

Funeral Mass to Celebrate the Life of

JOYCE VERONICA McGRATH



19 OCTOBER 1925 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

*She lived justly
loved tenderly
and walked humbly with her God*

GOOD SHEPHERD CHAPEL, ABBOTSFORD

Entrance Hymn

Here I Am, Lord *Dan Schutte*

(Please Stand)

Greeting

Priest In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you.
All And with your spirit.

Remembrance of Baptism

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Kathy Jones

Priest In baptism, Joyce received the light of Christ. She walked as a child of the light and kept the flame of faith alive in her heart. May Christ, the Eternal and unfading Light, now welcome her into the kingdom of light and peace.

Sprinkling of Holy Water

Fr Thang

Priest: In the waters of baptism, Joyce died with Christ and rose with him to new life – may she now share with Christ eternal glory.

Placing of the Pall

Kathy Jones & Jackie Langsford

Priest The white pall, which is now placed over the coffin is a reminder of the white garment received by Joyce at her baptism. It is a sign of his Christian dignity. May Christ, who claimed Joyce in baptism now enfold her in his love and bring her to eternal life.

Eulogies

Kim McGrath, Katie Bishop & Noel Cranswick

Photo Tribute

Collect

Priest Let us pray.
 O God, almighty Father, our faith professes that your Son died and rose again; mercifully grant, that through this mystery your servant Joyce who has fallen asleep in Christ, may rejoice to rise again through him. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Greg Watson

(Please Sit)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven: A time for giving birth, a time for dying; a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted. A time for killing, a time for healing; a time for knocking down, a time for building. A time for tears, a time for laughter; a time for mourning, a time for dancing. A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up; a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing. A time for searching, a time for losing; a time for keeping, a time for throwing away. A time for tearing, a time for sewing; a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking. A time for loving, a time for hating; a time for war, a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22 – The Lord is My Shepherd – John Michael Talbot

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I want to follow,
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters and by-ways,
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

Essie Marendy

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy 4: 6-8

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

(Please Stand)

All

Alleluia, alleluia!

Priest

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, all who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day (John 6:40)

All

Alleluia!

Gospel

Priest The Lord be with you.
All **And with your spirit.**

Priest A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Priest A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (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."

All The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

(Please Sit)

Prayer of the Faithful

(Please Stand)

Steven Almanzi

Priest Loving God, we come as a Faith Community, to place before you, our Prayers.

All Lord, as Joyce received the light of Christ through baptism, now welcome her to live in heaven with you. We pray to the Lord
Lord hear our prayer.

Steven Lord, thank you for the gift of Joyce's faith and strengthen the faith of all who are left behind.
All We pray to the Lord
Lord hear our prayer.

Steven We pray for Joyce and her parents, Jack and Nellie whom she has now joined and for all our family members who have gone before us in eternal life. We pray to the Lord
All **Lord hear our prayer.**

Steven We pray for Joyce's many cousins, nieces and nephews. May they be consoled in their grief by the Lord. We pray to the Lord
All **Lord hear our prayer.**

Steven We pray for Joyce's friends, especially Terry and all the wonderful, aged care and medical staff who cared for Joyce, particularly the staff at Mercy Place. May their devotion to the care of others be exalted and rewarded through your loving ways. We pray to the Lord.
All **Lord hear our prayer.**

Priest Loving God, we have placed these prayers before you, confident that you will hear and answer them. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Procession

(Please Sit)

Hymn

Ave Maria Instrumental

Priest Pray, friends, that my sacrifice and yours our may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

(Please Stand)

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.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Priest Almighty and merciful God, by means of these sacrificial offerings, wash away, we pray, in the Blood of Christ, the sins of your departed servant Gerard, and purify unceasingly by your merciful forgiveness those you once cleansed in the waters of Baptism. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Preface of Christian Death I

(Please Sit)

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 and just.**

Priest It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Sanctus

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Priest You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the time He was betrayed and entered willingly into His Passion, He took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, He took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to His disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

All The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Priest Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of His Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Leo our Pope and Peter our Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember your servant Joyce whom you have called from this world to yourself. Grant that she who was united with your Son in a death like His, may also be one with Him in His Resurrection.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Communion Rite

Lord's Prayer *(Please Stand)*

Priest At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching we dare to say:

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.

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always 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.

Sign of Peace

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All And with your spirit

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(Everyone Shake Hands)

Breaking of the Bread

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.

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

Communion Hymn

I am the Bread of Life - *Suzanne Toolan*

Prayer after Communion

Priest Let us pray.
 Lord God, whose Son left us, in the Sacrament of his Body, food for the journey, mercifully grant that, strengthened by it, our sister Joyce may come to the eternal table of Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever

All **Amen.**

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Priest Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Joyce 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 her 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 his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ

(All pray in silence while the coffin is now sprinkled with holy water and incensed)

Priest Saints of God, come to her aid!
 Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord!

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

Priest May Christ, who called you, take you to himself; may angels lead you to the side of Abraham.
All **Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.**

Priest Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
All **Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.**

Prayer of Commendation

Priest Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend Joyce in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, she will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon her 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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

Priest May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ console you and gently wipe every tear from your eyes. And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest In peace let us take our sister to her place of rest.

Pallbearers

Enzo Almanzi, Steven Almanzi, Adam McGrath & Greg mcGrath

Recessional Song

Field of Gold – *Eva Cassidy*



**We would like to thank our extended family,
friends and parishioners for their love and
support that we have received.
A testament to a gentle and humble person.**

EST. 1849

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RAVEN**
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