

Flower + Ornament Policy



Let's keep our cemeteries beautiful, tidy and safe.

**Catholic
Cemeteries +
Crematoria**



Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria understand the importance of floral and ornamental tributes. This policy enables staff to maintain the cemetery grounds to a high standard, while providing a safe and attractive environment for visitors and staff. This policy has been developed to clearly outline what we can all do to maintain a beautiful, tidy and safe cemetery for everyone to enjoy.

This policy provides the guidelines for the placement of floral and ornamental tributes within the cemetery grounds. Whilst it is appreciated that due to the diverse nature of families that visit, it is very difficult to create a policy that meets everyone's needs, the goal is to provide fair guidelines that apply uniformly to everyone.

The policy is designed to ensure that all families can visit the cemeteries and reflect in an environment that is attractive, tidy and safe. It aims to provide guidelines that give families the ability to grieve in a way that they see fit, but also enables Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria to meet its caretaker role in the management of the cemetery grounds.

We ask that you take the time to review this document in its entirety and thank you in advance, for considering the policy when next visiting.



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Respect your neighbour

To ensure that items do not encroach on the memorial or burial locations of neighbouring families, we recommend that a maximum of two (2) vases be installed on each grave or memorial site.

A limit on vases is designed to allow families to express their grief, but also ensures that other families do not feel marginalised or impinged upon by the placement of excessive items upon neighbouring locations.

The placement of an excessive number of tributes has in the past, caused considerable distress to other families within the same burial or memorial area. Tributes that encroach on neighbouring sites will be removed and disposed of.

Removal of tributes by cemetery staff

Cemetery staff are required, as part of their regular duties to remove floral and ornamental tributes so as to perform routine maintenance and to ensure that the grounds are maintained to a standard that enables the entire community to visit cemeteries that are beautiful, tidy and safe.

Although a sensitive task and one that the cemetery staff gain no satisfaction from performing, the practical reality is that all tributes will wither. All tributes will at some point, need to be removed and disposed of by cemetery staff. It is an unfortunate task, but one that needs to be performed.

Area Specific Guidelines

Please refer to the following guidelines for the specific cemetery area that you visit.

Mausoleums and Crypt Complexes

- Vases, receptacles or figurines are not permitted on the ground in the Mausoleum or Crypt complex and will be removed without notice.
- A small picture of the deceased can be affixed to the crypt panel prior to the inscription being finalised. Once the crypt inscription is completed these items are no longer permissible.



- Care should be taken when using adhesive tape or re-usable adhesives (eg. Blu Tac) as these may mark the granite/marble if used excessively or left on the crypt panel for extended periods. Families using these adhesives need to do so with the knowledge that it may permanently mark the panel. We would encourage families to attach such items with ribbon to the supplied eternal light or vase.
- The use of step ladders to place flowers on level 4 crypts is strictly prohibited, due to safety concerns. Please contact the office to arrange to have your flowers placed for you.
- Fresh flowers are not permitted in the Mausoleum of the Resurrection. Floral holders for the placement of fresh flowers are located outside the front entrance to the Mausoleum.
- The burning of candles or any other materials is not permitted in the Mausoleum or crypt complexes.

Cemetery Lawns

- Fresh or dried floral tributes are welcomed in cemetery lawn areas.
- Up to two vases can be provided per headstone. These vases are to be shared on either side of the headstone.
- We do not allow for the placement of artificial/silk flowers, glass vases or receptacles, ornaments, photo frames, candles, toys or wind chimes in cemetery lawn areas. These items can be a safety hazard for visitors and staff alike.
- Families are not permitted to install decorative borders, kerbing, pebbles, plants or the like around the perimeter of graves as these may create a tripping hazard and impinge on our ability to carry out routine maintenance work such as grass cutting.

Throughout the year, the cemetery will periodically clean the lawn areas and remove any non-compliant items. Signage will be erected on the lawn, advising of the event prior to it occurring. Any non-compliant items will be stored in specially placed collection bins on the lawn, for a

limited time period after the lawn has been cleaned. Your co-operation in following the lawn guidelines will help prevent disappointment when non-compliant items are removed and disposed of by cemetery staff.

Monumental Lawns

- › Fresh or dried floral tributes are welcomed in monumental lawn areas. Artificial or silk floral arrangements are welcome provided that they are contained within the monument.
- › We do not allow for the placement of glass vases or receptacles, ornaments, photo frames, candles, toys or wind chimes unless they are contained within the monument. ‘Within the monument’ includes the concrete beam, provided such items do not encroach upon adjacent graves or into the lawn area.
- › Families are not permitted to install decorative borders, kerbing, pebbles, plants or the like around the perimeter of graves as these may create a tripping hazard and impinge on our ability to carry out routine maintenance work such as grass cutting.
- › Monuments installed must be constructed by a monumental mason registered with the cemetery office. This ensures that the monument is properly constructed and does not present a potential safety issue now or in the future. Any unauthorised structures erected will be removed by cemetery staff.

Throughout the year, the cemetery will periodically clean the lawn areas and remove any non-compliant items. Signage will be erected on the lawn, advising of the event prior to it occurring. Any non-compliant items will be stored in specially placed collection bins on the lawn, for a limited time period after the lawn has been cleaned. Your co-operation in following the lawn guidelines will help prevent disappointment when non-compliant items are removed and disposed of by cemetery staff.

Monumental Section Graves

- › Fresh or dried floral tributes are welcomed. Artificial or silk floral arrangements are welcome provided that they are contained within the monument.
- › Monuments installed must be constructed by a monumental mason registered with the cemetery office. This ensures that the monument

is properly constructed and does not present a potential safety issues now or in the future. Any unauthorised structures erected will be removed by cemetery staff.

General Guidelines

These policy guidelines apply to most sections of the cemetery that families and visitors may visit.

Supplied grave markers (ie. white cross's) will remain in place until the inscription or monument is installed. Once the monument is complete or if the grave marker is withered and damaged, the cemetery staff will remove and dispose of the marker.

Tributes should be placed within the two (2) receptacles (i.e. vases) that are provided by the cemetery or, where appropriate within the vases built into traditional monumental work

- › In general, we do not allow for the placement of glass vases or receptacles, ornaments, photo frames, candles, toys or wind chimes in lawn areas. These items can be a safety hazard for visitors and staff alike
- › Visitors are encouraged to remove wrapping and rubber bands from fresh flowers before placing them into vases
- › When placing your floral or ornamental tributes, please ensure that they do not encroach onto the next grave or memorial site
- › Floral or ornamental tributes that have withered will be removed by cemetery staff
- › Picking of flowers and plants from the cemetery grounds is prohibited
- › The unauthorised planting of flora is prohibited within the cemetery and will be removed

Please contact the Customer Service Team, if you are not sure if your tribute adheres to our policy and thank you for your assistance in keeping our cemeteries beautiful, tidy and safe.



Contact Us

We have tried to make the policy as fair as possible, whilst ensuring that it meets the needs of the diverse community that we serve.

If you need to contact us to discuss the policy or to request clarification on any of the guidelines, please contact the Customer Service Team on (02) 9649 6423.

Alternatively, email enquiries to: enquiries@catholiccemeteries.com.au with 'Flower Policy Enquiry' within the subject line.

Postal enquiries can be directed to: Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria, PO Box 10, LIDCOMBE NSW 1825.



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