

St Mary's Memorial Garden Columbarium

It has been the view for centuries that one's mortal remains ought to lie at peace in the grounds of one's church. As Catholics, we believe we are born into the Church, we receive the sacraments of the Church, and at our death we are farewelled by the Church. Until recently Catholics were buried, often in a common cemetery. However, following Vatican II, Catholics were given the choice of burial or cremation.



What does the Church say about Columbariums?

On October 22, 2016 Pope Francis released an official guideline on how we care for the ashes of the deceased. The Vatican document says "The ashes of the deceased must be laid in a sacred place, such as in a cemetery or a columbarium".

The document goes on to state: "It is not permitted to keep the ashes in a home or to scatter them in the air, on land, at sea or in any other way. Nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewellery and other objects." In short, the Vatican says YES to cremation, but NO to scattering of ashes anywhere.

The spiritual life of all Catholics are attached to their church. St Mary's Memorial Garden, built in the churchyard, is a suitable place to keep the ashes of our departed loved ones, so that they remain close to the church.



The Memorial Garden consists of two parts

The Columbarium walls that contain niches for the ashes of the deceased; and



a Memorial Wall
(at the back of the Grotto)
for plaques containing the names of our
departed dear ones.



*"... a home in St Mary's grounds
for our departed loved ones ..."*

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**St Mary's Catholic Church,
proud to be
Part of Maryborough, the Heritage City**

LANDMARKS

- 1852 Celebration of the First Holy Mass
- 1858 Wooden Church/known as "Catholic School-House"
- 1869 First Stage - Laying of the Foundation stone for the new church
- 1872 Official opening of St Mary's church
- 1885 Second stage. Extension to Nave completed. Original stain glass windows restored
- 1936 Third stage. Entrance and stained glass window relocated to face Adelaide Street
- 1992 St Mary's Church declared a Heritage Building
- 1993 Fourth stage. Restorations and Additions
- 2000 Jubilee year. Wall Hanging installed
- 2020 Stained Glass Windows restored
- 2020 Erected the St Mary's Memorial Garden (Columbarium)



INTERMENT OF ASHES

At the completion of the funeral, the body is cremated at a time prearranged with the Funeral Director. The family will be advised that the ashes are ready to be interred. The family will contact St Mary's Parish to arrange for the plaque wording and the final interment of the ashes in the columbarium.

If you
are interested
in ordering
a niche or plaque
for yourself
or
for your dear ones;
for more details,
please contact
the parish office
@ 4121 3701
between
8.30am to 2.30pm
from
Tuesday to Friday.



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