

# Resting Place



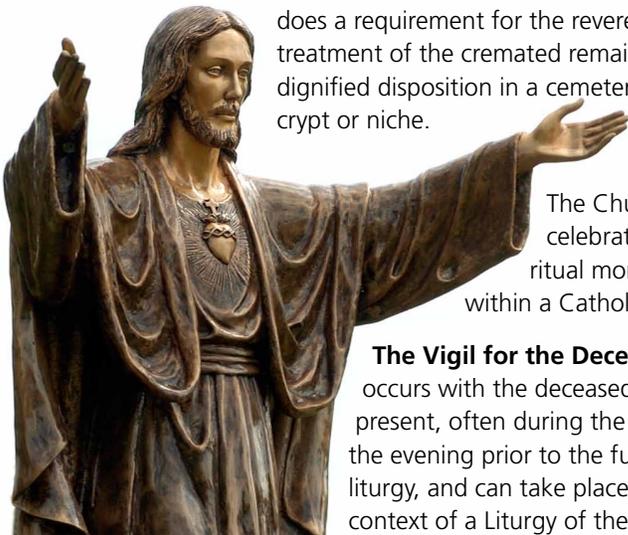
A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

## Cremation and Catholic funerals

**The practice of choosing cremation by Catholics has continued to rise ever since the restriction on cremation was lifted by the Catholic Church in the early 1960s. For families choosing arrangements through The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton, the percentage of those opting for cremation has risen to 35 from 32 per cent in the past four years alone.**

Employees at the cemeteries office are sometimes asked if a funeral Mass can still be held, with a committal ceremony at a Catholic cemetery, if cremation is chosen.

The quick answer is “yes.” Whether or not the deceased’s remains are cremated, the ritual moments of a Catholic funeral remain; as does a requirement for the reverent treatment of the cremated remains and dignified disposition in a cemetery lot, crypt or niche.



The Church celebrates three ritual moments within a Catholic funeral:

**The Vigil for the Deceased** occurs with the deceased’s body present, often during the visitation the evening prior to the funeral liturgy, and can take place in the context of a Liturgy of the Word or

Evening Prayer. The Vigil includes scripture readings, prayer and quiet reflection. This is followed by the celebration of the funeral liturgy.

**The Funeral Mass or Liturgy** is the central celebration of the Catholic funeral rites. This Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church. If deemed more appropriate, a Funeral Outside Mass (Liturgy of the Word only) may be chosen by the parish Priest and the family. It is usually celebrated in the parish church, but may also be celebrated in the funeral home chapel, or even the home of the deceased. The Priest can assist with selecting readings and music for the funeral liturgy. The preference of the Church is to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the body of the deceased, with cremation occurring afterward. However, the Diocese of Hamilton does permit the funeral Mass to be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains, which are placed in a respectful container, such as an urn.

**The Rite of Committal** follows and is the final act of the Church in caring for the body. If cremation has been chosen, the remains must be treated in the same dignified manner as a deceased body. Entombment in a mausoleum or columbarium, or interment in a cemetery, is to take place. The practices of keeping cremated remains in the home, sharing them amongst family members or scattering is not in keeping with the Catholic faith.

For more information about Catholic Funeral Planning and the policy of the Disposition of Cremated Remains for the Diocese of Hamilton visit our web site at [www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca). The Catholic Cemeteries counselling staff is also available to assist families and answer any questions related to at-need or pre-planning a funeral and burial.

### Pre-planning a funeral and burial:

- Your parish Priest can assist with planning funeral rites – including selecting scriptures, readings and music.
- Catholic cemeteries staff can provide guidance on funeral pre-planning, including cremation and/or burial in a Catholic cemetery. Also, Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre, which opened in late 2003 in response to the growing interest in cremation, is available to Catholics and their families as well as people of other faiths and cultures. Call 519-442-2214 or 1-800-661-5985 for more information.
- A complimentary Family Records Guide to help organize your wishes is available for download on our web site: [thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://thecatholiccemeteries.ca)

### Reception room available:

A reception room is available to families at Our Lady of Victory Mausoleum, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, for gatherings preceding the interment of cremated remains or for a post-interment reception. Available on a first-come, first-serve basis, it accommodates 75 guests. Families are responsible for catering. For more information, contact our main office at 905-522-7727.

# News and updates!

**Financing terms extended** – The Catholic Cemeteries now offers additional interest-free payment terms at Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum (Gate of Heaven, Burlington) and Our Lady of Hope Mausoleum (Resurrection, Ancaster) for pre-need purchases of crypts or niches. For the purchase of a crypt, a 25 per cent deposit is required, with the balance paid quarterly over four years – or due at the time of need. For the purchase of a niche, a 25 per cent deposit is required, with the balance paid quarterly over two years – or due at the time of need.

Contact our main office at 905-522-7727 (1-800-661-5985) and speak with one of our family counsellors for more information.

**Cremation garden at St. Joseph Cemetery, Brantford** – A new in-ground cremation and columbarium garden dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy has been added at St. Joseph Cemetery. The new section for both in-ground and above-ground interment provides more options for families who choose cremation. For more information, please contact Bill Templeton, district cemeterian, 519-442-2608 or 1-800-661-5985.

**New columbarium at St. Patrick Cemetery, Cambridge (Galt)** – A new columbarium at St. Patrick Cemetery in Cambridge (Avenue Road near Hespeler Road) has been completed. Dedicated to Our Lady of Knock, it features 75 niche spaces for the interment of cremated remains. Please contact Bill Templeton 519-442-2608 or 1-800-661-5985 for more information.

**New entry gates at Holy Redeemer Cemetery, Georgetown** – New front entrance gates will be installed this summer at Holy Redeemer Catholic Cemetery. Located on 17th Side Road, just west of Trafalgar, the cemetery was established to serve the growing Catholic community in Halton Hills and the surrounding area.

The cemetery features statuary; single, family and cremation lots; and the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Columbarium, which offers above-ground burial of cremated remains. In 2014, the St. Alojzije Stepinac Section was opened for parishioners of the Queen of Peace Croatian Franciscan Centre in the small community of Norval, Ontario. This section features single or family lots, and above-ground estate crypts. A statue of St. Alojzije Stepinac is also being planned. To learn more, please call 905-877-8500.



Construction at Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum expansion in Guelph.

**Mausoleum expansion in Guelph** – Construction to expand Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum began in October 2014 and is slated to be complete this September. It will include additional single and double crypts, glass- and marble-front niches, statuary, mosaics and a facility for post-interment receptions. More information on the reception room's capacity and booking procedures will be announced at a later date.

## Memorial Masses

*All Masses are held on Saturdays and begin at 11 a.m.*

- May 9** ● Mount View Cemetery (Blenheim Road), Cambridge
- May 23** ● St. Joseph Cemetery, Brantford
- May 30** ● Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington
- June 6** ● Resurrection Cemetery, Ancaster
- June 13** ● Marymount Cemetery, Guelph
- June 20** ● Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery, Stoney Creek
- June 27** ● Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Burlington



CONTACT US

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