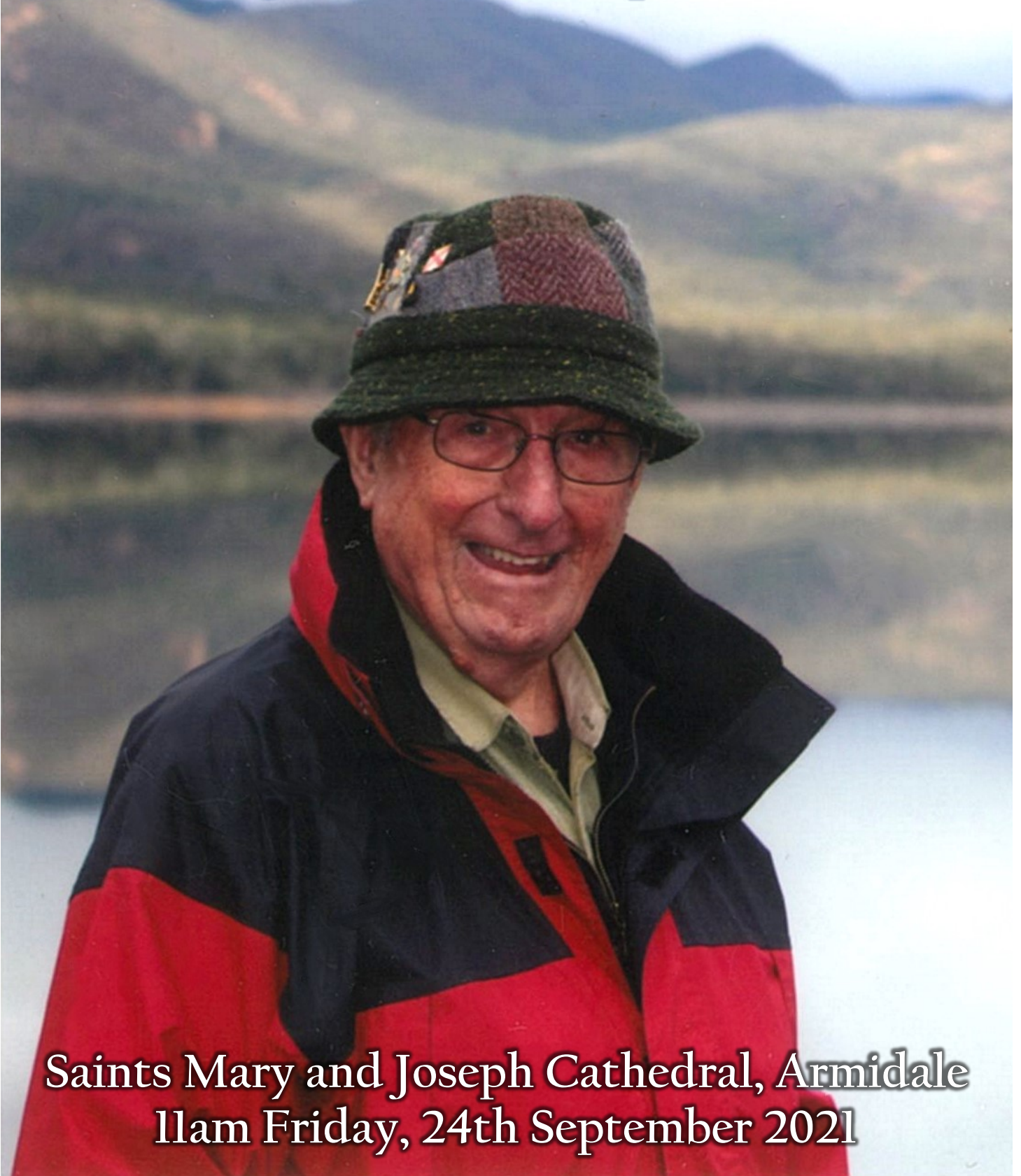


Mass of Christian Burial

John Anthony Fitzgerald

18th August 1931 - 16th September 2021



Saints Mary and Joseph Cathedral, Armidale
11am Friday, 24th September 2021

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Be Not Afraid” Dufford B & OCP

SPRINKLING OF THE COFFIN

PLACING OF THE PALL

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF REVELATION (14:13)

Read by Charlie Selby

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, “Write it down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.”

The Word of the Lord. **Response:** Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 23

Read by Ellen Lollback

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R:**

He guides me along the right path,
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R:**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R:**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R:**

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS
(1 TH 4:13-18)

Read by Clare Fitzgerald

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the Trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven: those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that all who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.

Alleluia

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (JN 14:1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, '

Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said;

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ





HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Read by Therese Fitzgerald and Glen Lollback

Priest: My dear friends in Christ, let us pray to our merciful Father and ask his help in our time of sorrow:

That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of John.

We pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That all of us, John's family and friends, may be comforted in our grief.

We pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord Jesus who blesses those who mourn and are in pain will look upon John's family and friends who gather around him today.

We pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Let us pray that all the faithful departed will find in God refreshment, rest and peace.

We pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. May God show mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against love and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

We pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: 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

COMMUNION HYMN

"On Eagles Wings" M Joncas & OCP

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Read by Christine Fitzgerald and Emily Selby

FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Priest: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother, John. 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, John, 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 John 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. Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Galilee Song” F Andersen & CHE



AN IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



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 cemetery you are invited to share light refreshments with John's family at Armidale City Bowling Club.



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