

*Michele Frances Benson*

*8 July 1954 - 27 September 2019*



*Celebration of Life  
&  
Memorial Mass*

*Xavier College Memorial Chapel Kew*

## ***Memorial Mass***

### ***ENTRANCE HYMN: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Please stand)***

Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
All in Heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
Angel choirs above are raising.  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the Heavens with sweet accord;  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.

*(Please be Seated)*

### ***WELCOME AND REMEMBERING MICHELE***

*Richard Benson*

### ***FOUR CANDLES POEM***

*Read by Dominic Benson*

*The first candle represents our grief. The pain of losing you is deep. It reminds us of the depth of our love for you.*

*(Wendy Gilbert)*

*The second candle represents our courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, to change our lives.*

*(Noel Gilbert)*

*This third candle we light in your memory. For the times we laughed, the times we cried, the times we were angry with each other, the silly things you did, the caring and joy you gave us.*

*(Genine Gilbert)*

*This fourth candle we light for our love. We light this candle knowing that your light will always shine. We cherish the special place in our hearts that will always be reserved for you. We thank you for the gift your living brought to each of us. We love and remember you.*

*(Matthew Gilbert)*

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

*Father Chris Middleton SJ*

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*(Please be Seated)*

**FIRST READING**

*Micah (6.6 & 6.8)*

*Read by Maria Harris*

*Reader:* With what shall I become before the Lord?  
He has told you, oh mortal what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSORIAL HYMN**

**Come Back to Me**

*(Hosea 14.1)*

Come back to me with all your heart.  
Don't let fear keep us apart.  
Trees do bend, though straight and tall;  
so must we to others' call.  
Long have I waited for your coming home to me  
and living deeply in our new life.

The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak.  
Integrity and justice, tenderness, you shall know.  
Long have I waited for your coming home to me  
and living deeply our new life.

Come back to me with all your heart.  
Don't let fear keep us apart.  
Trees do bend, though straight and tall;  
so must we to others' call.  
Long have I waited for your coming home to me  
and living deeply our new life.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(Please stand)*

*Priest:* Alleluia, Alleluia  
I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.

*All:* **Alleluia, Alleluia**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mathew (5:13-16).

*All:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

You are like salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it.

You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead she puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:* **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**HOMILY**

Father Chris Middleton SJ

**HYMN OF REFLECTION Here I Am Lord**

*(Isaiah 6:8)*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them, whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

### ***PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL***

#### **Prayer 1**    *Jenny Wynn*

We give thanks for the years we had Michele with us.

We pray that she is in peace and free from pain and suffering.

Establish her now in your re-created life of light and peace with all who have gone before us.

Lord Hear Our Prayer.

**R:    Lord Hear Our Prayer**

#### **Prayer 2**    *Rose Dowling*

We remember Michele for her determination, her love of life and dedication to her family, particularly her very much-loved boys Richie and Dom.

May her family be consoled in their grief, heartened by their memories, and be hopeful in their continuing lives.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

**R:    Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Prayer 3** *Mary Gaskell*

We pray for Michele's friends.

May they always remember the good times they shared together and keep her forever in their hearts.

Lord Hear Us

**R: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Prayer 4** *Angela Currie*

We pray for the doctors, nurses and other medical staff at Peter Mac and for all those who cared for Michele during her illness, particularly her sister Wendy.

We ask God to continue to guide the medical staff in their special work.

Lord Hear Us

**R: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Prayer 5** *Annie Hams*

We pray for everyone here today, that we are able to lead happy and healthy lives free from pain and suffering.

Lord Hear Us

**R: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Prayer 6** *Marcia Ryan*

We pray for all family members and friends who have gone before us, especially Michele's parents Hilda and Jack O'Donnell, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

Lord Hear Us

**R: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Prayer 7** *Nance Frawley*

We pray for the people around the world who die from violence or famine each day.

May God show mercy to those who suffer so unjustly, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord Hear Us.

**R: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Prayer 8** *Jenny Szymanski*

We pray for those deprived of freedom and all who are oppressed because of what they believe or what they are.

Lord Hear Us.

**R: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

## ***LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***

### ***OFFERTORY PROCESSION***

Gifts presented by *Wendy Gilbert and Sandra White*

### ***INVITATION TO PRAYER***

*Priest:* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father

*All:* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

### ***ACCLAMATIONS***

### **During the Eucharistic Prayer**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All:* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

*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**

*Priest:* Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.  
*All:* **We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your  
Resurrection until you come again.**

**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 that trespass against us;  
And led us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.**

*Priest:* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
Graciously grant peace in our days,  
That, by the help of your mercy,  
We may always be free from sin and safe from all distress,  
As we await the blessed hope  
And the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ

*All:* **For the Kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

## ***RITE OF PEACE***

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*All:* **(Each person offers a greeting of peace to those nearby)**

## ***BREAKING OF THE BREAD***

*Priest:* Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb.

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

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

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*All;* **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but  
only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## ***COMMUNION SONG***

### **One Bread, One Body**

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.  
Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
Woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.  
Many the gifts, many the works,  
One in the Lord, of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.

**COMMUNION REFLECTION City of God**

Awake from your slumber, arise from your sleep  
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.  
The people in darkness have seen a great light.  
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

*(Antiphon)*

Let us build the city of God;  
May our tears be turned into dancing,  
For the Lord our light and love  
Has turned the night into day.  
We are the sons of the morning, we are the daughters of the day,  
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.

*(Repeat Antiphon)*

God is light in Him there is no darkness  
Let us walk in His light, His children one and all.  
O comfort my people. Make gentle your words  
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.

*(Repeat Antiphon)*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN Flower on the Water**

*(John Williamson)*

To hear your voice, to see you smile  
To sit and talk to you awhile  
To be together the same old way  
That would be our greatest wish today.

To hear you laugh, to hear you cry  
Or just a chance to say goodbye  
To say the things we didn't say  
That would be our greatest wish today.

But all we can do is throw a flower on the water  
Look for the sun through the rain  
Lay a little frangipani gentle on the water  
Remember how we loved you.

To comb your hair, to lace your shoes  
Buy some flowers, let you choose  
A phone call when you're away  
Just to see if you're okay.





Thank you for your presence today and for your friendship and support of Michele in her life and work, and especially for the care shown in her recent times.

Following this service, please join us for refreshments, to share memories of Michele, and to celebrate her life.

Address:  
Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club  
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Toorak



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