



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors/Administrators, Cemetery Directors, Cemetery Record Keepers, and Staff
From: David Gabert
Date: April 24, 2024
RE: Importance of Memorial Day for Catholic Cemeteries

It is hard to believe that another Memorial Day is just a month away! Please know that I appreciate how difficult this winter cycle has been on “spring clean-up” and for many of you, it is the third/fourth time this is necessary. For our cemeteries just opening – I realize we have an extended mud season. Given the late weather snowstorms/rain visiting New Hampshire, it might be a larger effort than compared to normal years. Please know that I understand that you and your staff have competing priorities, so I want to **THANK YOU** for all of your efforts to have our cemeteries ready by Memorial Day and encourage you to contact me for assistance.

As you know, Memorial Day is a time to solemnly honor all men and women who have died in service of our country. Thousands of visitors will come to our cemeteries on Memorial Day weekend – some for the first time. First impressions are extremely important because they tend to be lasting, even if they are not 100% accurate. Prior to Memorial Day weekend on May 25, 26, and 27, anything that can be done to get that first cut and trim completed would be appreciated by all our visitors. In addition, sprucing up the entrances, cleaning/replacing signage, and/or repairing roadways is encouraged.

Should the opportunity present itself on Memorial Day Weekend, perhaps communicate the importance of Catholic Cemeteries and use the materials found on the Cemetery Office website at [Resources for Cemetery Staff - Diocese of Manchester \(catholicnh.org\)](https://www.catholicnh.org/resources-for-cemetery-staff). Call me directly if you would like additional flyers to distribute to your parishioners. That same link has other important communications, rule templates, forms, and best practices pertaining to opening for the season – check it out.

I appreciate all you do to comfort those suffering loss in a compassionate manner and for being mindful of our responsibility to respect the dignity of the deceased individuals in our care – thanks again! If I can be helpful in anyway, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at (603) 663-0191 or dgabert@rcbm.org. I stand ready to support and assist you in this important ministry.

I wish all of you a Blessed Memorial Day Weekend!