



Updated November 17, 2020

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. ***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 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.

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

Mausoleum Visiting Hours – *Access Card/key and mask required for entry*

Effective **July 20, 2020** mausoleums are open for visitation as follows:

Heavenly Rest Cemetery and Rose Hill/St. John the Baptist Cemetery (Windsor-Essex)

Open Monday to Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., closed Sunday and Holidays.

St. Peter's Cemetery (London)

Open Monday to Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., closed Sunday and Holidays.

Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery and Resurrection Cemetery (Sarnia)

Open Monday to Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., closed Sunday and Holidays.

PLEASE NOTE: You are required to wear a mask upon entry into the mausoleum.

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

Please observe a 2 metre (6 feet) distance.

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, 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 100 people or less as 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. Maximum attendees for services inside mausoleums:

- Heavenly Rest (Windsor) – St. Francis, N4 (Phase 4) – 25 people
- Heavenly Rest (Windsor) – Resurrection - 25 people
- Heavenly Rest (Windsor) – Holy Trinity – 10 people
- Rose Hill/St. John the Baptist (Amherstburg) – 25 people
- St. Peter's (London) – Holy Family - 25 people
- Our Lady of Mercy (Sarnia) - 10 people
- Resurrection (Sarnia) - 20 people

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)