

Niches

Our columbarium includes niches with an engraved bronze plaque with dimensions 310mm x 170mm.

Each niche is usually able to accommodate the ashes of two persons. However, in the event that the ashes of a second person are interred in the same niche at a later date, a new plaque will need to be ordered by the grantee.

Memorial Plaques

Our columbarium also includes provision for bronze memorial plaques with dimensions 125mm x 75mm. Such memorial plaques may be ordered for installation on a memorial wall in memory of in remembrance of loved ones who are buried or interred elsewhere.

Are there any restrictions or conditions on those applying for a niche or memorial plaque?

Yes, the parish takes its responsibility seriously in regard to the proper and respectful operation and maintenance of the columbarium and memorial garden. A set of **General Conditions** has been formulated and contains the parish policy for the running of the columbarium. A copy of this document can be obtained at any time from the parish office or downloaded from the parish website

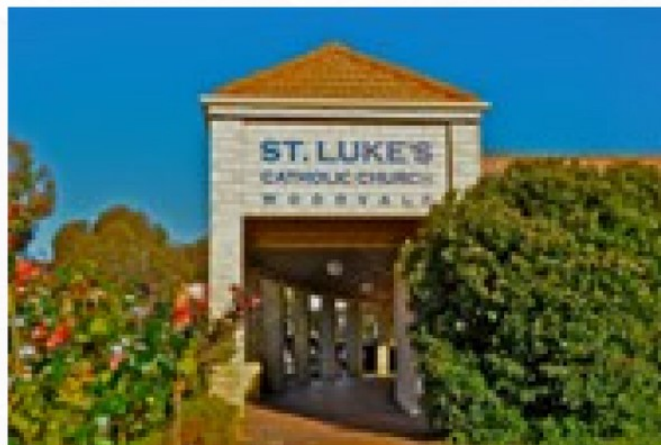
Enquiries on Reservation Process

For more information on the costs, availability and application process for a niche or a memorial plaque, please contact the Parish Office.



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ST LUKE'S PARISH

Columbarium



"Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord"
Rom. 14:8

What is a columbarium?

For many people raised in the Catholic Church a columbarium is a new concept, but it actually has its roots in the early church when cemeteries were built on church property.

The word itself is derived from the Latin 'Columba' meaning a pigeon and columbarium is a wall with niches (pigeon-holes) to carry urns of cremated remains. It offers people the possibility of remaining, even after death, close to their local faith community.



Does the Catholic Church law allow for cremation?

Vatican Council II reinstated permission for cremation in 1962, but it was not widely publicized. However, in recent years, cremation has become more accepted by Catholics for both personal and financial reasons.

Another important change within Church doctrine came in 1998 when cremated remains were allowed into Church for a funeral service. Prior to this, cremation had to take place after the funeral.



Who may be laid to rest in our parish columbarium?

The columbarium will be reserved for use by parishioners and their immediate family, including step-family members and adopted family members. Family members may be non-Catholic.

A parishioner is any Catholic person who resides within the parish boundaries or even though residing outside the boundaries, considers this parish as his/her own parish.

Special consideration will be given to any request made by any person who, through past connection, has a special affinity and love for this parish.



The columbarium comprises eight sections, each named after a saint.

How does having a columbarium benefit our community?

There are at least two major benefits:

Firstly, it means that those parishioners who choose to be cremated are able to be laid to rest here in the parish grounds, surrounded by the parish family whom they loved and who loved them in return.

For family members, it means that their loved ones will still be very much part of their worship life, as the rear windows of the church overlook and give access to the columbarium gardens. Also, they will have the comfort of knowing that their loved ones have been laid to rest in sacred ground, and that they can easily drop by for a visit any time.

Secondly, a columbarium will add another dimension to the faith and worship life of the whole parish. Being in *communion* is at the heart of our Catholic faith. We become *one body* in Christ at Baptism, and we continue sharing that common life forever, beyond death. We are aware of this connectedness with one another every time we say in the creed. *"I believe in the communion of saints."* We speak of this community each time we pray at Mass when we pray for the living and the dead *"who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy"*.

Our departed brothers and sisters are one with us as the Body of Christ and a columbarium in our grounds is a constant reminder of our membership in the Communion of Saints and the promise of eternal joy in which we share.

"... if one member is honoured, all rejoice together."
1 Cor. 12:26