

*God created the world and declared it to be good,
and has never backed away from this assertion.*

(Gen 1:1 – 2:3)

The St. Francis Pet Memorial Garden at St. Mary's is one of two such gardens on the property of an Anglican church on Vancouver Island (the other will be in Central Saanich).



This is a dream several people in the parish shared and we are thrilled to see it become a reality. For those of us on the committee and for many of you as well, our pets are part of the family, and when they die, we grieve.

The St. Francis Pet Memorial Garden provides a beautiful woodland setting for people in Nanoose Bay, surrounding communities and members of St. Mary's to inter the ashes of their beloved pet.

During a simple ceremony led by our priest, the ashes will be dug into a communal memorial planter and the name of the pet added, if so desired, to the memorial board. Support for those who are grieving will be provided if requested.

The committee chose to go with a landscaper who would use the natural contour and native plants in the chosen area to make a natural space that blends in with its surroundings, adding some native flowering plants to enhance the existing beauty of the forest.

The garden will feature a beautiful memorial planter and memorial board, a stunning statue of St. Francis - the patron saint of animals, and a lovely granite bench.

It will take time for the added trees and plants to grow, mature and blossom but even still, the space is quiet and peaceful; a wonderful place to sit in the dappled sunlight and get lost in memories, and discover awe and gratitude for God's creation and all the living beings in it.

**You don't have to have lost a pet to enjoy the garden.
Come and spend a few quiet minutes before the service begins on Sunday
or plan to arrive a little early for one of your meetings.
You will come away refreshed.**

**Burial of ashes will be done once a month on a Sunday
with a simple service for anyone who wants their pet ashes interred.
For those who would prefer a private burial, please contact KAT in the front office.**

*We celebrate all that God has created and we respect all aspects of this amazing Creation.
And we give thanks for the pets who have brought joy to our lives.*



**St. Mary Anglican Church
O: 250.468.5684**

E: admin@stmarynb.ca

**2600 Powder Point Road, Nanoose Bay
www.stmarynb.ca**