

# **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
October 7, 2020**

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## **Notice of Catholic and Private Cemetery closures on All Souls' Day weekend 2020**

**All Catholic Cemetery** (Pigo in Anigua, Holy Cross in Togcha – Yona, and Mount Carmel in Agat) **and Private Cemetery** (Guam Memorial Park in Leyang – Barrigada, Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens in Windward Hills – Yona, and Guam Windward Memorial in Windward Hills – Yona) **gates will be physically closed to visitors on Saturday, October 31, 2020, on Sunday, November 1, 2020 and on All Souls' Day, Monday, November 2, 2020.**

**Our gates will reopen on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.**

**Further, all traditional All Souls' Day Masses at each cemetery are cancelled. Instead, the Agana Cathedral – Basilica will offer a live-streamed Mass, with Responso, at 12:00 noon on Monday, November 2, 2020. You can watch on-line at [www.aganacathedral.org](http://www.aganacathedral.org) and on Facebook/Agana Cathedral.**

## **Minimizing the Virus Spread**

To protect our island community and the members of our families from the potential spread of COVID-19, the Catholic and Private Cemeteries on Guam have reached a joint consensus after much thought and deliberation:

To avoid large crowds congregating at cemeteries on All Souls' Day weekend and potentially spread the COVID-19 virus at an unprecedented rate, all catholic and private cemeteries will be physically closed to visitors on Saturday, October 31, 2020, on Sunday, November 1, 2020 and on All Souls' Day, Monday, November 2, 2020.

Our gates will reopen on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

We recommend that you plan your cemetery visit before Friday, October 30, 2020 or after Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Further, all traditional All Souls' Day Masses at each cemetery have been cancelled. Instead, the Agana Cathedral-Basilica will offer a live-streamed Mass, with Responso, at 12:00 noon on Monday, November 2, 2020. You can watch on-line at [www.aganacathedral.org](http://www.aganacathedral.org) and on Facebook/Agana Cathedral.

We share with you the pain of not being able to visit your loved ones on this special day. This was not an easy decision for us to make. However, we value everyone's health more than anything else.

Instead of going to the cemeteries on All Souls' Day this year, we urge you to set aside time together as a family in your homes, to light a candle, offer prayers and share your recollections of those who have gone on before us. Their memories can bind us closer together.

Respectfully,

Guam Memorial Park in Leyang – Barrigada  
Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens in Windward Hills - Yona  
Catholic Cemeteries of Guam  
Guam Windward Memorial in Windward Hills – Yona