



Mass of Christian Burial
for
Sister Anne Crowley RSC
23 March 1930 – 21 October 2023



“Dominus tecum.”
The Lord is with you.

*O Father, give the spirit power to climb
To the fountain of all light and be purified.
Break through the mists of earth, the weight of the soil.
Shine forth in splendour, you that are calm weather
And quiet resting place for souls.
To see you is the end and the beginning.
You carry us, and you go before,
You are the journey, and the journey's end.*

Boethius



**Mater Dei Church
West Ashgrove
Saturday 21 October 2023**

Celebrant: Fr Seamus McMahon

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome

Procession

Gathering Hymn

The Fullness of God

Deep in Christ I pray you know the power 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 minds that you may see, deep in your heart
What hope his call now holds for you,
His promise true, to fill your hearts
With power to live the fullness of God.

Know the way you learnt 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.

Sign of the Cross

Celebrant: May the God of promise and hope give you the fullness of peace and may the Lord be always with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Blessing of the Coffin

Celebrant: In Baptism Anne was claimed as a child of God. She lived her life in generous fidelity to her God. In faith, we rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings that Anne has received in this life and through her the many graces given to countless others she has met on her life's journey as a Sister of Charity and as a resident of St Vincent's Care Services, Mitchelton.

Lighting of the Congregational Candle

Celebrant: As we light the Congregational Candle, we recognize Anne's love for her Congregation, her love and fidelity to her God and the people of God.

All: *May Christ enfold Anne in love and bring her to eternal life.*

Placing of the Pall and Symbols

The Pall On the day of her Baptism, Anne was clothed in Christ. In the presence of her family and friends gathered today and as Anne is once more clothed with this white pall we pray:

All: *May Christ enfold Anne in love and bring her to eternal life.*

The Bible, the Constitutions and Rosary Beads

Throughout her life, Anne cherished the Scriptures and lived faithfully by them; she loved the Constitutions which were a sign of commitment to her life of ministry as a Sister of Charity; devotion to Mary, especially through the Rosary was an integral part of her daily life.

All: May Christ enfold Anne in love and bring her to eternal life.

Missions Anne spent many of her years teaching in Fiji and Papua New Guinea at Bundi, Megiar and Madang. She later ministered in a refugee camp in Thailand and was missioned to work in Zambia. Wherever she went she carried the love of God's people in her heart.

All: May Christ enfold Anne in love and bring her to eternal life.

Novel Anne had a wonderful love for literature. She shared her passion for reading with many children and adults with whom she worked.

All: May Christ enfold Anne in love and bring her to eternal life.

Words of Remembrance

Opening Prayer

Celebrant: Lord you are the glory of those who serve you. Look lovingly on our sister Anne. The waters of Baptism and the bonds of love unite us with her in following Christ. In your mercy grant her everlasting sight of you, her Creator and Redeemer.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

On this mountain.
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples,
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations.
He will destroy death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
The Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters, and byways,
valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

Refrain: *I want to go to meet him there.
To lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey to where we are going,
He promised to be there to help us along.
And over the mountains we'll walk on together,
to know all the wonders, he's given to me. **Refrain.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (3:14-20)

For this reason, I bend my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia.

If we die with the Christ, we shall live with him, and if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:34-40)

The Master will say, “Come, you blessed of my Father!
Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you
ever since the creation of the world.

I was hungry and in prison and you visited me.”

The Righteous will then answer him,

“When did we ever see you hungry, and feed you, or thirsty and
gave you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger
and take you in or naked and clothe you. When did we ever see you
sick or in prison and visit you?”

The Master will reply, “I tell you, whenever you did it to one of my
least followers you did it to me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant: All gracious and loving God, you are the Resurrection
and the Life.

As your children, we come before you in love and
confidence as we pray.

Reader: For our Church, that all members may strive to be a
sign of Christ’s love as we work with others to bring
about justice, peace, and dignity for all. We pray.

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Reader: We thank you for the life and gifts that Anne shared
with us all. May she now enjoy her reward with you in
heaven. We pray.

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the members of Anne's family, her friends and the Sisters of Charity who grieve her death.
Heal their pain and let them feel the strength and love of her spirit. We pray.

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all the deceased members of Anne's family, especially her parents, Neva and John, siblings, Mary, Joseph, Neva, Kay and Lyn Anthony and for the deceased members of the Sisters of Charity. May they know eternal joy and peace. We pray.

