

# Parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton-on-Brock

## *Cemetery Regulations 2017*

1. All burials and internments of cremated ashes in the cemetery for the time being adjacent to the church and presbytery of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton-on-Brock require the permission of the Parish Priest (that term including a Priest being the Parish Administrator). However:

- current parishioners, namely, regularly practising Catholics in the congregation of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton-on-Brock,
- those with a spouse already buried in the cemetery,
- those who had been a current parishioner of at least five years' standing but at the time of death were housebound or otherwise unable to attend at church and
- those with the benefit of an agreement with the Parish as to a reserved burial space<sup>1</sup>

can expect automatic permission for the burial of their body.

2. No more than two people and their infant children may be buried in any single grave site and the ashes of no more than two people may be interned in the grave site of another person. Permission for burials or internments of ashes other than as specified above is at the absolute discretion of the Parish Priest.

3. Permission for the internment of cremated ashes in a part of the cemetery specified by the Parish Priest or within an existing family grave will normally be granted automatically in relation to the ashes of persons specified in paragraph 1 but otherwise will be at the absolute discretion of the Parish Priest.

4. Fees chargeable for burials, internments of ashes and for the erection of memorials are as specified in the Fee Schedule following these Regulations unless, in any particular instance, the Parish Priest agrees to a lower fee in his discretion.

5. The cemetery is a sacred place and gravestones, markers or other memorials of burial or internment must therefore conform to the norms of canon law and also to the particular norms which follow. No memorial of a burial or internment may be placed in the cemetery unless the design has been agreed in advance or received the prior approval of the current Parish Priest.

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<sup>1</sup> Normally advance agreement as to a reserved burial space will only be given on payment of the then-current fee and will not involve reservation of a particular space in the cemetery.

6. Permission to erect a memorial of a burial will normally be granted subject to the following conditions:

- The memorial should be of stone and placed at the north-eastern end of the grave with the inscription orientated towards the south-west or should be a flat stone laid above the grave or a combination of the two.
- The following are not permitted as part of a memorial:
  - kerbs, railings, chippings, open books, monuments, shrines and statues
  - shrubs or trees or
  - unusual or inconsistent shapes, structures and/or colours.
- Any proposed memorial must harmonise with the natural landscape and appearance of the cemetery and be consistent with the style of existing memorials.
- The Parish Priest must be consulted about any portraiture, inscriptions, photographs or pictorial etchings proposed for headstones.
- A container for flowers should be appropriate and restricted to the area immediately in front of the headstone.

7. Generally, no memorial headstone should be more than 36" high (including its plinth), 38" wide and 6" thick and no flat stone memorial should be more than 78" long, 38" wide and 9" high. A memorial may also consist of a cross on a base as long as the cross and base are no more than 66" high (including the base), 28" wide at the base and 24" wide at the arms of the cross and 6" thick. In any event, the structure should be firmly anchored in accordance with then-current Health and Safety regulations. There should be an inscription on the memorial in plain lettering recording at least the name of the dead person and his or her age or years of birth and death. Any further inscription should be brief<sup>2</sup>.

8. The place of internment of cremated ashes (other than in existing graves) may be marked by a small wooden cross with minimal wording on a brass plate. It should be understood, however, that wooden memorials are of their nature temporary and may be removed when decayed. More permanent memorials are to take the form of stone tablets set flat at ground level and measuring no more than 15" x 12". The inscription should comply with paragraph 7.

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<sup>2</sup> Further inscriptions should normally be restricted to expressions in keeping with the Christian faith, such as requests for prayers or an indication of very close relationships. Expressions of a sentimental nature are discouraged and expressions which are not in keeping with the sacred nature of the place or which imply that a person (or ashes) is (but who in fact is not) buried or interned at that place may not be approved

9. Flowers should be natural and fresh. Plastic flowers are permitted but may be removed if they are not in keeping with the appearance of the cemetery or have started to degrade; toys and the like are not permitted.

10. Graves and internment sites remain the property of the Parish but neither the the Parish, the Parish Priest nor any of their representatives or trustees can accept any responsibility for loss or damage to or caused by memorials or any part of them or any things associated with them or in relation to the removal of any of them pursuant to paragraph 11. In the event that the cemetery is full, the Parish reserves the right to re-use grave or internment sites.

11. The maintenance of each memorial and ensuring that it complies with all applicable regulations is the responsibility of the family of those commemorated by it. However, should any memorial not be maintained and otherwise comply with these Regulations, the Parish Priest shall be entitled to take action in that regard or procure its removal on such terms as he deems appropriate. It is also the responsibility of those given permission for a burial to remove from the cemetery all the spoil excavated from the grave site.



Fee Schedule (effective 1 December 2017<sup>3</sup>)

<b>Burials</b>	
Current parishioners	£750
Non-parishioners	£5,000
Further burial(s)	£250 each
<b>Internments of ashes</b>	
Current parishioners	£200
Non-parishioners	£400

The above prices are for granting permission (whether automatic or discretionary) for burial, for internment of ashes and/or for permission to carry out the relevant work. The digging or opening of a grave and the stonemason's work is a separate charge, payable to the undertaker or stonemason, and should include the cost of removal of spoil.

<sup>3</sup> Prices as set by the Cloughton Catholic Association on 29 November 2017 and approved by the Parish Priest. They will remain in effect until reviewed by the Association.