



FOUNDED IN 1828

GLASNEVIN TRUST

DARDISTOWN      GLASNEVIN      GOLDENBRIDGE  
NEWLANDS CROSS      PALMERSTOWN

## COVID-19

### Website Notice: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

In Glasnevin Trust we recognise that burials and cremations constitute a critical service to the public and it is vital therefore that these activities continue during the COVID-19 pandemic at each of our Glasnevin, Newlands Cross, Palmerstown, Dardistown and Goldenbridge locations.

Furthermore, Glasnevin Trust holds close to 200 years of tradition in this area, and through other epidemics, pandemics and times of difficulty we have held an enduring commitment to uphold the dignity of the deceased and their families at times of burial.

Equally, we must ensure that we protect our staff and we must also play our part in protecting the general public in delaying the spread of COVID-19.

Following the issue of Government directives on social gatherings, cultural institutions and workplace safety and following consultation with the Coroner's Office and issue of HSE directives relating to funerals, we have made the following changes to our operations:

- Our museum remains closed and tours suspended until 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- Booking of funerals should take place by phone in as far as possible so that face-to-face interaction with members of the public and with our colleagues in funeral directors is limited.
- There will be a restriction on chapel attendance in each site - maximum 50 attendees to allow for social distancing.
- We will implement the HSE restrictions on strictly limited attendance numbers at funerals where the family members are close contacts of a confirmed case (either confirmed contact of the deceased or another case).
- Where funeral arrangements are being made directly by a family, the family should designate a single point of contact. Where the deceased died of COVID-19, we ask that where possible, this person should not have been in close contact with the deceased.
- We will implement the HSE requirement that where the deceased has died of COVID-19 the coffin must remain closed in cemeteries and cremations. This is a mandatory requirement and no viewing of the body may take place at any Glasnevin Trust location, for public health reasons.
- In addition to observing hand-washing, respiratory hygiene and social distancing, our staff have been instructed not to engage in hand-shaking and we advise that attendees at funerals also refrain from hand-shaking.
- We are required to suspend the use of condolence books on our premises. The HSE recommends that people issue condolences through social media, online websites, text or by letter.
- The flower shops remain open, subject to further directives or guidelines issuing. However, the café will close from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.
- Social distancing measures are in place in each of these locations in addition to our reception areas, crematoriums, public toilet and staff areas.

- Hand sanitisers (subject to stock levels) will be available in all areas used by the public and our staff.
- We are increasing our cleaning protocols in our crematoriums, reception areas, café, toilet facilities and staff areas, including disinfection of door handles and counters at frequent intervals.
- We will continue the clear delineation of toilets for members of the public and staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented and evolving situation and we will update our website with other operational changes as they arise.

We recognise that some of these changes will impact on the experience of the funeral services that families would have otherwise wanted. However, we trust that the public will understand that these changes are Government mandated, so that Glasnevin Trust can both protect our staff and support the national effort to delay the spread of COVID-19.

**Aoife Watters**

**CEO**