

A GUIDE TO PRE-PLANNING A FUNERAL

The Perfect Farewell

when your loved one passes

Dublin
Cemeteries
Trust Est. 1828

At first it may be uncomfortable to even think about it, but if you have a very ill family member or loved one, it can be a good idea to consider pre-planning their funeral with them.

Involving them, in as much as they are capable, is a very thoughtful and positive thing to do. You can take comfort in knowing that you're celebrating their life in a way that reflects their wishes, and it will also be a comfort to you not to have to make so many difficult decisions in the future when you are upset and grieving.



How to approach pre-planning

Pre-planning a loved one's funeral means the small things that matter most are included, because decisions are not being made at a time when you're mourning and can't think clearly. It may sound daunting or upsetting at first and that's very understandable, but this guide is designed to make it easier for you.

Talk about it together

Talking to a loved one about their own death, or speaking about a loved one's possible death with the wider family, will never be easy. However, it will bring much peace of mind further down the road.

When you start the conversation, don't be surprised if there is an emotional or dismissive reaction at first. If this happens, take a break and come back to the conversation later.

It's important to listen carefully to everyone's point of view, before taking the lead to make thoughtful decisions.

Details to think about

Naturally, our instinct is to avoid thinking about things that upset us. To help make considering such details easier for you, we've put together some questions that will help you work through it:

- What kind of service would they like?
- Would they like to be waked?
- Is there any particular music you would like played?
- Is there anything they would like read out?
- Would they prefer a burial or a cremation?
- Is there a particular place they would like to be buried?
- If you think they wish to be cremated, what should happen to their ashes?
- Do you/they have a budget?
- Have you/they put any money aside for the service?
- Are there any messages they would like to leave behind for family or loved ones?
- Where will their wishes be captured?

Recording your wishes

You can help your loved one record their wishes in any way that feels right – you can handwrite them or type them up on their behalf. If you think following a template would be helpful, you can use the one at the end of this leaflet, or we can provide you with one if you contact us.

Regulations

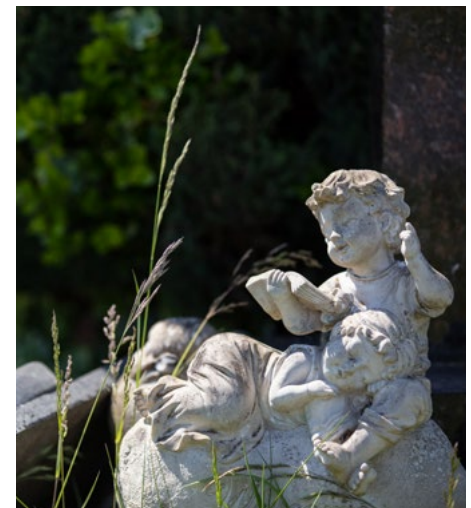
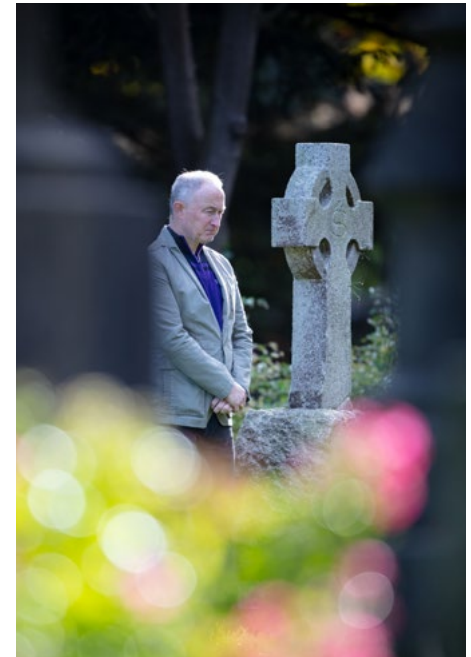
As you would expect, there are certain regulations that must be followed, and they are slightly different for burials and cremations. It's good to be aware that there are more forms to be completed and signed by loved ones before cremations can proceed, in comparison to burials. However, don't let that put you off. Rest assured that your chosen Funeral Director will be familiar with all requirements and will help your family to complete and return the relevant forms.

Pre-ordering a grave

Some people may wish to be buried in an existing family plot, some may have already pre-purchased their own grave, while others won't have given it much thought. There's no right or wrong. Whatever way you approach this emotional topic, it's an important thing to consider as part of the pre-planning process.

Did you know?

As Glasnevin Cemetery is such a well-known, historic place, people often assume that it's full. But in fact, it's still possible to purchase graves here. Graves are currently available at four out of our five cemeteries – Glasnevin Cemetery, Dardistown Cemetery, Goldenbridge Cemetery and Newlands Cross Cemetery. While Palmerstown Cemetery has no new spaces, burials may still take place at existing family plots.





Cremation

Cremations are becoming increasingly popular in Ireland and indeed around the world, but not everyone is overly familiar with how they work. This short guide will give you a really good insight into the options, so that you know if it's an appropriate choice for your loved one or not.

How does cremation work?

At its essence, cremation is an alternative to burial when someone passes away. Just like for burials, a wide range of coffins can be used and the service is usually very similar to what precedes a burial. At the end of the service, rather than the coffin being brought

outside to a grave, it moves into a private section of the crematorium or chapel. It's then placed into a specially designed cremator, which is sometimes in the same building or may be in a separate building nearby.

