

Mourners gather for funeral of shot teen Tyler Cassidy

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SECURITY guards are being used to control the crowd at the funeral of 15-year-old Tyler Cassidy, who was shot dead by police.

The security officers were employed to ensure just family and friends enter St John the Baptist Catholic Church at Clifton Hill in Melbourne.

A young crowd of mourners filled the church this afternoon, many in tears and carrying white flowers.

Among those attending included about half-a-dozen young men in casual clothes.

One of the security guards said there were "*quite a few angry young men*" inside the church.

During the ceremony Tyler's favourite music and images of him played on a screen.

The white casket was left opened early in the ceremony as expected, but was closed as the ceremony began soon after 2pm.

Bearers of his coffin included his brother Blake

A flower girl carrying a dozen white roses and Tyler's mother Shani and her fiance Greg Taylor led the procession from the church.

As the coffin was placed in the hearse, his mother lay a single red rose on the casket.

Then family members released white balloons outside before the coffin left for the Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park.

Outside the church, Father Peter Varengo, said despite the public outcry against the police shooting, he had received a directive by the Catholic Archdiocese of

Melbourne to ban all media from attending the mass.

"This is very sensitive to the family and the Church," Father Varengo said, the [Northcote Leader reports](#).

"We don't want to make a political point."

He said a Channel Nine documentary team, who were earlier given permission by the family to film the funeral, were not allowed to enter.

"It's a family celebration and a community celebration."

Tyler was shot and killed by three of four police officers he allegedly confronted in a skate park in the Melbourne suburb of Northcote last Thursday night.

He had allegedly threatened to kill the officers with two knives he had supposedly stolen from a nearby shop, and it is claimed by the Victorian Police who executed him that he lured police to the scene with two hoax calls reporting an emergency.

Police claim that they failed to subdue Tyler with two blasts of capsicum spray and warning shots as he advanced.

Three of the officers then opened fire on him, shooting him 6 times in the chest, with .357 calibre, hollow point bullets. He died at the scene. The entire sequence from meeting up with Tyler to executing him took less than 3 minutes.

A coronial investigation has been launched.