

Requiem Mass

St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

Friday 8th May, 2020

Mass celebrated by: Fr Justin Driscoll

Entrance Hymn

Galilee Song - So I Leave My Boats Behind (please stand)

Deep within my heart, I feel voices whispering to me.
Words that I can't understand; meanings I must clearly hear!
Calling me to follow close, lest I leave myself behind!
Calling me to walk into evening shadows one more time!

So I leave my boats behind!
Leave them on familiar shores!
Set my heart upon the deep!
Follow you again, my Lord!

In my memories, I know how you send familiar rains
Falling gently on my days, dancing patterns on my pain!
And I need to learn once more in the fortress of my mind,
To believe in falling rain as I travel deserts dry!

So I leave my boats behind!
Leave them on familiar shores!
Set my heart upon the deep!
Follow you again, my Lord!

As I gaze into the night down the future of my years,
I'm not sure I want to walk past horizons that I know!
And I need to learn once more like a stirring deep within,
Restless, 'til I live again beyond the fears that close me in!

So I leave my boats behind!
Leave them on familiar shores!
Set my heart upon the deep!
Follow you again, my Lord!

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Greeting

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Fr: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All: **Amen**

Fr: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Welcome and Placement of Symbols (each family)

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Words of Remembrance (please be seated)

Geoff George – former work colleague and close friend

Chris Cotter – close friend

Mark Sullivan – Gerard’s brother

Ella and Lucinda– Gerard’s daughters

Suzie – Gerard’s wife

Words from Gerard: An Ode To Family and Friends

Photographic Memories from Gerard’s Family and Life

Opening prayer (please stand)



Fr: Oh God of deliverance, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, You called Gerard Sullivan - our brother in Christ to serve you in weakness and pain, and gave him the grace of sharing the Cross of Your Son. Hear our prayers on behalf of Gerard, a loved husband and father, a cherished son, brother, nephew, cousin and uncle, a respected relative and friend whom you have now called out of this world, and because he put his hope and trust in you. Command that Gerard be carried safely home to Heaven to enjoy your eternal reward.

We asked this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Read by Claire Sullivan (please be seated)

A Reading from St Paul’s Letter to the Romans 8:35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Sung

Psalm 23

**Response: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants
Beyond my fears, from death into life**

God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love
I walk by the quiet waters of peace

Gently You raise me and heal my weary soul
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth
My spirit shall sing the music of Your Name

Though I should wander the valley of death
I fear no evil for You are at my side
Your rod and Your staff my comfort and my hope

You have set me a banquet of love
In the face of hatred crowning me with love
Beyond my power to hold

Surely Your kindness and mercy
follow me all the days of my life
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore

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Gospel Acclamation John 10:14 (please stand)

All: Alleluia, Alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:1-10 Fr Justin

Fr: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit.

Fr: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Fr: Jesus said:

'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily Fr Justin (please be seated)

Prayers of the Faithful (please stand)

Fr: God of tender compassion you call us to know the depths of your love.
Let us pray for Gerard who has died, and for strength, and hope for the living.

Frank Sullivan: Lord, thank you for Gerard's affect upon his daughters, Ella and Lucinda, and that he modelled what it is to be a good man. Gerard's presence was a gift to all and a reminder we can all strive to be kinder, more loving and accepting to all. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Tanya Wilson: Lord, we thank you for the role of father, husband, brother, son, uncle and friend. May Gerard's brave acceptance of an early exit, the love he showed his family, being at peace and trusting in God forever be a reminder how we walk the journey together in all our roles, no matter who we are or how challenging life can be. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Chris Sullivan: We pray for Suzie, Ella and Lucinda; and for all of Gerard's Family and Friends. We commend to God all those whose loved one has died, and we remember all who grieve. May we each gain strength from God's love. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Ella Sullivan: Lord, we thank you for the special way Gerard touched the lives of so many people. We give thanks for his love of others and his willingness to share his time and talents. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lucinda Sullivan: We pray for all people touched by the struggle of illness and decline in health: May God give us strength, consolation and peace now, and in the future. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr: God of loving kindness, we ask that you hear these, our petitions along with the silent prayers we present to you in our hearts, through Christ our Risen Lord.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of Gifts

The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar by Frank Sullivan, Peter and Maria Jozic

Offertory Hymn

I Will Never Forget You My People

I will never forget you, my people,
I have carved you on the palm of My hand,
I will never forget you,
I will not leave you orphaned,
I will never forget my own...

Does a mother forget her baby,
Or a woman the child within her womb,
Yet even if these forget,
Yes even if these forget,
I will never forget my own.

I will never forget you, my people,
I have carved you on the palm of My hand,
I will never forget you,
I will not leave you orphaned,
I will never forget my own...

Does a mother forget her baby,
Or a woman the child within her womb,
Yet even if these forget,
Yes even if these forget,
I will never forget my own.

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Prayer over the Gifts

Fr: Loving God, we are united in the Sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ.
Accept these gifts and receive Gerard - our brother in Christ - into the glory of your
Son, who is Lord forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Preface of the Dead

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation (please kneel)

All: Save us, Saviour of the World,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Great Amen

Communion Rite (please stand)

Lord's Prayer

All: **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.**

Fr: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Fr: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Lamb of God

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

Communion Reflection

A New Heart for a New World (Trisha Watts, Monica O'Brien)

Create a new heart, Holy Lord.
Beckon our lives through your word.
Open our eyes to your call,
united as one for your world.

