

COLUMBARIUM and Disposal of Ashes

Throughout the 1960's, 70's and 80's many columbaria were built in Church grounds throughout the country. It is now almost universally agreed that this was not a sensible approach.

- * Human remains should be returned to the ground.
- * Many of these structures were not well designed or appropriately placed.
- * Columbaria bequeath to a future generation the final responsibility for the disposal of the remains.

Therefore:

1. No further faculties will be issued for the building of a new columbarium or the extension of an old one.
2. Parishes should be encouraged to develop a memorial garden, The garden should be carefully designed and request made for a faculty. A record of interments should be made in a memorial book which should then be displayed in a prominent place. Memorial plaques should be discouraged. If however they are deemed essential, then a faculty should be sought for an appropriately designed wall. Plaques should not be placed on the ground marking the place of the interment.
3. Pastoral sensitivity should be exercised in relation to existing columbaria. Relatives may wish their remains to be placed beside a loved one. If other alternatives have been sensitively presented and rejected then the request should not be denied.