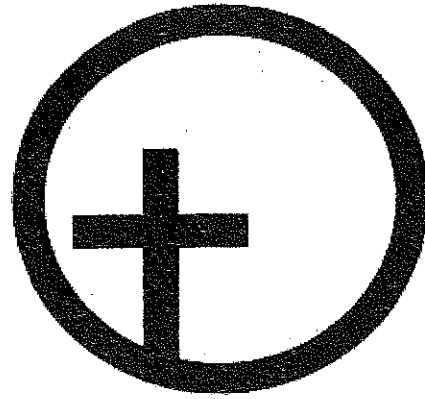


Can a Catholic be Cremated?

For many centuries the Church insisted that Catholics follow only the manner of Christ's burial by either entombing or burying the body. However, since 1963, the Church declared that cremation can be an alternative to burial.



Cremation does not deny the Christian doctrine of the souls immortality nor the resurrection of the body.

As Catholics we see the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and the Church prefers that cremation be carried out only after the actual body was present at the funeral Mass.

Since 1997, the Congregation for Divine Worship approved cremation as an acceptable practice for Catholics and allows for the cremated remains to be present at a funeral Mass, provided that they are reverently buried or afterwards entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.

This means we should not keep the ashes on display at home on the mantle or put away in a bank vault. This precludes the scattering of remains in public parks, on mountain tops, along highways or divided amongst friends and family members.

There is a spiritual and emotional benefit when the cremated remains are laid to rest in a proper place for burial. It gives the bereaved a place to focus remembrance and to pray for the deceased.

The Catholic Teaching on Euthanasia

Invites you to attend a discussion evening on: Wednesday, November 15th, 2017 at 7:00 pm at St. Peter's Church. Guidelines for the celebration of the sacraments with persons and families considering or opting for death by assisted suicide or euthanasia.