Heighten our minds to your thoughts.
Heal us of pride and of hurt.
May we go forth in your name.
We pray our hearts change.
The heart of the cross lowly and poor, calls us on.
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth.
Create a new heart, Holy Lord.
Beckon our lives through your word.
Open our eyes to your call,
united as one for your world.

Heighten our minds to your thoughts.
Heal us of pride and of hurt.
May we go forth in your name.
We pray our hearts change.

Restless the hearts who yearn for your peace in this land.
Deepen the dream: justice brings life, justice redeems.

Prayer after Communion (please stand)

Fr: Loving God,
Give us life in this Sacrament.
May our brother Gerard, who received life at your Eucharistic table,
enter now into the everlasting peace and joy of Christ your Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Invitation to Prayer

Fr: Trusting in God,
We have prayed for Gerard and now we come to the Last Farewell.
There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day
we shall see him again and enjoy his friendship.

Although this Congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will
gather us together again in the joy of the Kingdom.

Therefore, let us console one another in the Faith of Jesus Christ.

All pray in silence during the incensing of the casket
And sprinkling with Holy Water - the Signs of Farewell

The Farewell

Fr: Saints of God, come to Gerard's aid!
Hasten to meet him angels of the Lord!

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

Fr: May Christ who has called you, take you to himself;
Gerard, may Angels lead you to Abraham and Sarah's side.

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

Fr: Eternal Rest grant unto Gerard, O Lord,
And perpetual light shine upon him forever.

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

Concluding Prayer

Fr: Lord God,
Whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting,
Enfold Gerard in your love.

Keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.

Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice
That we may serve you in union with the whole Church, sure in Faith,
Strong in Hope, perfected in Love.

And when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into your Kingdom,
where you live forever and ever.

All: Amen

A Prayer for Those Who Mourn

Fr: Merciful God, you know the anguish of the sorrowful,
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.
We pray for Suzie, Ella and Lucinda, and all the members of Gerard's
family and his friends.
Hear your people who cry out to you in their need, and strengthen our hope in
your lasting goodness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Fr: Eternal rest grant unto Gerard, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Fr: May he rest in peace.

All: Amen

Fr: May Gerard's soul, and the souls of all the Faithful Departed,
Through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace.

All: Amen

Fr: And with Christ, Rise in Glory!

All: Amen

Fr: Let us now prepare to bid Gerard a loving Farewell.

The Committal Prayer (Holy Water Sprinkled)

Fr: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to Eternal life through our
Lord Jesus Christ;

**All: We commend to our loving God,
our brother in Christ - Gerard Sullivan:
a loved husband and father, a cherished son,
brother, nephew, cousin and uncle;
a respected relative and genuine friend:
and we now commit you Gerard to your next journey;
go forth now in peace, supported by our eternal love.**

Fr: The Lord bless you Gerard and keep you. AMEN

**All: The Lord lift up his countenance upon Gerard,
and give him Eternal Peace.**

A Blessing Prayer

Fr: Family and friends may the love of God, and the peace of the Lord Jesus
Christ console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Fr: Friends, let us go forth from this place,
Glad that we have loved Gerard who
shares an eternal love for us,
and because of him, we are inspired to live our life to the full!

All: Thanks be to God.

Pallbearers Chris Sullivan, Mark Sullivan, Anthony Jozic, Geoff George

Recessional Song

Meet Me In Middle Of The Air (by Paul Kelly, Charlie Owen)

I am your true shepherd
I will lead you there
Beside still waters
Come and meet me in the middle of the air
I will meet you in the middle of the air

I will lay you down
In pastures green and fair
Every soul shall be restored
I will meet them in the middle of the air
Come and meet me in the middle of the air

Through the lonesome valley
My rod and staff you'll bear
Fear not death's dark shadow
Come and meet me in the middle of the air
I will meet you in the middle of the air

With oil, I shall anoint you
A table shall I prepare
Your cup will runneth over
Come and meet me in the middle of the air
I will meet you in the middle of the air

In my house, you'll dwell forever
You shall not want for care
Surely goodness and mercy will follow you
Come and meet me in the middle of the air
I will meet you in the middle of the air.

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Thank you

Suzie, the Sullivan and Jozic families sincerely thank you for your many expressions of sympathy.

The whole St Alipius community for their love and friendship - it knows no bounds.
Our Principal - Eileen Rice for your constant support and warm kindness, it will never be forgotten.

St Patrick's College - thank you for all of the shared memories, kindness and support of Gerard and our family.

Loreto College - Thank you for the generous care you show our Ella and Lucinda and for keeping them connected to their peers during a time full of many challenges.

Fr Justin Driscoll - Thank you for your pastoral care and for leading Gerard's Requiem Mass.

Ballarat Hospice - To Jenny and all the team. At a time in our lives when we were grief stricken and lost you cleared a path.

To our beautiful families and friends who are our lifeline, without you all there would have only been darkness.

Thank you Mark, Claire and Felicity for this beautiful booklet, so generous, nothing was ever too much.

Tanya my sister, how can I ever fully express my gratitude for your professionalism and loving support during a time when all is out on the table with nowhere to hide. Never failing to treat Gerard with loving dignity, he was always safe in your hands. What would I do without you.

My courageous girls Ella and Lucinda who fill me with hope and joy, thank you for your love.

In lieu of flowers, we request that a donation be made to the Ballarat Hospice Care.
Donations can be made online at: <https://ballarathospicecare.org.au/how-you-can-help/donate>



Life Unbroken ~ Canon Scott Holland 1918

Death is nothing at all...
I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I, and you are you...
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.
Call me by my familiar name,
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone;
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me,
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was;
There is absolutely unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you for an interval.
Somewhere very near, just around the corner.
All is well.