

# Say it with flowers

We turn to flowers during any important or momentous times in each other's lives because they are a beautiful way to convey our feelings and a symbolic way to express the inexpressible. Funeral flowers in particular can impact the atmosphere of a funeral by creating a background of warmth and beauty as well as a token of dignity for the deceased. The huge symbolic association with flowers means that each type and some colours can have different meanings. This cut-out-and-keep guide to the symbolic meaning of flowers is a useful reference for any reason to gift flowers.



**Lilies**

Traditionally the lily is most commonly associated with funeral services because it symbolises the 'state of innocence which has been restored to the soul of the departed'. Being known as a go-to funeral flower can sometimes put people off gifting them for other occasions, but lilies also symbolise majesty, purity and radiance of the soul.



**Orchids**

'I will always love you' is the universal meaning of an orchid, whatever the colour. However, the colour of the orchid also sends additional sub-meanings: White: Innocence, beauty, elegance. Pink: Grace, femininity and innocence. Yellow: Friendship, new beginnings, happiness. Red: Love, passion, courage.



**Roses**

Just like lilies, roses are also very popular at funerals and like orchids, each colour has a different connotation. White roses are the ultimate symbol of spirituality, purity and innocence, yellow roses show the bond of great friendship, rare dark pink roses express thankfulness and the single red rose is given as an expression of true love.



**Carnations**

Talented florists use carnations to create themed or personalised arrangements such as names, sports emblems or favourite activities. The colours tend to mean the same as roses with red for affection and white for innocence. Some Christians believe that pink carnations were created by the Virgin Mary's tears and stand for remembrance so are often a popular choice.



**Hydrangeas**

The symbolic meaning of an hydrangea is true heartfelt emotions, which is not as well-known as some other flowers, but a perfect choice for a funeral service.



**Lilacs**

Because lilacs represent innocence and youth, they are often used at a younger person's funeral or even for someone with a childlike nature and good heart.



**Violets**

The violet is not a traditional funeral flower, but its deep-hued purple and airy petals symbolise modesty and delicacy.



**Camelia**

Not always an obvious choice, but the camelia has very deep and personal meanings. Deep longing, perfection and excellence evoke longing, gratitude and refinement.



**Gladioli**

The tall stem of gladioli symbolises moral integrity, strength of character and sincerity and the flowers are available in a broader range of colours including: white, red, pink, purple, yellow, orange, salmon and green.



**Hibiscus**

Being a delicate flower, the hibiscus often represents femininity and a delicate beauty.

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*No matter what each flower may symbolise, the gesture of the giver in providing flowers is always one of affection and respect and is surely a tradition which will be timeless. Perhaps this inspires some to express their own choice of flowers at their funeral, to make sure the sentiment is just right. By using Beckford's complimentary Expression of Wishes service, clients can plan as much or as little of their funeral arrangements at any time. For more information on the many services Beckford's can offer, visit [www.beckfords.com](http://www.beckfords.com)*

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