

What is a Columbarium?

The term may be unfamiliar to many Catholics who are used to the traditional concept of burying our deceased loved ones. While it may be a relatively new concept for many, it has its origin in the early Church when cemeteries were often built on land adjacent to churches, and where in many places this still happens today. The word itself comes from the Latin word 'columba' meaning dove or pigeon, and 'Columbarium' meaning a wall of 'pigeon-holes' or niches to carry urns of cremated remains. It offers people the possibility of remaining, even after death, close to their Community of Faith in the context of the church, as in the old idea of cemeteries being built near parish churches.

Does the Catholic Church allow cremation?

The short answer is yes. The Second Vatican Council lifted the prohibition on cremation for many reasons, including costs associated with burial and the growing shortage of land for full burial in cemeteries. The main reason for not permitting cremation was the denial by many of the resurrection of the body at the end of time. So the Catholic Church permits cremation as long as it is not chosen as a deliberate act to deny the Christian teaching on the Resurrection and the sacredness of the human body. For this reason, the scattering of one's ashes is strictly prohibited. In the eyes of the Church, this is a type of desecration and is looked upon as a sign of disrespect to the deceased. The ashes of the deceased person must be interred where, like all buried bodies, they will rest until Our Lord's Second Coming, when our bodies will rise again to be reunited with our souls in eternity.

Who can be laid to rest in our Columbarium?

Any Catholic, and their family (including non-Catholic members of their family), may be interred in the Columbarium, including non-parishioners. Once the supply of available niches reduces to a small number, then preference will be given to parishioners; until then it will be open to all, whether residing in the Parish or not.

Frequently asked questions?

Will there be double or family niches as well as single?

All niches will be single niches. Only one person's ashes can be interred in each niche. You may purchase as many niches as you wish. Two next to each other for two people (double) or several together for a family.

Can I reserve a niche now but pay later, or at the time of interment?

This is not possible. Full payment must be made at time of purchase. It should be noted that the cost of niches will be reviewed annually and increase accordingly, so by paying now you will pay less than if you reserved now and paid later.

Can I order the niche Memorial Plaque at the time of purchasing the niche?

No, you must wait until the person is deceased. We cannot order the plaque until the date of death is known.

Will the cost of the plaque be fixed at the time of niche purchase?

No, as the price of plaques are reviewed annually, and may increase with the cost of production of them from the supplier.

Why build a Columbarium near the church?

The most important reason is that it will afford parishioners who choose to be cremated, the opportunity to be laid to rest in sacred ground within the parish precinct, and immediately next to the Parish Church where they have prayed and worshipped within the Faith Community here.

For their family, relatives and friends, who may still live and worship here, it means that as our Catholic Faith reminds us, they will still very much be a part of our worship as we continue to pray for them. This is a very important dimension of our Catholic faith since we believe that we are in communion with each other in the Church; and the Church extends beyond the earthly dimension to the eternal. We become part of the Church, the Body of Christ, through Baptism and we continue in that life beyond physical death through the Communion of Saints to Eternal Life. In the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we pray not only for the living but also and especially for dead "who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy."

How beautiful and comforting it would surely be to know that every time we come to Mass, our loved ones, friends and fellow parishioners are with us, and we will be praying for them. Being right next to the church it also means that we will be able to visit and pray for them whenever we like. This is a great comfort not just in a human sense, but also reminding us that those we have loved are still with us in our minds and hearts, and we shall see them again in the Resurrection of the dead. Moreover, the physical presence of the Columbarium Memorial Garden in the very midst of our life of faith and worship, will be a constant reminder of our own eternal destiny and the salvation of our soul, which we should constantly be preparing for.

Pricing and Costs

Wall Niche's - The current cost for a Single Wall Niche is \$4,200.00 (excl. GST).

Garden Niche's - The current cost for a Single Garden Niche is \$4,750.00 (excl. GST).

Plaque cost is included with the purchase price. This includes a small attached flower vase to the plaque and a maximum of 6 lines of writing. Any additional writing will cost extra and must be paid upon acceptance of quotation. Another optional extra will be the placement of a small oval ceramic picture of the deceased person on the plaque, the cost of which must also be paid upon acceptance of quotation.

Obelisk Memorial Plaques

Memorial plaques only, in memory of a person interred or buried elsewhere, may be purchased for the Garden Obelisk's.

The price is currently \$700.00 (excl. GST).

Note: All prices are subject to change without notice. All prices will be reviewed annually and may increase without notice.

Conditions of Sale

Niches and Memorial Plaques cannot be reserved and must be paid for in full at the time of purchase.

*Niches cannot be sold to others; any such attempted sale will not be recognised by the Parish. At the sole discretion of the Parish Priest, whose decision is final, niches may be purchased back by the Parish for the original price paid only. However, there is no obligation or requirement for the parish to purchase the niche back.

*No modifications, changes or additions can be made to Niches, Memorial plaques & Obelisk Memorial Plaques, or the Columbarium Memorial Garden and its precincts by any person, such as vases, personal items, statues, any other additions etc. Any such items will be removed by the Parish without notice.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As it will require 30minutes to process niche sales, it is essential to call the parish office and make an appointment for ALL purchases. Thank you.



Our Lady Help of Christian Parish
80 Demetrius Road, Rosemeadow, NSW 2560

P: 02 4628 1385 F: 02 4625 7213 E:rosemeadow@dow.org.au

website: www.olhcrosemeadow@dow.org.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Parish

COLUMBARIUM MEMORIAL GARDEN OF REST, ROSEMEADOW



**LOCATED IN THE
GROUNDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH
80 DEMETRIUS ROAD, ROSEMEADOW NSW**

For all enquiries, please contact Parish office.

