



**Updated January 14, 2021**

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

These protocols apply to all Diocese of London cemeteries, including parish cemeteries. We are 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. Please know that we are taking extra precautions to keep our facilities and offices sanitized. ***Please observe all signs posted throughout the cemetery.***

#### 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 appointments 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. **Effective December 7, 2020 cash payments are not permitted. Payment is only permitted by cheque, debit card or credit card.**

***All visitors and staff are required to wear a mask during appointments. Visitors must sign into the log book at the office entrance.***

#### Self Screening

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

1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs? Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions:

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fever or chills                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Cough   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Sore throat, trouble swallowing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Runny nose/stuffy nose or nasal congestion        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Decrease or loss of smell or taste                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Not feeling well, extreme tiredness, sore muscles | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

2. Have you travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?  Yes  No

3. Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?  Yes  No

#### **RESULTS OF SCREENING QUESTIONS:**

- If you answer **NO to all questions from 1 through 3**, you have passed and can enter the cemetery.
- If you answer **YES to any questions from 1 through 3**, you have not passed and should therefore not enter the cemetery. You should go home to self-isolate immediately and contact your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) to find out if you need a COVID-19 test.

#### Safe Distance Protocol

Please observe a 2 metre (6 feet) distance.

#### Visiting the Cemetery

When visiting the cemetery you must comply with the gathering limits of the Province:

“Up to 5 people may gather outdoors, as long as you can keep 2 metres physical distance from each other. You should also wear a mask or face covering”.

#### Mausoleum Visiting Hours

**Except for interment services, the mausoleums will be closed during the State of Emergency declared by the Province of Ontario on January 12, 2021. You are required to wear a mask in the mausoleum.**

#### 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.

For ground burial or burial of cremated remains **a mask must be worn** by those attending the interment service. 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. **Attendance is limited to 10 people for each interment per the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.**

For interment inside a mausoleum, **a mask must be worn**. The committal service will be conducted in the chapel area. **Attendance is limited to 10 people for each interment per the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.**

Once the committal service is completed and all attendees have left the building, the cemetery staff will proceed with the interment. For an outdoor service at a crypt or niche, the staff will complete the entombment or inurnment once the family moves to a safe distance as directed by the cemetery staff.

A maximum of 2 persons allowed for real-time witnessing of cremations while social distancing and wearing a mask.

#### Monthly Cemetery Masses and Other Prayer Services

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

This protocol 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)