

## **Pregnancy, Infant and Child Loss Burial: Jesus & the Children and Rachel's Garden Sections of the Gardens of Gethsemani Cemetery**

### **1.0 General Regulations**

The regulations of the Roman Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Vancouver apply to the placement of memorials, use, visitation, and services in the Jesus and the Children and Rachel's Garden sections of the cemetery.

### **1.2 Dedication**

Jesus and the Children and Rachel's Garden are dedicated to remembering and memorializing pregnancy, infant and child loss. A designated area within the Jesus and the Children section are only for children. Families who wish to select a plot near their child can work with a Family Services Advisor to choose a location within the general vicinity.

### **1.3 Burial and Memorialization Rules**

#### **Jesus and the Children**

- **\* Common Grave:** The free common grave and small plot for infants prior to 42 weeks' gestation or less than 12" in size is offered as a ministry of Christian charity, mercy, and hope, reflecting the Catholic Church's deep respect for the sanctity of life. No grave plot, liner or service fee. Memorialization plaques can be purchased for the butterfly wall.
- **Private Child Small Plot:** If infant is less than 42 weeks' gestation, no grave plot, liner or service fee.
- For infants or children older than 42 weeks' gestation and less than 20" in size. There is a subsidized plot fee. If a casket/liner combo is not available, a mandatory liner is required for purchase. Memorialization is mandatory with a standard size memorial. Service fees are waived.
- **Private Child Medium Plot (3' x 4'):** For infants or children 21" - 47" in size. There is a subsidized plot fee. If a casket/liner combo is not available, a mandatory liner is required for purchase. Memorialization is mandatory with a standard size memorial. Service fees are waived.
- **Private Child Large Plot (3' x 8'):** For children over 47" in size. There is a subsidized plot fee. If a casket/liner combo is not available, a mandatory liner is required for purchase. Memorialization is mandatory with a standard size memorial. Service fees are waived.

\*The free common grave and small plot for pre-born and infants up to 42 weeks is offered as a ministry of Christian charity, mercy, and hope, reflecting the Catholic Church's deep respect for the sanctity of life. This act of generosity is rooted in both spiritual and pastoral care, ensuring that pre-born and infants receive a dignified and sacred burial.

## Rachel's Garden

- No burial plots available.
- Memorial plaques can be purchased.

Only authorized memorials can be installed in Jesus and the Children and Rachel's Garden. Unauthorized items may be removed by the cemetery without notice. Memorials and inscriptions must be consistent with the dignity of the cemetery. The cemetery has the final authority on the appropriateness of memorials and inscriptions.

### 1.4 Common Grave Burial Services

- Conducted without the family being present.
- Families may perform committal services in the Evangelist Chapel, at the Jesus and the Children Statue, or the Butterfly Wall.
- No memorials will be placed on common graves, and the lot location will not be disclosed to the family.
- The family acknowledges that the cemetery holds the interment rights, and that the infant cannot be disinterred from the grave.

Date of Approval 2 June 2025

Approved by Director

Pete R. By