



***Updated March 20, 2020 – Effective immediately***

***Changes from the previous announcement are in bold and italics.***

### Diocese of London Catholic Cemeteries COVID-19 Protocols

*These protocols apply to all Diocese of London cemeteries, including parish cemeteries.* The Diocese of London Catholic Cemeteries is committed to serving our families and working to ensure their health and safety. In order to do this, we are equally committed and focused on the health and safety of our staff. As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will be adjusting our operations and levels of public interaction in an effort to do our part to slow the transmission of this virus. Please know that we are taking extra precautions to keep our facilities and offices sanitized. We have also implemented the following:

#### Office Hours

Until further notice all cemetery offices are closed to the public except by appointment only. Up to two persons are permitted to attend any meetings with cemetery staff, provided that each of the attendees passes the *Self Screening*. As much as possible is to be done by phone, fax or email.

***Our mausoleums are closed to all public access.***

#### Self Screening

All persons are required to *self* screen before visiting the cemetery:

1. Do you have any of these symptoms?
  - Fever
  - Cough
2. Have you or any member of your immediate family been in contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19?
3. Are you or any member of your immediate family in self isolation?
4. Have you returned from a trip to another country in the past 14 days?

If a visitor answers YES to any of the above questions, we ask that they kindly return home and call us to make arrangements by alternative means (phone/email, etc.).

#### Safe Distance Protocol

We ask that there be no direct physical contact such as handshakes and hugs, and our cemetery staff will observe a 2 meter (6 feet) distance with visitors wherever possible.

## Burials, Entombments, Inurnments and Cremation Witness

Any individual who does not pass the *Self Screening* is not permitted to attend burials, entombments, inurnments and cremation witness.

Attendance is limited to immediate family only.

For ground burial or burial of cremated remains, the burial site will be prepared in advance by cemetery staff. The casket or urn will be lowered/interred once the family returns to their vehicles.

***For interment inside a mausoleum, the committal service will be conducted outside the entrance door to the mausoleum. Once the committal service is completed, the casket or urn will be left outside the entrance door. Once the family has returned to their vehicles, the cemetery staff will proceed with the interment.***

For an outdoor columbarium, the crypt/niche will be prepared in advance by cemetery staff. The staff will complete the entombment once the family moves to a safe distance as indicated by the cemetery family service advisor (sales consultant).

Cremation witnessing will be available to immediate family only and is subject to the instructions and direction of cemetery staff.

## Monthly Cemetery Masses and Other Prayer Services

Until further notice, all monthly masses and other prayer services are canceled.

This protocol is effective **March 20, 2020** and is subject to change. Thank you for adhering to this protocol and for your understanding and patience during these unprecedented times. We pray for those infected with COVID-19, those caring for the sick and for one another.

David Savel, Episcopal Director of Administrative Services

Rosario Muscedere, Eastern Region Cemetery Manager (Sarnia and London)

Patricia Simone, Western Region Cemetery Manager (Windsor-Essex)