



The **trumpeting Angel Moroni**, a Book of Mormon prophet, is a common symbol above Mormon temples.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (ALSO KNOW AS MORMONISM)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed to Joseph Smith Junior, a US American. Joseph Smith is regarded by Latter-day Saints as a Prophet.

The movement emphasises that it is Christian, while it is regarded as holding distinctive beliefs. Latter-day Saints accept the Christian Bible and other sacred texts of the faith including *The Book of Mormon, Another Witness of Jesus Christ*, which contains revelations given to Joseph Smith.

There are approximately thirteen million Mormons in the world, with 6 million of these living in the USA.

Summary of Essential Practice Points:

Please refer to the full text of the highlighted points related to the following summary points.

1 Profile of Latter-day Saints in Ireland:

Latter-day Saints in Ireland are from a number of countries including Ireland, the UK, other EU countries, the Philippines, North and South America and African countries. Most are to be found in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick and other smaller urban centres. The movement refers to members as *Latter-day Saints* and not 'Mormons'.

2 Religious contacts and religious practices:

The church has home teachers whose role includes visiting members in hospital. The person or family will normally know the name of their Home teacher or the contact number for an elder who can perform religious ceremonies. If these contacts are not known a contact can be sourced through the number provided at the end of the section.

3 Death-related religious rituals:

The home teacher or elder should be called if a person is in danger of death to provide spiritual support to the person. There are no specific rituals for dying Latter-day Saints.

4 Cleaning and touching the body:

The normal washing and preparation procedure can be carried out. The *sacred garment* (described under *Personal and religious items*) may be removed when washing a body and should be replaced afterwards.

5 Initiation ritual/infant baptism:

Baptism of newborns and infants in danger of death is not necessary.

Profile of Latter-day Saints in Ireland

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a well developed international missionary programme, usually conducted by young people in their late teenage years to early twenties. Census 2006 indicated that the number of Latter-day Saints in the Republic of Ireland increased by 48.5% between 2002 and 2006, with the religion having 1,237 members in 2006.

Essential Practice Point

1

The Latter-day Saints indicate that members are from a number of countries including Ireland, the UK, other EU countries, the Philippines, North and South America and African countries. Most Latter-day Saints are to be found in urban centres such as Dublin (four congregations), Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Dundalk, Bray, Sligo, Tralee and Mullingar.

Some Latter-day Saints were raised within the religion while others have converted. Both categories are represented within the current membership in Ireland.

The movement refers to members as Latter-day Saints and not 'Mormons'. The term Latter-day Saint should be used to describe the person for data purposes, etc.

Care of the ill

Religious contacts and religious practices

Essential Practice Point

2

- The movement has home teachers whose role includes visiting members in hospital. Church elders perform religious ceremonies. The person or family will normally know the name of their home teacher or the contact number for an elder. This contact needs to be sourced from the person on arrival so that appropriate support can be contacted as necessary. If these contacts are not known, a contact may be sourced directly by the healthcare setting through the number provided at the end of the section.
- Home teachers conduct blessings of the sick and dying, which involve anointing with oil and laying of hands upon the head of the sick person.

Family dynamics and decision making

Some members are converts from other religions. There is a possibility of conflict in relation to religious services if family members do not respect this choice. Here, as in other cases, the wishes of the person are paramount.

Blood Transfusion and Organ Transplantation

There is no religious objection to these matters.

Care of the Dying

Death-related religious rituals

Essential Practice Point

3

- The home teacher or elder should be called if a person is in danger of death to provide spiritual support to the person.
- There are no specific rituals for dying Latter-day Saints. The person may wish to receive a blessing from an elder. Latter-day Saints believe that the best preparation for death is to live righteously.

Cleaning and touching the body

Essential Practice Point

4

- The normal washing and preparation procedure can be carried out.
- The *sacred garment* (described under *Personal and religious items*) may be removed when washing a body and should be replaced afterwards.

Postmortem requirements

There is no religious objection to postmortem.

Interment ritual

Burial is preferable to cremation for Latter-day Saints, while it is a matter for the family to decide. A simple and dignified service is normally held at the meeting house if that is the family's wish.

Religious Icons and Symbols

Personal and religious items

- Some Latter-day Saints, both male and female, may wear a sacred garment. This may be removed with consent from the person as required and should always be replaced.
- Members may carry a copy of the *Christian Bible* and other holy texts.

Use of religious symbols

The Latter-day Saints do not use religious icons as part of their religious practices. It is not appropriate to display the crucifix, cross, or use candles in a mortuary area when Latter-day Saints are using the facility.

Additional Notes on Maternity and Paediatric Care

Initiation ritual/infant baptism

Essential Practice Point

5

Latter-day Saint children are usually baptised when they reach the age of eight. They believe that little children are incapable of committing sin hence infant baptism is not necessary.

Foetal, infant and child death

There are no specific religious requirements governing miscarriage, stillbirth infant or child death. The home teacher or elders can provide solace to parents and other family members by

offering prayer, reading scripture, giving sensitive counsel, providing blessings of comfort or otherwise being available to assist in any way required.

Memento of a deceased child

It is best to check with family before offering a memento of a deceased child.

Developing a Latter-day Saints Contact

The name of the person's religious contact (home teacher and elders) should be sourced directly from the person. Requests for information and the contact details for the local home teacher and elders can be sourced from the Latter-day Saints headquarters if necessary.

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Contributor

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