

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

JOSEPH O'BRIEN

19TH SEPTEMBER 1927 - 4TH DECEMBER 2022

SAINTS MARY AND JOSEPH CATHEDRAL, ARMIDALE
11AM MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2022



ENTRANCE HYMN | How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands have made
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art

Hine S & NIG

SPRINKLING OF THE COFFIN

PLACING OF THE PALL | *Carmel Heagney & Eileen Efstathis*

Joe was baptized a child of God. The white pall is placed on the coffin as a symbol of his Baptism, his belonging to God. Through this we are reminded that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and that our life begins and continues with Him, through Him and in Him.

PLACING OF SYMBOLS | The Bible | *Mary Balam*

We place the Bible on the coffin because the Word of God was the foundation of Joe's life. He read scripture daily and he knew its power.

The Cross and Rosary Beads | *Maureen Locke*

The Cross has been placed on the coffin because Joe recognised Jesus as his personal Saviour and Lord.

The Rosary Beads symbolize his prayer life: the Rosary being a prayer he and Marie often recited together over many years.

The Veterinary Certificate and Graduation Sash | *Rosalie Hoffmann*

The Veterinary Certificate symbolizes Joe's calling in life, his expertise, interests and his profession, a career he chose to alleviate cruelty to animals that was prevalent 75 years ago.

The gold and purple Graduation Sash represents the 6 years he completed at Sydney University on a Commonwealth Scholarship.

The Harmonica | *Julie Chircop*

Music is one of God's special gifts to us. The harmonica is being placed on the coffin because Joe had a great love of music. He knew that music could both entertain and bless others because it could carry the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He learnt to play the harmonica as a teenager and enjoyed playing it to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Cap | *Colleen Ducat*

Joe loved wearing this cap which was given to him by his eldest daughter, Colleen. He wore it everywhere and it became part of his wardrobe, regardless of the season.

OPENING PRAYER

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS (REV. 21:1-7)

Read by Kate Slack-Smith

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband.

Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, “You see this city? Here God lives among his people. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there shall be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.”

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: “Now I am making the whole of creation new,” he said. “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he a son to me.”

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (23) THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

To be sung

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green he leadeth me
The quiet waters by

My soul he doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness
E'vn for his own name sake

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill
For thou art with me and thy rod
And staff me comfort still

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes
My head thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup overflows

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS (8:31b-35. 37-39)

Read by Mary Balam

With God on our side who can be against us?

Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give.

Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen?

When God acquits, could anyone condemn?

Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us –

he rose from the dead and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this, neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, not any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
That I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me,
And that I should raise it up on the last day
Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (6:37-40)

Jesus said to the crowd: 'All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me. Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY



GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Monsignor: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church, confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to His:

Paul Chircop: Lord, we pray for Joe, a child of God and heir to the kingdom, that he may be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Alanna Efstathis: In Baptism, Joe received the light of Christ. Lord, we ask you to disperse the darkness now and lead him into eternal rest.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Jane Locke: Lord, we pray for Joe's family, especially Marie, who walked with Joe for 70 years in marriage. May they receive your comfort and the healing power of Christ in the midst of pain and grief.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Jon Balam: Father, we thank you for Joe's life: his faith, generosity and his response to God. May his example and faith, inspire others to seek God and grow in their understanding of God's love.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Clare Stibbard: Lord, we pray for the deceased members of the O'Brien and Vogt families, especially Joe's parents, Peter and Kathleen and his brothers Kevin, Clem and John. May they all receive the mercy of God.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Meghan O'Brien: Father, please bless the work of the Servants of Jesus Community and the Good Shepherd Fellowship who helped Joe deepen his faith and develop his gift of sharing the Gospel.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Liam O'Brien: Lord, we pray for the staff and carers at McMaugh Gardens who cared for Joe over the last seven months, that their works of service would be richly blessed.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Andrew Hoffmann: We pray for all the people who are assembled here today in faith to remember Joe. May we all be gathered again in God's Kingdom in eternal life.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Monsignor: God our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people. Hear the prayers we offer in faith and confidence. We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION | *William, Josiah, Amelia and Eliza O'Brien*

OFFERTORY HYMN | The Fullness of God

Deep in Christ I pray you know, the pow'r he can give
May your hidden self grow strong, and may you live
Strong in faith and built on love, until you know
How high and long, how wide and deep. The fullness of God

May the God of Jesus Christ, the Father we serve
Fill your mind that you may see, deep in your heart
What hope his call now holds for you, his promise true
To fill your heart with power to live. The fullness of God

Know the way you learned from Christ to live life anew
Let your heart be drawn to Him, let Christ renew
The hope in you to grow into, goodness and truth
And living so you'll come to know. The fullness of God

F Andersen & CHE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN | Soul of My Saviour

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide
Wash me with water flowing from thy side

Strength and protection may thy Passion be
Oh Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me
So shall I never, never part from thee

Guard and defend me from the foe malign
In death's dread moments make me only thine
Call me, and bid me come to thee on high
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for aye

Pope Jn XXII/William Maher

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN | Abide With Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O thou who changest not, abide with me

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me

Henry Francis Lyte

EULOGY | *Presented by Peter O'Brien*

FINAL COMMENDATION | Invitation to Prayer

Monsignor: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother, Joe. May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

SONG OF FAREWELL

Saints of God come to his aid! Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!

Response: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;

May angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham. **R**

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon him. **R**

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother, Joe, in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise with him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Joe in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ. Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and with our brother forever. **R. Amen**

RECESSIONAL HYMN | I Am the Bread of Life

I am the bread of life, you who come to me shall not hunger

You who believe in me shall not thirst

No-one can come to me unless the Father beckons

And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up. And I will raise you up on the last day

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world

And you who eat of this bread, you shall live for ever. You shall live forever

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man

And drink of his blood, and drink of his blood. You shall not have life within you

I am the Resurrection, I am the life

You who believe in Me, even if you die. You shall live forever

Toolan S & GIA

PALLBEARERS

Peter O'Brien
Michael O'Brien
David O'Brien
Peter Ducat
Joseph Chircop

Bob Locke
Terry Balam
Peter Efsthathis
Gregory Heagney
Timothy Hoffmann



In lieu of flowers Joe's family invite you to make a donation to McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre in his memory.



The family would like to thank you for your presence here today, for your kind thoughts, prayers and for your expressions of sympathy and support. Following the prayers of committal at the Armidale Cemetery you are invited to share light refreshments from 2.00pm to 4.00pm with Joe's family at Armidale City Bowling Club.



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