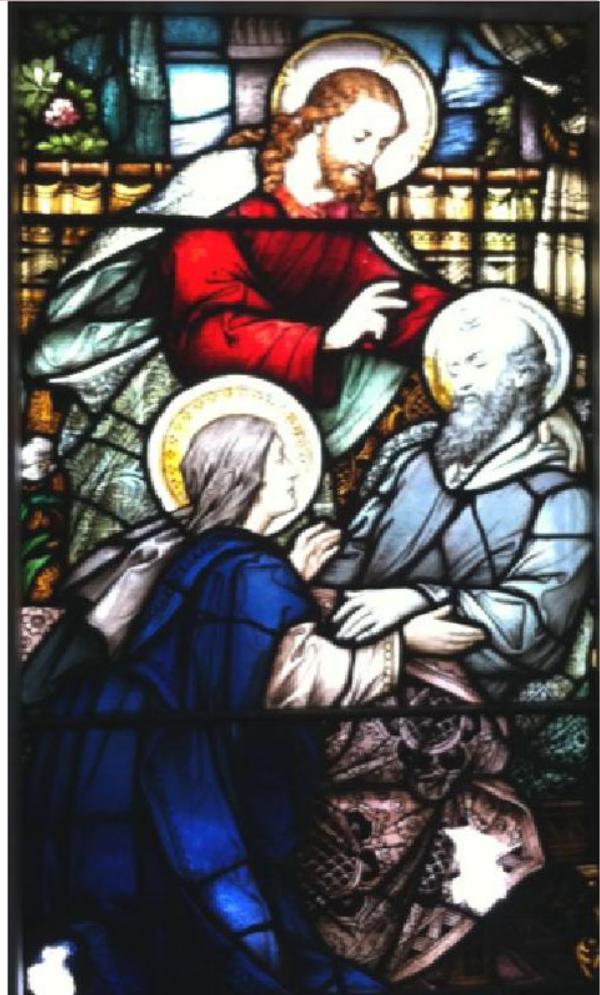


St Joseph's
Columbarium
in
The Parish Church
of St Patrick





The Parish of St Patrick

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Dear Parishioner and Friend of St Patrick's

Our Columbarium is located at the front left hand side of St Patrick's Church, sketches of the architect's plan can be found at the back of this pamphlet. This columbarium will have room for expansion in the future if required.

The cost will be, at present, £900 per niche. This cost can be paid in full, securing a place and a lease agreement. Alternatively payment can be made by a deposit of £200 followed by seven monthly payments of £100, after which a lease agreement will be issued.

If any parishioner or friend of the parish would need alternative arrangements for payment please contact the Administrator of the Parish directly. At present this cost includes the niche, the urn, and the brass engraving of name, date of birth and date of death. **(It does not include any of the cost of undertakers, the crematorium or any other funeral costs).**

St Joseph's Columbarium in St Patrick's Church

The columbarium is dedicated under the patronage of St Joseph and is a special place, where family members can visit, pray and be still, knowing that their loved ones' ashes are in a place associated with Christ and the sacraments. It has a series of dedicated vaults. A place in the first phase containing 3 vaults: St Joseph, St Brigid and St Therese; and the second phase containing 2 vaults: St Anthony and The Sacred Heart. May be chosen for an urn but this will be allocated on a "first come first served basis".

Yours faithfully

Very Rev Michael Sheehan
Administrator

Frequently Asked Questions

“Remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return” (Gn 2:7). These words remind us that we are fashioned from the dust of the earth. After our death our souls continue on their journey, by which God’s mercy will lead them into Paradise, our bodies return to the earth. However, as Catholics we believe that we who have been redeemed by the death of Christ, shall be raised up to the glory of his Resurrection. (*Preface 1 of the Dead*).

Below we have tried to answer some questions which may arise regarding the Church’s position on cremation, the recommendations for the deposition of human ashes, the Columbarium and the anticipated benefits for our Church and community.

Can Catholics be cremated?

Yes. In May 1963, the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the revised Code of Canon Law of 1983, as well as into the Order of Christian Funerals. It then became standard practice to celebrate the funeral liturgies with the body and then take the body to the crematorium. However Requiem Mass, if it has not been celebrated, may now be celebrated with the ashes present. The Church encourages placement of ashes in a final resting place and permits cremation as long as the following conditions are met:

- ashes are respected as a body would be respected at burial
- the ashes are not divided
- the ashes are not scattered
- the ashes are not kept in someone’s living room or any home

Why do some people choose cremation?

There are many reasons why people choose cremation. Since 1963, the number of Catholics choosing cremation has grown. Some of the reasons for this are cost of burials in cemeteries, difficulty of getting to distant cemeteries, environmental concerns about the use of land and resources for burials, the lack of availability of desirable burial plots and the ability to keep the remains of loved ones nearby or to relocate cremated remains. The Church teaches that cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect as the full body of the departed. Inurnment in a columbarium meets this requirement.

What is inurnment? Interment?

Inurnment describes the placement of a person's ashes in a niche in a columbarium after cremation. Interment refers to the placement of a person's body in a casket in the ground or in a mausoleum.

What does the Church encourage be done with ashes of the faithful?

Ashes may be buried in a grave or inurned in a place designed to hold the cremated remains of the faithful. Many centuries ago the dead were buried in underground tombs or niches, which we often refer to as catacombs. These were a series of different sized niches for the remains of the departed. Today we call this series of niches designed for cremated remains a Columbarium.

What is a Columbarium?