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all who cared so lovingly for Anne, especially Lynette Ybarzabal, Sr Cate her Companion Sister, Penny Strang, the doctors, nurses and staff of St Vincent's Care Services, Mitchelton. May they be richly blessed in their ministry of care and compassion for the sick, aged, and frail. We pray.

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving God, through the resurrection of Jesus, you have kindled in our hearts the hope of eternal life. May this hope be brought to fulfilment as we pass through death to fullness of life. We make our prayer through Jesus, the Risen Christ.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Procession of Gifts: *Music*

Preparation of Gifts

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Graciously accept this offering, O God, as a sign of our devotion, so that trusting in the designs of your providence, we may be raised up with Anne by your gentle and tender care.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

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

Communion Rite

All: The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn

On Eagle's Wings (Joncas)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in his shadow for life
Say to the Lord: "My refuge.
My rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain: And he will raise you up on Eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of his hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under his wings your refuge
His faithfulness your shield. ***Refrain.***

You need not fear the terror of night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you
near you it shall not come. ***Refrain.***

For to his angels, he's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. ***Refrain.***

Thanksgiving Hymn

Be Thou my Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Lord God, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the sacrament of his Body and Blood to guide us on our pilgrim way to your kingdom. May our sister Anne, who shared this Eucharist, come to the banquet of life that Christ has prepared for her.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Return of the Symbols

Celebrant: Receive back these symbols as memories of Anne's life of faith, hope and love.

All: Amen.

Final Commendation and Farewell

Celebrant: With faith in Jesus Christ, we reverently bring the body of our sister, Anne, to be buried in its human imperfection.

Let us pray in confidence that God who gives life to all things will raise up her mortal body to perfection and to the company of the Saints.

May God give Anne a merciful judgment and forgive her all her sins.

May Christ the Good Shepherd lead her safely home to be at peace with God our Father and all the Saints.

All: ***Amen***

Holy Water

Celebrant: We sprinkle the coffin with holy water to remind us we share in Christ's Resurrection through Baptism.

Incense

Celebrant: We incense because we believe the body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit and one day will rise in glory.

Song of Farewell

Celebrant: Saints of God, come to Anne's aid!
Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord.

All: ***Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.***

Celebrant: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you the bosom of Abraham.

All: ***Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.***

Celebrant: Give Anne eternal rest O Lord and may your light shine on her forever.

All: *Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.*

Celebrant: Father, into your hands we commit our sister Anne. We are confident that with all who have died in Christ she will be raised to life on the last day and live with Christ forever.

Welcome Anne to paradise and help us comfort one another with the assurance of our faith until we all meet in Christ to be with you and Anne forever.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: Anne, go forth upon your journey from this world. In the name of God Almighty who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ who died for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit who shines through you. In friendship with God's Saints, aided by the Holy Angels, may you rest this day in peace and love of your eternal home.

All: *Amen.*

Recessional Song

Be Exalted

I will give thanks to thee
O Lord among the people.
I will sing praises to thee
Among the nations.
For thy steadfast love is great.
Is great to the heavens,
and thy faithfulness,
thy faithfulness, to the clouds.

*Be exalted O God above the heavens,
Let thy glory be over all the earth.
Be exalted O God above the heavens,
Let thy glory be over all the earth.*

I will give thanks to thee
O Lord among the people.
I will sing praises to thee
among the nations.
For thy steadfast love is great,
is great to the heavens,
and thy faithfulness,
thy faithfulness, to the clouds.



The Sisters of Charity and Anne's family
would like to thank you sincerely for
your kind thoughts, prayers
and presence here today
and on livestream.

You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments after Mass.



Those wishing to join us at the cemetery
be ready to leave for Nudgee.
by 1.30pm

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

ANNE CROWLEY

Mater Dei Church

St John's Wood

Saturday 28 October 2023

11.00 am Mass of Christian Burial

"Give me a hug... eh... give me a BIG HUG... so that we won't forget each other."

This personal exchange was at the last Congregational gathering at which Anne was physically able to be present. The function was at Enoggera. I had walked with her to where she was going to be picked up by one of her assigned carers and taken back to her place of residence at St Joseph's Mitchelton. She was at the walking stick stage then and knew in her heart of hearts the journey that Alzheimers had mapped out for her...

