gift** – is a particular item such as a house, car or jewellery.

Frequently asked questions

What is a Will?

A will is a legal document that enables you to specify your wishes on how you want your estate to be passed on to your loved ones or causes close to your heart.

What is Inheritance Tax (IHT)?

This is a tax on the estate of someone who has passed away. There's normally no IHT to pay if the value of your estate is under £325,000*. If you leave a charitable gift to your local parish (or another charity) your legacy gift will be deducted from your estate before IHT is applied. IHT rules can change so it is always advisable to check with a solicitor.

*As of January 2026

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

It is a legal document that specifies whom you've appointed to act on your behalf, should you be unable to make certain decisions. Power of Attorney can only be set up while you still have the ability to make decisions for yourself. It is therefore recommended to have it in place sooner rather than later.

What is the difference between a single and mirror Will?

A single will is for an individual, whereas mirror wills are two separate wills that contain exactly the same wishes as the other, usually made for spouses.

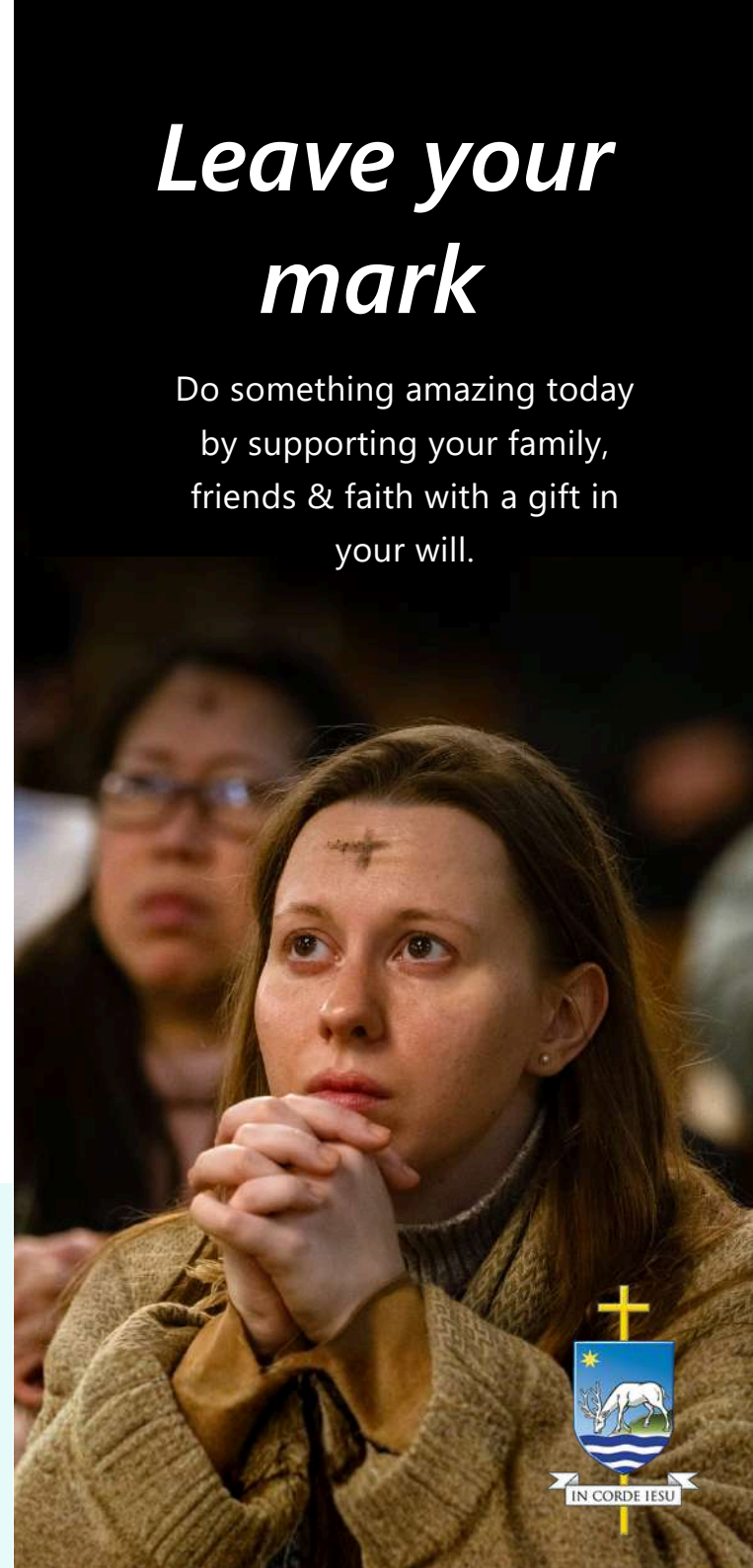
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Email: legacygiving@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/legacy>

Donate: <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/donate/>

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Leave your mark

Do something amazing today
by supporting your family,
friends & faith with a gift in
your will.



Remember the Church with a gift in your Will

As Catholics, we believe in the sanctity of life; a precious gift from God. We strive to live life joyfully and faithfully, in the hope we will return to our Creator after a natural death, to enjoy eternal life with Him. When you move onto the next life, you can make your lifetime of faith live on through a gift in your Will.



“An authentic faith always involves a deep desire to leave this earth a better place than we found it.”

~Pope Francis

Writing your Will and putting your affairs in order is something every adult should do, to ensure your loved ones are protected and provided for after your death.

- **Peace of mind** – Knowing you have documented your future wishes.
- **A legacy of faith** – You can provide charitable gifts in your Will to people and causes close to your heart, allowing you to pass on the principles and values that mattered to you during your lifetime.
- **Decision making** – You can determine whom you would like to act on your behalf, should you be unable to do so, by establishing a lasting power of attorney.
- **A Catholic Funeral** - Organise your funeral arrangements and discuss your end of life preferences with your doctor and loved ones.
- **Inheritance tax** – you can know in advance if your estate will be subject to inheritance tax and, if so, whether effective planning can reduce such a burden for your heirs.

Many ministry initiatives today were made possible because people remembered the Church in their Will.



Will Planner & Asset Inventory Booklet

If you do not have a valid Will, the law will decide how your estate will be passed on which might not reflect your wishes. This can cause complications, extra costs and overall stress for those you leave behind. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has a complementary Will Planner and Asset Inventory Booklet which can aid you in planning your estate and final wishes.

Planning my Catholic Funeral

This document will guide you through planning your Catholic Funeral. This is especially important if your family are not Catholics, or have lapsed from the practice of the faith, or where there is no family around, to ensure that your wishes will be followed as a member of the Catholic Church.

If you are thinking of putting your affairs in order, the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth can help. Please scan the QR code or use this link:

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/legacy>



- Instructions for my Catholic Funeral
- Estate Planning - Asset Inventory Booklet
- Will Planner - to help me plan my Will.