A Columbarium is a building, a room or a wall with niches for urns or boxes containing the cremated remains of the dead. Columbaria are also sometimes located in gardens or other outdoor locations. The word is derived from the Latin word "*Columba*" which means the dwelling place of a dove. This name may have been chosen because of the resemblance of the burial niches to dovecotes, or because the dove also is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

What is a niche?

A niche is a space in a columbarium for the inurnment of ashes.

What will the niches look like?

The niches will be dignified and respectful of the architecture of the Church. They will be sealed with cover cast bronze finish plates embossed with sheaves of wheat. Small brass plaques are fitted and will be engraved with the name of the deceased and dates of birth and death.

How much does a niche cost for St Joseph's Columbarium?

The New Phase of St Anthony and The Sacred Heart costs £900. At the moment there are no opening fees.

Can I spread the cost over a period of time?

Yes, with the agreement of the Trustees; But the lease will not be granted until full payment has been made. We can only accept payment by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Can I reserve a niche before I purchase it?

We do not have the facility to reserve niches. Niches will be sold on a “first come first served basis”.

Can I purchase one niche to hold the ashes of more than one person?

No. Each niche is specifically designed to hold the ashes of one person.

Can I purchase more than one niche?

Yes, however, one person may purchase a maximum of 8 niches.

Are there any additional costs involved to have ashes interned?

No, not at the moment, it is important to know that the cost of the niche **DOES NOT** cover the costs of a funeral or the cremation.

May I specify a desired niche location?

Yes. Niches are selected and assigned on a “first come first served” basis, and are permanently reserved upon complete payment of the niche subscription.

How do I determine the size and shape of urn?

The urns are specifically made for the niches and are included in the cost of the niche. No other type of urn is permitted to be used in the Columbarium. The urn should be collected from the parish and brought to the crematorium to ensure the respectful transfer of ashes from the crematorium to St Joseph’s Columbarium.

Why should I choose a niche at the Columbarium at St Patrick’s?

Burial within the church itself or in the adjacent churchyard was once a common practice. Historically, Christians from the earliest time have buried their dead in the consecrated areas in close proximity to their

place of worship where they could be remembered and their remains safeguarded. The Columbarium at St Patrick's will provide a resting place in a sacred and beautiful setting. St Patrick's Church is our spiritual home where the deceased will be able to remain with community, family and friends for generations to come.

How will St Patrick's pay for this Columbarium?

The Columbarium will be self financing, meaning that there will be no community-wide drives to collect money to build or maintain it. Funds to build and maintain the Columbarium will come from the pre-sale of niches and/or donations specifically for the Columbarium.

Where will the revenue go that is generated by the Columbarium?

Niche reservation revenue will pay the Columbarium's construction and operating expenses, and will create a reserve for expansion. Any revenue in excess of these needs will be used for the preservation of St Patrick's Church.

Who can be inurned at the Columbarium at St Patrick's?

Any baptised member of the Church or any member of their family may be inurned in the Columbarium. **Non parishioners may purchase a niche in the Columbarium but the funeral would, as normal, take place in the deceased's own parish church.**

How much notice is required before an inurnment can take place?

We will require at **least 48 hours** notice of an inurnment in order to make the necessary arrangements.

What funeral rites are celebrated when a person is cremated and inurned?

The funeral rites are very similar to those used at any funeral and graveside. The prayers at the crematorium are similar to those used at the graveside and special prayers are used for the placing of the urn into the Columbarium.

All the usual funeral rites may be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains. During the liturgies, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body. After the celebration of the rites the urn is brought to the Columbarium for inurnment.

When will the Columbarium be operational?

The columbarium has been operational since 26th of December 2012. We have ordered the second phase which will be in place before Christmas 2015.

There is still room for further expansion of the columbarium and this will continue whilst there is a demand for it, although costs of niches will probably increase.

How long is the Lease?

The lease is for a period of 70 years and the lease will take effect from the date of the inurnment.

After a period of 70 years the option for renewal of the lease will be offered. While every reasonable effort will be made to contact the family, the responsibility is on the family to keep contact with the Parish. If the lease is not renewed then the urn will be interred with dignity in a place befitting the remains of the faithful departed by the parish and at parish expense. In the unlikely event of the closure of the Church, the columbarium and all urns will be removed with dignity to another place of rest or buried in a parish grave, with appropriate markers and names of the deceased.

What are St Patrick's plans regarding the Columbarium in the case of a catastrophe?

If the Church building suffers a major catastrophe, restoring or rebuilding the Church would be the preferred course of action. That would include the Columbarium. In this event the remains would be inurned in the restored columbarium. We can only guess what the situation might be in the future. If the Columbarium is not to be restored or rebuilt after a catastrophic event, we will try to contact the relatives of the inurned person(s) to determine their wishes with respect to the ashes. If we receive no other directions, or if the relatives prefer, the ashes will be placed in another sacred location.

May family and friends attend the inurnment?

Yes. Family and friends are encouraged to attend the inurnment.

Is the Columbarium be open to the public?

Yes, the design will allow anyone to visit and pray or light a candle.

Can I place flowers at the niche?

No. There is no space for flowers but you may light a candle from those available in the columbarium. The trustees reserve the right to remove or destroy decorations which they deem to be unsightly or unfitting.

Can I visit the Columbarium at any time?

The columbarium will be open as often as the Church is open for remembrance and prayer.

Who should I contact for more information?

Please contact Ian the Sacristan, Patricia in the Parish Office or Fr Michael Sheehan on 0044 (0)28 9032 4597 or email questions to stpatricks@downandconnor.org

Notices about the Columbarium will be printed in the Church Bulletin.



To the left is an example of the cast bronze face plate, with the wheat motif, we have in place.