



# MEMORIALS

## The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Are these memorials just for Buddhists?**

No. The Great Stupa is a center of interfaith harmony. Memorials are for all who appreciate the peaceful, inclusive, and harmonious atmosphere, including your beloved family pets.

#### **Are memorials at the Great Stupa conducted like as a funeral?**

No. Unlike a funeral, a memorial at the Great Stupa usually includes only immediate family and friends, and due to the time it takes to arrange the memorial plaque, a memorial will take a month or two to arrange.

#### **Must I wait for the plaque to arrive before the interment?**

You may wish to place the ashes sooner and allow us to place the plaque on your behalf once it has been designed, crafted, and delivered. This type of memorial can be arranged in just a few weeks. If there is to be no blessing ceremony, then a memorial could possibly be arranged even sooner. A beautiful silver lotus plate is placed, to seal a wall niche temporarily or place a temporary marker at a tree, until the crafted plaque is received.

#### **How long does it take to arrange a memorial?**

When a completed Memorial Booking Form and full payment are received, arrangements can be started. It takes on average eight to ten weeks for the plaque to be designed, crafted, and delivered. Once the plaque arrives, a date for the memorial placement can be requested. Delivery times for plaques is approximate only. You may wish to place the ashes sooner and allow us to place the plaque on your behalf once it has been designed, crafted, and delivered.

#### **Can we have a Buddhist blessing?**

We can enquire on your behalf, to members of Sangha, for a monk or nun to dedicate prayers of auspiciousness. Days and times for a memorial blessing ceremony are subject to Sangha availability around retreats, prayer times, mealtimes, and other duties. A blessing ceremony generally is approximately 30 minutes.

#### **Can I choose the memorials location?**

Our Memorial Manager will assist you in choosing a memorial wall or tree location based on current availability. We will always do our best to accommodate your wishes, but ultimately it is the decision of the Great Stupa management.

### **What day can I book an interment and/or memorial ceremony?**

Memorials can be requested most weekdays, but are not available on Sundays, long weekends, or public holidays. If you are wanting a blessing ceremony, weekdays are preferred as they are quieter for visitor and group tour numbers compared to weekends. The Stupa is not closed to the public during a memorial ceremony, but tours will cease briefly.

### **Can I place ashes anywhere at the Great Stupa site?**

The Memorial Terrace Garden is a defined area on the grounds of the Great Stupa, for the purpose of interment of cremated remains, and placement of memorial plaques. Memorial placements are exclusive to the purpose-built memorial walls and designated memorial trees.

### **What do the fees cover?**

The fees cover all aspects of the memorial, including: the bronze plaque, the ceremony, a donation to the Great Stupa, offerings to the Sangha, and an allocation for the upkeep of the memorial into perpetuity. Tree Memorials are for 50 years and then the bronze plaque will be relocated for perpetuity to a memorial area nearby. There are no annual fees.

### **Can I pre-pay and plan for a future memorial for myself and/or family?**

Planning a memorial in advance can be a great comfort to your family and loved ones. Your memorial wishes will be noted on the Memorial Booking Form and kept for future arrangements.

### **Can I book adjoining memorials?**

Subject to availability adjoining Stupa Wall Memorials, Wall Niche Memorials, and Tree Memorials can be reserved. Simply pay the deposit within 30 days to secure the booking and payment option.

### **Must I place all the ashes with the memorial?**

It is up to the applicant to decide if they wish to place all the ashes or some of the ashes. Some people choose to not place any ashes and simply have the memorial plaque placed in memory of the deceased.

### **What happens if I don't have ashes of the deceased?**

Stupa Wall Memorials and Wall Niche Memorials can have items such as hair, nail clippings, photographs, letters, or belongings placed inside of the memorial walls instead of ashes. Tree Memorials can only accept ashes, as they are scattered into the earth beneath the trees. Memorials can also be placed in memory of a loved one, with no ashes/items, just simply the plaque.

### **What will happen if a Memorial Tree gets sick, or dies?**

If our Garden Supervisor determines that a Memorial Tree needs to be replaced, arrangements will be made to replace the sick or dying tree. If possible, the tree will be removed by hand and each section of soil will be collected and preserved to be returned to the same location.

### **How much space do I have in the Memorial Wall?**

Both the Stupa Wall Memorials and the Wall Niche Memorials offer a space no larger than 145mm (W) x 115mm (H) x 250mm (L); this is the standard cremation urn size.

### **What if I change my mind?**

A 30-day cooling off period applies. Please refer to our "Change of mind" policy along with the "Memorial Booking Form" for further details.

### **Will my memorial booking expire?**

A memorial, that has not been placed, will expire 108 years from the agreement date noted on the memorial booking form. Reserved memorial places cannot be held indefinitely.

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