

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH BISHOP THORNTON

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR THE GRAVEYARD

- 1) The right to burial in the Graveyard shall be at the discretion of either the Parish Priest, Administrator of the Parish, or of a committee appointed by him drawn from members of the Parish, whose decision on all matters relating to the Graveyard shall be final and binding.
- 2) The right to burial shall usually be available to those who are regular worshippers at St. Joseph's, or who have a long association with the Parish, and who actively participate in the life of the Parish. Sympathetic consideration to burial in the Graveyard shall also be given for former parishioners who have had a close association with the Parish in the past, or have strong family ties with the Parish, subject to available space. In making any decision as to an application for burial the principles set out above will be respected, but any decision as to the eligibility for burial shall be conclusively decided by the Parish Priest, Administrator or Committee.
- 3) Grave spaces may not be sold in advance, but in exceptional circumstances, where parishioners or former parishioners have had an unusually close relationship with, or given exceptional service to, the Parish, or where there have been strong family ties with the Parish, a letter of intent offering a grave space, subject to space being available, may be issued. Only such letters will be accepted, and not oral promises or unwritten statements of intent.
- 4) The choice of type and design of gravestones, and inscriptions shall be a matter for the families of deceased persons, but in the interests of safety, and the need to take care of the Graveyard, gravestones shall not be of greater dimensions than two foot six inches in height, have a width of not over one foot nine inches, and a base of no more than ten inches from front to back. To allow for maintenance of the ground and grass cutting there should be no kerbs, gravel, shrubs or other plants, other than flowers in one easily movable container of a moderate size for each grave.
- 5) Any usual and appropriate inscriptions on gravestones will be allowed, but the Parish Priest, Administrator or Committee reserve the right to object to any inscription, image or marking on a gravestone which they consider inappropriate, and it is requested that all proposals for such inscriptions etc. be submitted to the Parish Priest or Administrator for approval in advance.
- 6) The fee for burial shall be decided by the Parish Priest or Administrator, but shall normally be equivalent to that charged from time to time by the local authority for public cemeteries in the neighbourhood.
- 7) Full records shall be kept identifying all graves and the names of persons buried in them.
- 8) These rules may be altered from time to time as circumstances, particularly the availability of grave spaces, may require.