

## Information for Grieving Families

### 1. Polish priest contact details:

Polish priest: Kś Świątkowski  
Contact Details: Landline (04)3899320  
Mobile phone 0210 681 797  
Address: 1 Stanley Street  
Berhampore  
Wellington 6023  
Email: tadeusz.sw@gmail.com

### 2. Polish phrases seen in obituaries:

Wieczne odpoczywanie racz mu dać Panie. (for a male)  
Wieczne odpoczywanie racz jej dać Panie. (for a female)  
*Grant him/her eternal rest, O Lord*

Niech spoczywa w pokoju  
*Rest in peace*

Niech Dobry Bóg przyjmie dusze jej do swego grona. (for a female)  
Niech Dobry Bóg przyjmie dusze jego do swego grona. (for a male)  
*May the good God accept his/her soul into his circle.*

### 3. Rosary:

Many of our older Poles have a special love for the Rosary and it has been common practice to recite at least 2 of the Mysteries (shared between English and Polish). For many years it was commonly recited in the church the evening before the funeral.  
As our elderly have become more frail, and unwilling or unable to get out and about at night, it has become more usual to have the Rosary recited in the church directly before the funeral.

### 4a) Some well-loved Polish hymns and prayers for the funeral mass.

Placement of these hymns in the mass is open for discussion with the priest.

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Być Bliżej Ciebie Chcę       | Nearer My God to Thee            |
| Ja Wiem w Kogo Ja Wierzę     | I know in whom I Believe         |
| Czarna Madonno               | Black Madonna                    |
| Pan Kiedyś Stał Nad Brzegiem | The Lord Once Stood on the Shore |
| Hostia i Kielich             | Host and Chalice                 |
| Serdeczna Matko              | Dear Mother                      |
| W Mogile Ciemnej             | In the Dark Grave                |
| My Chcemy Boga               | We want God                      |

**4b) Some commonly-said Polish prayers for the funeral mass.**

Wieczne odpoczywanie racz Mu dać Panie,  
a światłość wiekuista niechaj Mu świeci na wieki  
*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

**4b**

And when the coffin is carried out of the church

Dobry Jezu, a nasz Panie  
Daj Mu wieczne spoczywanie (for a male)  
Daj Jej wieczne spoczywanie (for a female)

( sung or said three times)

*Good Jesus, Our Lord, give him/her eternal rest.*

**5. Epitaphs commonly seen on headstones:**

Spoczywaj w pokoju nasz kochany ..... ((for a male, insert name)  
Spoczywaj w pokoju nasza kochana ..... ((for a female, insert name)  
*Rest in peace our darling .....*

Na zawsze w naszych sercach  
*Forever in our hearts*

Zawsze w naszych pamięci  
*Forever in our memories*

Cześć jego pamięci (for a male)  
Cześć jej pamięci (for a female)  
*Honour his/her memory*

**6. Polish Flag**

Some families like to drape the casket of their loved one in a Polish flag. If that is something that suits, the Polish Association is able to assist, as we have flags available to hire or for purchase.

When the flag is draped over the casket, the white stripe, which is the colour of the White Eagle, should always be in a more honourable position than the red and should lay over the deceased's heart.

**7. Use of the Dom Polski main hall or smaller library:**

It is quite common for refreshments to be held somewhere in the church compound e.g. in the foyer or in the church hall, immediately following the end of the funeral mass. However, if that arrangement does not suit, the Dom Polski main hall or smaller library **may** be available, subject to prior bookings.

For booking information, please contact: Michał Mendruń Ph 027 333 6704

## 8. SPK – Stowarzyszenia Polskich Kombatantów – Polish Ex-Servicemen’s/women’s Association:

It is possible that the deceased has been awarded medals for military service. For the layman it can be difficult to determine for which campaigns they were received. The SPK does NOT hold a comprehensive list of all the medals received by its members for military service. However, it welcomes enquiries as it does have limited verified documentation.

In the first instance, please email: [SPK@polishcommunity.org.nz](mailto:SPK@polishcommunity.org.nz)

## 9. Polish Government Awards:

Over the years, a number of members of the Polish community have been awarded civic medals for their service. Medals awarded most commonly by the government of the Republic of Poland have been:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Odznaka hon. 'Zasłużony dla Polskiej Kultury'  | Badge of the Hon. “Meritorious for Polish Culture” |
| Złoty/Srebrny Krzyż Zasługi                    | Gold/Silver Cross of Merit                         |
| Krzyż Oficerski/ Komandorski Orderu Zasługi RP | Officer’s/Commander’s Cross of the Order Of Merit  |
| Krzyż Zesłańców Sybiru                         | Cross of Siberian Exiles                           |
| Medal za Długoletnie Pożycie Małżeńskie        | Medal for Long Marriage                            |

The following website has more detailed information and images.

<https://www.prezydent.pl/prezydent/kompetencje/ordery-i-odznaczenia>

If there is any doubt about the award, please contact the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Wellington.

## 10. Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Wellington contact details:

Address: Level 9, City Chambers, 142-144 Featherston Street, Wellington 6011

Correspondence address: PO Box 10211, Wellington 6140

Ph +64 449 978 44

Email: [wellington.consul@msz.gov.pl](mailto:wellington.consul@msz.gov.pl)

Emergency ph +64 21 225 2762

Emergency email: [wellington.wk.dyzurny@msz.gov.pl](mailto:wellington.wk.dyzurny@msz.gov.pl)