To be at Mitchelton and not Marycrest was her choice. Marycrest held sorrowful memories for Anne because her mother had died there when Marycrest was a Retirement Centre and not a specialised Aged Care Centre as it is these days. Anne loved Mitchelton because there she could be her true self and not have the burden of expectations as an RSC weighing on her shoulders. For Anne enjoyed mixed company and as those of us who tried unsuccessfully to ring her in her room would find out later... the missed phone call was because she had joined the men in a game of cards, or she was watching Cricket with them, or she was just simply yarning with them.

Anne was dead keen on Cricket. She loved playing Cricket. She used to say to us that her batting average in her sister's backyard at Caringbah, fully dressed in black serge Habit, veil and the works was

72. You have to admit that was a pretty good average and would put her up there with the best of them. Those of us who watched Cricket with Anne discovered that she never barracked for Australia, Anne always championed the underdog whose misfortune it was to play against Australia. Championing the underdog was a trait that characterised Anne. Anne never closed her mind and heart to human drama. She practiced what she preached. Her chosen motto was *Dominus tecum – The Lord is with you*. The most vulnerable in society were at the centre of her life. She saw the sacred in the outcast, in the stranger, in those who found themselves taking refuge in a new country and struggling to learn our language, as well as the unfortunate cricket team facing defeat at the hands of our spin bowlers and batsmen.

It was a salient truth whether we like to admit it or not that Anne really enjoyed being with ordinary people much more than she did just being with us Nuns.

Twenty years ago, having completed her work with our Founding Congregation in Zambia, Anne was appointed to work in the Archives as an assistant to Denise Corrigan and Liz Sheridan. She was only there for 8 months because in February 2004 Anne was appointed Congregational Secretary. The Archives staff loved her and enjoyed her company; the feeling was mutual. The Archivists appreciated Anne's generous spirit, her wisdom, her humour, her fortitude, and her wonderful stories of life in the missions—Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Zambia. When James Griffiths arrived at the Bondi Office, it was Anne who initiated him into the protocols and intricacies associated with being the Receptionist of the Sisters of Charity of Australia. James and Anne became very close friends.

This preference for the company for others instead of just the Nuns doesn't detract from the fact that Anne was a good community Sister. She contributed to community and most times did more than her fair share of the chores which make a Community hum. She had a great

sense of humour which came in handy at times when things were very stressful. She was also a great cook. At Ashgrove *Caramelised grapes* were one of her specialties. I'm not sure which Crowley household was responsible for that recipe, but we certainly enjoyed it. She was also very handy with a sewing machine. Anne had set and definite views which some Community Leaders did find difficult to handle especially when the definition of Community changed from a place of physical residence into that of choosing a preferred group of Sisters sharing the same goals, aspirations, and ideas. Those Community leaders can take consolation in the fact that her father had the same difficulty with a teenage Anne when after Junior Certificate at Mt St Michael's College, Ashgrove, he expressed the wish that Anne follow her older sister Mary and complete her Senior Certificate at All Hallows. It did not happen. Anne was a graduand of the 1947 Mt St Michael's College Ashgrove Senior Class.

Anne was born in Bowen and started School at St Mary's Primary School Bowen and later switched to St Finbarr's Ashgrove. In our Ashgrove Community Library there was a book on the beginnings of the Sugar Industry in North Queensland. Her father had written an inscription on the flyleaf reminding Anne that Bowen was where she spent the early years of her life. When I was working in the Townsville Catholic Education Office, St Mary's Primary School at Bowen happened one of my Schools, so I used to keep her up to date with photographs of her childhood town.

Anne spent the 3 years between leaving School and entering the Convent working as a Laboratory Assistant and living in the Dutton Park parish. Anne was 21yrs. old when she entered on 2 July 1951. She was professed on 9 January 1954 – the Marian Year- and 5 years later made her Final Vows. Her initial ministry was Primary Education. The lived expression of our 4th vow, Service of the Poor, took her in a completely new direction on Thursday 1 March 1962 when Anne received her Mission Crucifix in St Vincent's Chapel, Potts Point and

was missioned to Cawaci, Fiji as a Secondary Teacher to assist in the training of the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth. Two years later she joined the community at Bundi, PNG as a teacher at St Francis of Assisi, Catholic Mission School. Her letters home spoke about 'sing-sings' and the huge pig-killing that was the special preparation for Christmas. Special long houses were built in each village in which the pigs were placed after they had been killed and cooked in huge holes in the ground. The number of pigs killed dictated the length of the long house. In another letter Anne told of how she went to a cupboard in the Prep Room and found two dead rats arranged nicely side by side on the shelf, obviously placed there with some purpose in view. It turned out that the native teacher had placed them there to take home and cook for a tasty meal.

