



**St CANICE'S**  
PARISH

**St Canice's**  
*Columbarium*

Information Booklet | 2023-24

St Canice's

# Columbarium

Within the Neo-Gothic walls of St Canice's, we offer you an extraordinary opportunity to honour the memory of your loved ones through our unique Columbarium at St Canice.

Our Columbarium seamlessly blends into the sanctity of the church, becoming an integral part of its sacred tapestry and creating a serene resting place for those who have passed. This setting serves as a place of deep prayer for the souls of the departed and for the intercession of all the Saints who have gone before us.





# General Information

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## WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

The term "columbarium" is derived from the Latin word "columba," meaning dove, as the original purpose of these structures was to house doves or pigeons. Over time, the term came to represent a place for the storage of cremated remains.

## THE CATHOLIC ATTITUDE TO CREMATION

Cremation is an ancient practice around the world, however Christians have traditionally wished to be buried in the ground 'as Jesus was'.

Cremation was introduced in Italy under Napoleonic rule "for hygienic reasons", but was opposed by the Pope. Consequently, it was viewed as a sign of secular revolt against the church.

The Second Vatican Council lifted the ban on cremations, provided the body was present during the funeral and cremated afterwards. Church rules were relaxed further in 1997 when the Vatican agreed that cremated remains could be brought into church for the liturgical rites of burial.

In Australia, the overcrowding of cemeteries and the cost of burial have meant an increasing number of people are choosing to be cremated.

## **INTERMENT OF ASHES**

At the completion of the funeral, the body is cremated. A short time later, the crematorium will contact the family and advise them that the ashes are ready to be interred. The family will then contact the parish to arrange for the ashes to be placed in one of the niches of the Columbarium.

## **IS THERE A CEREMONY?**

Yes, the family will arrange with the Parish Priest for a service to inter the ashes. It is a short service and is usually celebrated after one of the parish Masses.

## **UPKEEP AND ONGOING MAINTENANCE**

The Columbarium will be maintained by the parish in a clean and dignified condition. Family members and friends are welcome to visit the columbarium at any time when the church is open.

## **MEMORIAL BOOK**

Future generations will be interested in the stories of those whose remains are in the church. These stories are held in the memorial books on either side of the transept.

## **TERM OF INTERMENT**

The ashes will be kept in the niche for 50 years. The ashes may then be removed at the discretion of the Parish Priest to a place that has been blessed within the precinct of the church.

## **PLAQUE DESIGN**

The bronze plaque is of standard design. The borders have a chalice as their centrepiece that is held by the branches of life. The parish has guidelines for the wording and symbols on the plaques.

# Reservation Process

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- 1 Contact the Parish Office via our website or phone.
- 2 Complete an application form and make payment.

3 **Provide an obituary:** A4 page size and photo that celebrates the life and memory of the person who has died for inclusion in the Memorial Book. The obituary should be provided before the inurnment. The eulogy can be used as a basis for the obituary.

- 4 Discuss and agree upon the wording for the plaque.

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## Costs

**The 2023-24 costs for reserving a niche in the Columbarium is \$5,000.00 plus GST.**

This is inclusive of engraving , decanting, ceremony and ongoing maintenance.

**Thank You For Your  
Interest In St Canice's  
*Columbarium***

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