



# CARRICKFERGUS & WHITEHEAD PARISH

## CEMETERY PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

Death is a difficult moment in the lives of families and individuals at any time and especially under the current circumstances. When someone we love dies, we naturally look to others for support but this is not possible at this time.

The advice received from the Government and from health agencies are clear that, during the current emergency, everyone should do everything possible to protect, as far as is practical, everyone from infection.

Accordingly, the following procedures will take place with immediate effect on all burials at Prospect and Minorca Cemeteries until further notice.

- ❖ Following from guidelines issued by the Government, only immediate family should be present at a burial and should be limited to 10 people excluding the Celebrant.
- ❖ Committals will be limited to 15 minutes and mourners are asked to leave the graveside immediately after the committal prayers, and avoid any contact with each other.
- ❖ Mourners will be asked to stand five metres away from the grave.
- ❖ All those present must follow social distancing guidelines – you should not attend if you are symptomatic or self-isolating.
- ❖ The casting of soil into the grave by anyone other than the Celebrant is to be omitted.
- ❖ The family may live stream the burial, with the agreement of the funeral director and Celebrant, ensuring that it does not cause a delay in the committal.

The death of a loved one is a distressing time. In these very difficult circumstances, we ask for your understanding that these measures are being put in place to protect the mourners, the staff of the Cemetery and the Funeral Directors who are carrying out this critical service, and to protect members of the public.

Parochial House.

8 Minorca Place, Carrickfergus, BT38 8AU

Tel: 028 9336 3269

Email: [carrickfergus@downandconnor.com](mailto:carrickfergus@downandconnor.com)