You might be worried about whether cremation services are religious or non-religious so it's good to know they can be either, whatever best reflects your loved one's beliefs. Most religions allow cremation, including most Christian denominations. However, some religions like Orthodox Judaism and Islam don't allow it.

Cremation Services

At Dublin Cemeteries Trust, we work with your Funeral Director and family to create beautiful, thoughtful services that truly reflect your loved one's wishes and personality.

There are three types of service that you can have at a crematorium:

Committal Service

If you wish to have the main funeral service at a church or other location, you can choose a Committal Service at your crematorium of choice afterwards. This is a short service, similar to what would happen at a cemetery burial, but indoors in a chapel-type setting.

Full-Service Funeral

With a Full-Service Funeral, you have the entire service at the crematorium. This is a longer service, and it usually takes place in a chapel onsite. Once again, this service can be either religious or non-religious.

Non-Service Funeral

With this option, there's no service at all in advance of the cremation.

What happens to the ashes?

Ashes are usually available a couple of days after the cremation service. At this point, many people are unsure what to do with their loved one's ashes, but by pre-planning and thinking about the options in advance, you can take the pressure off when the time comes.

Cremation increases your opportunities to create a unique and meaningful memorialisation. That's because there are so many options for what to do – it really depends on what feels most true to their character. You might wish to keep your loved one's ashes close to you at home or another popular choice is to scatter ashes in a place that holds special meaning. A final resting place is still important to many people though, so it's also quite popular to bury your loved one's ashes in a family grave, or to place them in a Garden of Remembrance or Columbarium Wall (a special wall which contains small niches to hold urns). This is a particularly good option if you wish to keep closer to burial traditions, while incorporating cremation.

Trends in cremation are continuously changing and becoming more expressive and creative. Beyond the more customary options for ashes, there are also more unusual things that can be done.

Examples of newer trends include:

- Having your ashes pressed into a vinyl album
- Turning them into jewellery
- Putting them into special walking sticks that scatter the ashes as they're walked
- Planting a tree over a biodegradable urn
- Creating a diamond from the ashes
- Adding them as sand in an hourglass

As you can see, you can be as traditional or innovative as you feel is suitable.



We're honoured to guide you and your loved one

Whatever funeral plan feels right for your loved one, you can be confident that Dublin Cemeteries Trust will honour and care for them in the final celebration of their life. We've been providing funeral services to people of all religions and none since 1828, and we would be honoured to carry out your loved one's wishes when the time comes.

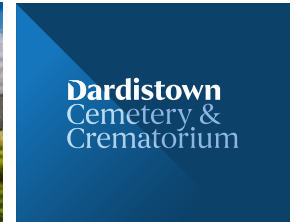
Each of our locations offers a beautiful, unique and peaceful setting, and our approach is continuously evolving so that we can offer both time-honoured traditions and contemporary options with equal expertise.

Our experienced and compassionate staff at all five locations are always happy to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to contact them.

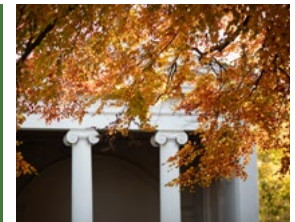
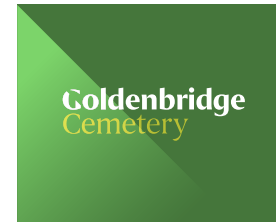
Glasnevin Cemetery & Crematorium
01 882 6500



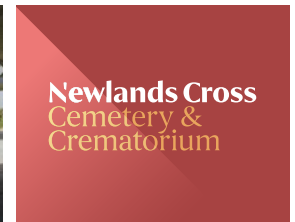
Dardistown Cemetery & Crematorium
01 842 4677



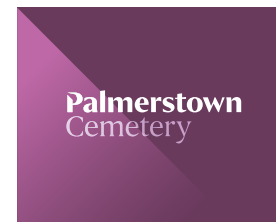
Goldenbridge Cemetery
01 882 6500



Newlands Cross Cemetery & Crematorium
01 459 2288



Palmerstown Cemetery
01 459 2288



My Funeral Wishes

By _____

When my time comes to an end, I'd love if you could follow these wishes in your celebration of my life.

Funeral Director/Arranger

If there's anyone in particular that you would like to arrange your funeral, please give their details here.

Funeral Service

What kind of a service would you like? Where would you like it to take place?

Music & Readings

*Do you have any music, readings or poems in mind?
Would you like anyone in particular to take part?
Please include all of your thoughts and ideas here.*

Burial or Cremation

Would you prefer to be buried or cremated?

Burial Location

*Where would you like to be buried if this is your preference?
If you have already reserved a place, please give those details here.*

Ashes Location

What would you like to happen to your ashes if you have chosen to be cremated? Would you like them buried, scattered or kept with a loved one? Or have you a different idea?

Coffin

What type of coffin would you like, if you have any preference?

Bearers

Who would you like to carry your coffin?

Flowers/Donations

Would you prefer flowers at your funeral or would you like to request donations to a charity or organisation?

If so, please name them here.

Epitaph

Is there any particular wording you would like, or would you prefer for your loved ones to decide on this?

Budget/plan

If you have put any money aside or invested in a pre-paid plan, please give details here.

Organ Donation

Would you like to donate your organs? Are you a registered donor? Please capture your wishes here.

Other Requests/Ideas

Please capture any other ideas that you have here.
