

**ST. PATRICK'S PARISH
FORT AUGUSTUS and MOUNT RYAN
CEMETERY POLICY**

The original cemetery of St. Patrick's Parish was established in Fort Augustus in the 1830's and in 1940 the Mount Ryan cemetery was established. Our ancestors and families have been interred in these cemeteries ever since. It is the responsibility of the present-day parishioners to ensure that proper care is taken to preserve the sacredness and dignity of these cemeteries.

The St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Committee has developed this policy to ensure these guiding principles are met. The policy is intended to inform parishioners and non-parishioners of the operation and maintenance of our parish cemeteries.

SCOPE:

- † This policy applies to the two (2) functioning cemeteries of St. Patrick's Parish - one located in Fort Augustus and the other in Mount Ryan.

RECORDS:

- † All graves are identified and recorded. A chart of each cemetery is available for review by contacting the Chair or other members of St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Committee.

RESERVED PLOTS:

- † Any individual who wishes to reserve a plot(s) must abide by the provisions stated in this policy.
- † Plots may be reserved, but the reservation will be considered tentative until payment is made. The fee for one (1) plot is \$350. A maximum of two (2) plots may be reserved by an individual, with provisions being made available for extenuating circumstances.
- † The plot fee for cremated remains is \$350, unless the burial takes place in an existing grave, in which case the fee is \$100. A maximum of four (4) cremated remains will be allowed per plot.
- † Payment of plot fees is to be made to the Chair of the Cemetery Committee, or in his absence, another member of the Committee.
- † Final decision on plot selection/location will be made by the Cemetery Committee.
- † Plots which have been reserved in the past, but have not yet been paid for, will have a deadline of six (6) months from <effective date of policy> to make payment. Those individuals will be notified of this requirement.

OPENING/CLOSING GRAVE SITE:

- † The Chair of the Cemetery Committee or a designated member of the Committee must be contacted prior to a burial taking place in the cemetery.
- † Only a professional grave digger authorized by the Cemetery Committee may open and close a grave in the Fort Augustus and the Mount Ryan cemeteries.

- † There will be no burials carried out between January 1st and May 1st of each year.
- † The cost for opening/closing a grave is the responsibility of the family of the deceased.
- † If a burial is delayed, all details will be looked after by the funeral home. They will schedule burial and determine costs.

HEADSTONES/MONUMENTS:

- † The family of the deceased must pay for foundations and headstones.
- † The Chair of the Cemetery Committee or a designated member of the Committee must be contacted prior to a stone being placed in the cemetery.
- † Each grave must be marked by the family with a headstone or marker set in the ground within twelve (12) months of the burial.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE:

- † The cost of a plot includes the general upkeep of the cemetery, including the straightening of headstones.
- † Flowers of any variety may be placed or planted at the head of a stone, however, perennial shrubbery or trees are not permitted.
- † In order to keep the Cemetery grounds clean and safe for those doing normal ground maintenance, the use of plastic or artificial flowers, boxes, fences and hedges used as boundaries around plots will not be permitted.
- † The family of the deceased is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the headstone/marker, as well as for the cleaning of lettering on the stone and the clean-up of flowers planted at the head of the stone.
- † Anyone who may be considering implementing changes in either cemetery must first consult with the Cemetery Committee.
- † All parishioners are encouraged to participate in the annual spring clean-up of the cemeteries.
- † Individuals or families are also encouraged to consider memorial donations to St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Fund in memory of a loved one.

CONCLUSION:

- † The Cemetery Committee will meet twice a year - spring and fall - as well as at any time a situation may require.
- † All funeral homes will be provided with St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Committee contact information (Fort Augustus and Mount Ryan) to assist with identification of burial plots.
- † Any situation that may arise that is not covered by this policy will be discussed by the Cemetery Committee prior to any action being taken.
- † Anyone with cemetery questions or concerns may wish to contact the Chair or other member of St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Committee.

The following people have drafted this policy and are prepared to sit on the St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Committee:

Vince Murnaghan	(902) 569-2102 (902) 569-5689
Jack Duffy	(902) 676-2824 (902) 393-6202
Eugene McKenna	(902) 676-2180
Mary Leah Trainor	(902) 569-1302
Ian Walker	(902) 314-1761

This policy is effective as of < date to be determined >

Date

Pastor