

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of
Major Joseph P Thursky MBE KJSJ

21 September 1926 - 16 July 2018



St Carthage's Church

Wednesday 25 July 2018, 11am

Celebrant: Father Chris Middleton



INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL

Lacrimosa (Mozart Requiem)

WELCOME

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Priest: In the waters of baptism, Joe died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May Joe now share with him eternal glory.

PLACING OF SYMBOLS

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE: READING OF CITATION

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE: FAMILY RECOLLECTIONS

OPENING PRAYERS

Priest: Faithful God, in whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of your servant Joe, whom you have called out of this world. We praise you for his spirit, and for his life of faithfulness and strength. Grant that as we grieve his death we may hold his memory dear and live in the hope that death opens out into glory. We make this prayer through Christ who abides with us for ever and ever.

All: Amen

READING

Love and Friendship (Vitkovics Mihály)

*A szerelem, Lidikém, olyan mint reggel az árnyék;
Mindég kisebb lesz, s végre enyészni szokott.
Ámde barátságunk olyan mint estveli árnyék:
Nőttön nő, élünk mig le nem alkonyodik.*

Love, my sweet Lidi!, resembles the fugitive shadows of morning;
Shorter and shorter they grow, and at length disappear.
Friendship – our friendship – is like the beautiful shadows of evening,
Spreading and growing till life and its light pass away.

Translation by Sir John Bowring [1830]

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the second letter of Timothy

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
he makes me down to lie
In pastures green, he leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness
ev'n for his name sake.

Yea, through I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me,
and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes
My head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All: Alleluia, alleluia!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
That all who believe in him might have eternal life.
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, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest: Let us pray to our God for Joe and those dear to him.

Reader: We give thanks for the life of Joe: for his courage in enduring the ravages of war during World War II and then building a new life in Australia, for service to his new country, for the gift of love as a husband, father and grandfather, and for his gift of friendship to many. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for Elma, in thanks for her great love for Joe over these 57 years, for their shared journey in life and gift of family. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for Joe's family Paul and Maria. May they be comforted in their loss and strengthened in love for one another. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for all those served in the defence of our land, for the RSL and all those who assist veterans and for the families who mourn those lost in war. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for the people of Hungary, the land of St Stephen, and for the Hungarian community in Australia, in thanks for their gifts in our human story. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray in thanks for the staff, nurses and doctors of St Vincent's who looked after Joe over these last weeks with such great care. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Priest: We ask you loving God, to hear and grant these and all the prayers in our hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

THE LAST POST

FINAL COMMENDATION

Priest: Before we take Joe to his final resting place, let us take our leave of him. May our farewell express our love for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

SIGNS OF FAREWELL

Priest: With water, and with incense, we farewell Joe. Saints of God, come to his aid! Come to meet him angels of the Lord!

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

Priest: May Christ who called you, take you to himself; may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

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

Priest: Give him eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him forever.

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

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

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

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Joe 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, Joe, 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: Joe, may the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

RECESSIONAL

Morning has Broken, Cat Stevens

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world





Joe's family would like to thank you for your love and support, and for sharing this celebration of his life.

At the conclusion of the service you are warmly invited to join the family for refreshments at the Woodward Conference Centre, 10th floor, Law Building, 185 Pelham Street, Parkville, from 12pm.



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