

Parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton-on-Brock

Cemetery Regulations 2026

1. All burials and interments of cremated ashes in the cemetery for the time being adjacent to the church and presbytery of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton-on-Brock require the permission of the Parish Priest (that term including a Priest being the Parish Administrator). However:

- current parishioners, namely, regularly practising Catholics in the congregation of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton-on-Brock,
- those with a spouse already buried in the cemetery,
- those who had been a current parishioner of at least five years' standing but at the time of death were housebound or otherwise unable to attend at church, and
- those with the benefit of an agreement with the Parish as to a reserved burial space¹

can expect automatic permission for the burial of their body.

2. No more than two people and their infant children may be buried in any single grave site and the ashes of no more than two people may be interred in the grave site of another person. Permission for burials or interments of ashes other than as specified above is at the absolute discretion of the Parish Priest.

3. Permission for the interment of cremated ashes in a part of the cemetery specified by the Parish Priest or within an existing family grave will normally be granted automatically in relation to the ashes of persons specified in paragraph 1 but otherwise will be at the absolute discretion of the Parish Priest.

4. Fees chargeable for burials, interments of ashes and for the erection of memorials are as specified in the Fee Schedule following these Regulations unless, in any particular instance, the Parish Priest agrees to a lower fee in his discretion.

5. The cemetery is a sacred place, and gravestones, markers or other memorials of burial or interment must therefore conform to the norms of canon law and also to the particular norms which follow. No memorial of a burial or interment may be placed in the cemetery unless the design has been agreed in advance or received the prior approval of the current Parish Priest.

6. Permission to erect a memorial of a burial will normally be granted subject to the following conditions:

¹ Normally advance agreement as to a reserved burial space will only be given on payment of the then-current fee and will not involve reservation of a particular space in the cemetery.

- The memorial should be of stone and placed at the north-eastern end of the grave with the inscription orientated towards the south-west or should be a flat stone laid above the grave or a combination of the two.
- The following are not permitted as part of a memorial:
 - kerbs, railings, chippings, open books, monuments, shrines and statues
 - shrubs or trees or
 - unusual or inconsistent shapes, structures and/or colours.
- Any proposed memorial must harmonise with the natural landscape and appearance of the cemetery and be consistent with the style of existing memorials.
- The Parish Priest must be consulted about any portraiture, inscriptions, photographs or pictorial etchings proposed for headstones.
- A container for flowers should be appropriate and restricted to the area immediately in front of the headstone.

7. Generally, no memorial headstone should be more than 36" high (including its plinth), 38" wide and 6" thick and no flat stone memorial should be more than 78" long, 38" wide and 9" high. A memorial may also consist of a cross on a base, as long as the cross and base are no more than 66" high (including the base), 28" wide at the base and 24" wide at the arms of the cross and 6" thick. In any event, the structure should be firmly anchored in accordance with then-current Health and Safety regulations. There should be an inscription on the memorial in plain lettering recording at least the name of the dead person and his or her age or their dates or years of birth and death. Any further inscription should be brief².

8. The place of interment of cremated ashes (other than in existing graves) may be marked by a small wooden cross with minimal wording on a brass plate. It should be understood, however, that wooden memorials are of their nature temporary and may be removed when decayed. More permanent memorials are to take the form of stone tablets set flat at ground level and measuring no more than 15" x 12". The inscription should comply with paragraph 7.

9. Flowers should be natural and fresh. Plastic flowers are permitted but may be removed if they are not in keeping with the appearance of the cemetery or have started to degrade; toys and the like are not permitted.

10. Graves and interment sites remain the property of the Parish but neither the Parish, the Parish Priest nor any of their representatives or trustees can accept any responsibility for loss or damage to or caused by memorials or any part of them or any

² Further inscriptions should normally be restricted to expressions in keeping with the Christian faith, such as requests for prayers or an indication of very close relationships. Expressions of a sentimental nature are discouraged and expressions which are not in keeping with the sacred nature of the place or which imply that a person (or ashes) is (but who in fact is not) buried or interred at that place may not be approved

things associated with them or in relation to the removal of any of them pursuant to paragraph 11. If the cemetery is full, the Parish reserves the right to re-use grave or ashes interment sites and to remove their memorials to other parts of the cemetery.

11. The maintenance of each memorial and ensuring that it complies with all applicable regulations is the responsibility of the family of those commemorated by it. However, should any memorial not be maintained and otherwise comply with these Regulations, the Parish Priest shall be entitled to act in that regard (including laying the memorial flat at ground level) or procure its removal on such terms as he deems appropriate. It is also the responsibility of those given permission for a burial to remove from the cemetery all the spoil excavated from the grave site.



Fee Schedule (effective 1 May 2026³)

Burials	
Current parishioners (and their spouses)	£1,000
Non-parishioners	£7,500
Further burial(s)	£400 each
Interments of ashes	
Current parishioners (and their spouses)	£400
Non-parishioners	£1,500
Interment of ashes into a family grave	£200

The above fees are for granting permission (whether automatic or discretionary) for burial, for interment of ashes and/or for permission to carry out the relevant work. The digging or opening of a grave and the stonemason's work is a separate charge, payable to the undertaker or stonemason, and should, if possible, include the cost of removal of spoil.

³ Fees as set by the Cloughton Catholic Association/Pastoral Council on 7 April 2026 and approved by the Parish Priest. They will remain in effect until reviewed by the Association.