

OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM CATHOLIC CHURCH, OYARIFA
REVISED FUNERAL ATTENDANCE & WELFARE SUPPORT POLICY

Policy No.: 12/03/2026

Date: 8th March 2026

PREAMBLE

Following its meeting held on **8th March 2026**, the **Church Pastoral Council (CPC)** resolved that **Policy No. 18/01/2026** be reviewed in order to address the current practical and pastoral exigencies facing the Church.

Accordingly, after careful consideration of the recommendations submitted by the Review Committee, the CPC has adopted this revised framework.

This **Funeral Policy No. 12/03/2026** shall constitute the **effective policy governing funeral attendance and related welfare arrangements within Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church, Oyarifa.**

The provisions contained in this policy shall **take effect from 1st June 2026** and shall guide all funeral arrangements within the parish unless otherwise reviewed or amended by the **Church Pastoral Council (CPC).**

1. INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Church” means *Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church, Oyarifa.*

“CPC” means the **Church Pastoral Council**, the governing administrative body responsible for pastoral and policy decisions within the parish.

“Day-Born Group” means the recognised parish fellowship groups organised by days of birth within the parish.

“Society” means any recognised church association or ministry within the parish including but not limited to Catholic Women Organisation (CWO), Knights and Ladies, Youth groups, Choir, Charismatic Renewal, and similar approved organisations.

“Bereaved Parishioner” means a parishioner who has lost a **dependent**, namely:

- father
- mother
- spouse
- child

“Good Standing Member” means a parishioner who:

- has paid all parish dues and levies, and

- has not defaulted in payment for more than **three (3) months**.

“Voluntary Welfare Scheme” means the optional welfare programme operated within the parish for members who contribute regularly for the purpose of receiving benefits during bereavement or hardship.

“Funeral Attendance” means the official participation of parish groups, societies, or representatives of the Church in funeral rites organised by a bereaved parishioner.

2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

- a. All deaths occurring before 1st June 2026 shall be regulated by the Funeral Attendance Policy (Policy No. 18/01/2026).
- b. This Funeral Policy No. 08/03/2026 shall apply to all deaths occurring on or after 1st June 2026, **and all funeral arrangements relating to such deaths shall be governed by this policy.**

3. FUNERAL ATTENDANCE ARRANGEMENT

- a. Funeral attendance shall primarily be organised by:
 - i. the **Day-Born Group of the bereaved parishioner**, or
 - ii. any **recognised Society** to which the bereaved parishioner belongs.
- b. Other parish groups shall **not be under any obligation** to attend funerals.
- c. Where the funeral is held **outside Accra**, attendance shall be limited to:
 - i. the bereaved parishioner’s group or society, and
 - ii. the family’s own network of friends.
- d. Where the funeral is held **within Accra**, parishioners are to attend in solidarity with the bereaved family.

4. CHURCH SUPPORT TO BEREAVED PARISHIONERS

Subject to verification that the member is a **good standing parishioner**, the Church shall provide the following support:

- a. **Funeral Donation**
 - i. **The Church shall make a cash donation of GHS 500 to the bereaved parishioner after the funeral.**
- b. **Second Collection**
 - i. **Where the Burial Mass is held at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church (OLSWCC), Oyarifa, the second collection taken during the Mass shall be given to the bereaved family as part of the Church’s support.**

c. Coffin Support

- i. Where a parishioner dies, the Church shall provide **coffin support of GHS 2,000** to the family.

d. Welfare Scheme Benefits

- i. Where the bereaved parishioner is a member of the **Voluntary Welfare Scheme**, the person shall receive **benefits under the scheme in addition to the Church donations under this section.**

5. OTHER PARISH SOCIAL SUPPORT

In addition to funeral support, the parish shall provide the following welfare gestures:

a. Weddings

The Church shall present the couple with:

- i. a **Bible**, and **Rosary**.
- ii. A second collection if the wedding is held at OLSWCC, Oyarifa

b. Hospitalisation

Where a parishioner is hospitalised:

- i. Representatives of the Church or Welfare Committee shall visit the sick parishioner.
- ii. Based on the recommendation of the Welfare Committee, the Church may provide **cash support to assist the parishioner.**

6. SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR PARISH WELFARE SUPPORT

- a. Funding for welfare activities under this policy shall come from:
 - i. **One designated second collection every month.**

7. ROLE OF THE PARISH PRIEST AND CPC

The **Welfare Committee**, in consultation with the **Priest In-charge**, shall:

- a. oversee implementation of this policy; and
- b. ensure fairness and pastoral sensitivity in administering welfare support.

8. STATUS OF POLICY

- a. This document constitutes an **administrative policy** and does not abolish:
 - i. the Church's spiritual obligations to parishioners, or
 - ii. the voluntary welfare schemes operated within the parish.

- b. All parishioners are encouraged to cooperate fully in the spirit of **unity, compassion, and responsible stewardship.****

Approved by:

Church Pastoral Council (CPC)

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church, Oyarifa

Policy Reference: 08/03/2026 (Revised)