

s.clarke+son COVID-19 statement

S Clarke and Son Funeral Directors are aware of the extra difficulties that the current COVID-19 health crisis may cause for families who find themselves dealing with the loss of a loved one.

As a Company, we take our social responsibilities towards the families we serve in our community and our staff very seriously – especially those people in the most vulnerable groups who make up the majority of mourners who would usually attend funeral services.

Considering the recent changes in Government advice around social-distancing/social-isolation, particularly for those over the age of 70 or with certain pre-existing health conditions, most faith groups have now recommended that funerals should be kept as small as possible by holding private services. Likewise, as of Wednesday March 18th, Roselawn Crematorium is restricting the number of mourners to a maximum of thirty at this time.

At S Clarke and Son, we will continue to offer the same caring compassionate service that we have provided over the past 100 years. However, in order to protect the wider community, **the way funerals are conducted will have to temporarily adjust.**

Funeral Church Service Limitations

We believe that it is both prudent, and wise, to recommend that **families restrict mourners to immediate and close family only.** We will additionally follow any further government guidance in this matter which is subject to change on a daily basis.

We are aware that some immediate family members may be directly affected by COVID-19 infection following a bereavement. Therefore, we have taken exceptional measures to try to help those families by providing them with a dignified funeral service at a suitable time. (This will be subject to current Government advice.)

Funeral Services for Wider Family & Friends

For those wider family and friends who find themselves unable to be present at the funeral, we hope our **free “LIVEstream” service** can help, allowing them to watch online.

Since 2006 we have been “live streaming” services from our Bangor and Newtownards funeral churches. The password protected system already **allows viewers to see the funeral service in high quality video, both live or as a recording, for up to one month.** In the last two days, we have taken additional measures to help those who feel unfamiliar with modern technology have easier access to the online service.

Memorial Services

Additionally, if families have held a restricted funeral service due to the current public health crisis, they may wish to avail of the **complementary use of our funeral churches at a later time to hold a memorial service.** We hope this will offer extended families and friends the opportunity to express their solidarity with families and, in a more traditional manner, celebrate the life that has passed.

Bereavement at any time can feel overwhelming. As a fourth-generation family funeral director, we are here to help support and guide families through one of the most emotionally difficult times of their lives. Together, we can help you and your family navigate the loss of a loved one with dignity in these difficult times.