Five years later Anne was transferred to the Catholic Mission School at Megiar. She was only there for 12 months. In October 1969 she received the news that she had been appointed Assistant Novice Mistress at Wahroonga. Sr Cate O'Brien was one of the Novices. The local people at Megiar were saddened when they learned that Anne would be leaving them permanently. It turned out to be not so permanent because 3 years later Anne was appointed to the staff of Tusbab High School in Madang. After 12 months Renewal at the Pacific Institute of Missiology at Turramurra Anne returned to PNG for another 4 years, this time as a staff member of the Divine Word Institute in Madang. Her 12 years in PNG left Anne with a special legacy - Malaria. Periodically for many years she suffered from severe bouts of this disease even to the point of having to be hospitalised.

Her return to Australia in December 1980 would prove to be most significant as to her future ministry. A meeting with newly appointed Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Asia-Pacific region, Fr Mark Raper sj who was visiting Toowong, the Jesuit Parish in Brisbane, resulted in Anne being invited to work at a refugee camp in Thailand in 1985. This was her introduction to refugees and their

plight throughout the world. When she returned home from Thailand in 1987, the Australian Government had granted asylum to thousands of refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Their resettlement in Australia presented a tremendous pastoral challenge. Not one who let the grass grow under her feet, Anne was given permission to join the Home Tutor Service set up by the Australian Government to teach English to those refugees who were unable to attend the special classes conducted at TAFE. Anne had found her special niche.

In 1992 she went to Zambia to work with the Irish Sisters of Charity and for 7 years there, she worked in Meheba Refugee Settlement teaching English and at Chikuni Girls High School which was founded by our Irish Sisters. A further 2 years in Zambia was spent on the Staff of the Charles Lwanga Teachers College in Chisekesi before returning home to Australia. Dorothy Bayliss and Patricia Heenan were also working in Zambia at this time.

Twenty- nine years of her Religious life as a Sister of Charity was spent working on overseas Missions -3 yrs in Fiji, 12 yrs in Papua New Guinea at Bundi, Megiar and Madang, 12 years in Zambia – Roma, Lusaka, Meheba, Chisekesi, and almost 3 years working with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Thailand at the Phanat Nikom Refugee Camp. In each of these countries, Anne set herself the task of learning to converse in their language. Learning to speak Thai was the most difficult for her.

While working in the Archives and at the Bondi Office as Congregational Secretary, Anne spent her day off as a volunteer at the Asylum Seekers Centre at Surrey Hills teaching English. At the conclusion of her term as Congregational Secretary Anne moved to Edgecliff where she continued to work as a volunteer with the Asylum Seekers Centre. Those Refugees who had gained residency were no longer eligible to attend the classes at the Centre, so Anne began to teach them in their own homes. Being a practical hands-on

person Anne organised Sisters to help her in establishing the refugees in their own homes with furniture, linen, and crockery.

Anne always said that her special ministry of working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers gave her a global view of the world and deepened her love and understanding of the human family as God's family.

Re-entry after a stint on the missions was always difficult for Anne – and not only for Anne but also for those of us who were in Community with her and most especially for the members of her own Family. Anne could not tolerate opulence of any sort, it did not matter one iota if you were family or Sister of Charity, you were left in no doubt as to what she thought. This was a particular theme whenever she was going through re-entry. With an abundance of food on the table it seemed to Anne that we were living lives of extreme luxury and indulgence while the rest of the world was starving.

Anne's whole life was one of self-giving. Anne was not selfish nor self-centred. She cared for others and was mindful of their needs. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be called her friends received her absolute loyalty and trust.

Annie, today we have wrapped you with the Pall of our love. We have given you a BIG HUG. We know that you will never forget us ... and you know that we will never forget you.

James, your great mate, has lit a candle for you at the Shrine of St Anthony in the Basilica of Sacre Coeur, Montmartre and has spent time there thinking of you and the close friendship the two of you shared.

Big love. Rest in peace.

