MASS OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE LIFE OF

Mary Gargano



29.09.1958 – 24.10.2026

Celebrant – Fr Tom Renshaw S.J.

Concelebrant – Fr Chris Middleton S.J.

Immaculate Conception Church, Hawthorn

04.11.2026













Opening Hymn

Here I am Lord

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?

Refrain:
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?
Refrain

WELCOME

Recalling Baptism

Lighting of the Easter Candle **Tammy Mills & Emmy Toscano**

Symbols of Life **Max & Annie Murray**

Sprinkling of Holy Water

Opening Prayer

Eulogy **Reflections from Mary's Family**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading **Tammy Mills**
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.
For everything there is a season
and a time for everything under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to tear down and a time to build;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to lose and a time to seek;
a time to rend and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time for loving and a time for hating;
a time for war and a time for peace.
The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd

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 **Rebecca Howie**

Excerpt from 'The Prophet' by Kahlil Gibran

Then said Almitra, Speak to us of Love.
And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said:
When love beckons to you, follow him,
Though his ways are hard and steep.
And when his wings enfold you, yield to him,
Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.
And when he speaks to you, believe in him,
Though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden.

For even as love crowns you, so shall he crucify you. Even as he is for your growth, so is he for your pruning.
Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun,
So shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth.
Like sheaves of corn, he gathers you unto himself.
He threshes you to make you naked.
He sifts you to free you from your husks.
He grinds you to whiteness.
He kneads you until you are pliant;
And then he assigns you to his sacred fire, that you may become sacred bread for God's sacred feast.

All these things shall love do unto you that you may know the secrets of your heart, and in that knowledge become a fragment of Life's heart.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

All: Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die forever. Alleluia

Gospel **John 14:1-6**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

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

Celebrant: 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily **Fr Tom Renshaw S.J.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us come to our loving Father, asking him to give eternal rest to the departed, and comfort and hope to the living.

Prayers to be read by: **Nina Murray & Liz Whitehead**

We thank you for the gift of Mary, who showed us that love is innate and limitless. May we all feel that love in our lives and find the strength and compassion to share it with others.
Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

In Mary's words:

I've been uplifted by the love
of my people
family
near and far
friends of decades
flung together
by circumstance
happenstance
sheer dumb luck
divine intervention

We give thanks to all those who extended their love to Mary. May we all be, like Mary, open to receiving the love of others.
Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the teachers in our world. May they continue to foster a love of learning and nurture future generations.
Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

In Mary's words:

I've not led a big life
My footprint has been small
but I like to think
I've made a difference
I hope I've made a difference

May we all be able to find a sense of fulfilment in our lives. May we all be able to make a meaningful difference.
Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all the medical and nursing staff who looked after Mary throughout her illness: her longtime GP and staff at St Vincent's Hospital and Caritas Christi Hospice. May they be empowered to continue in their life mission of caring for others.
Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: God of our salvation, you reward the just and console those who mourn, hear our prayers in the name of your risen Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Offertory Procession **Frank & Annie Gargano**

Pie Jesu

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Celebrant: Pray, my sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice 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.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Preface

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

COMMUNION RITE

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day, 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 forever.

Sign of Peace

Celebrant: 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.

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

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

Celebrant: 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 to that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Hymn

Galilee Song

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!

Refrain:
So I leave my boats behind!
Leave them on familiar shores!
Set my heart upon the deep!
Follow you again, my Lord! *(**repeat**)*

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!
Refrain

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!
But I feel my spirit called like a stirring deep within,
Restless, 'til I live again beyond the fears that close me in!
Refrain

Ave Maria

Reflection after Communion **John Polesel & Philo Murray**

St Patrick's Breastplate

Photo tribute

Closing Prayer

FINAL BLESSING & FAREWELL

Celebrant: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our sister Mary. May our farewell express our affection for her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

Signs of Farewell

Song of Farewell
Saints of God, come to her aid! Come 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 to the bosom of Abraham.
All: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.

Celebrant: 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

Celebrant: Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister Mary in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Mary in her life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn towards 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 sister forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Celebrant: In peace let us take our sister Mary to her place of rest.

Pallbearers:
Nick Toscano
Chris Toscano
Max Murray
Alex Whitehead
Joe Whitehead
Paul Rowlinson

Thank you for coming to pay your respects to our beloved Mary. We are deeply grateful for your thoughts and prayers in this time of sadness.

If you are able, please join the family after the service for refreshments at Hawthorn Bowls Club – 1 Wood St, Hawthorn.

In place of floral tributes, the family invites you to make a donation to Saint Vincent de Paul Society, a charity close to Mary's heart.



Mary's family would like to thank:

The *wonderful staff at St Vincent's Hospital and Caritas Christi Hospice, particularly Mary's "Holy Trinity" of physicians: Dr Wendy Stevens, Dr Matthew Conron, A/Prof Andrew Burns, and, in her final year, Dr Julie McDonald and the Palliative Care team.*

Our celebrant today, Fr Tom Renshaw S.J., Rector at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview and one of Mary's dear friends over many years. Our concelebrant, Fr Chris Middleton S.J., Rector at Xavier College and soon-to-be Provincial of the Australian Jesuit Province.

All of Mary's family and friends who have extended their love and support to us over the course of Mary's illness and since her death.

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