



PONTIFICAL MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

**REVEREND MONSIGNOR
JOHN JOSEPH USHER AM**

3 DECEMBER 1940 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, MORTLAKE
FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT
The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOSEPH USHER

1972

Ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Ministered in the parishes of Mount Pritchard, Baulgowlah, Golden Grove, Dundas Valley, Blacktown, Rozelle and Mortlake.

1983-2004

Director of Centacare

2004-2014

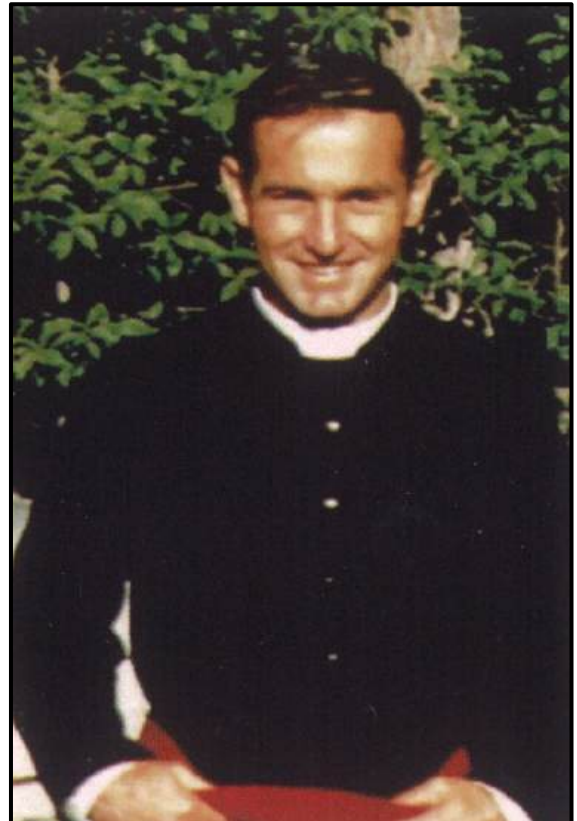
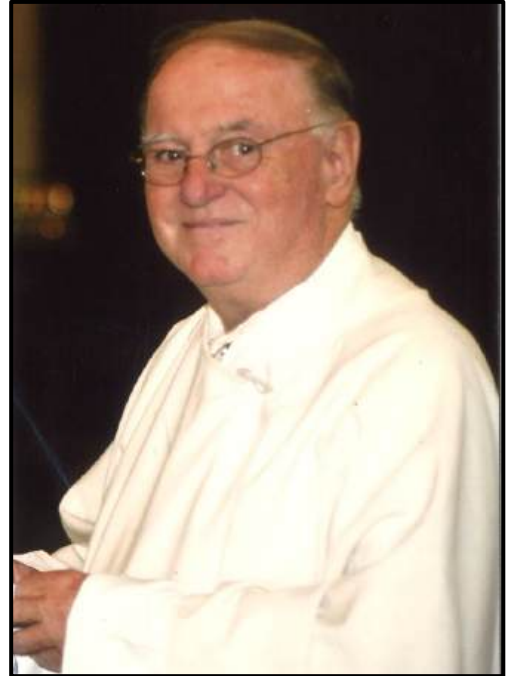
Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Sydney

2009

Appointed as Prelate of Honour of His Holiness

2012-2014

Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Sydney



THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

How Great Thou Art (Stuart K. Hine)

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

PLACING OF THE PALL and CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Given by Des Semple and Dr Megan Brock rsj

COLLECT

O God,
In whom sinners find mercy and the saints find joy, we pray to you
for our brother John whose body we honour with Christian burial,
that he may be delivered from the bonds of death.
Admit him to the joyful company of your saints and raise him on
the last day to rejoice in your presence for ever.

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

All: Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 forever.

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.

PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd (Brian Boniwell)

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 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or
distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril,
or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him
who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor
height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor: *I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die.*

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-11

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And with your Spirit

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat
down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in
the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

HOMILY

Given by the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Archbishop:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead;
with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and
dead:

John was a man of deep faith.
May the promises made to him in baptism be now fulfilled.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

John lived his vocation as a priest.
May all priests find joy in their ministry of serving God's
people with compassion and kindness.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

John had a deep love for people, especially those on the margins. May our political and religious leaders focus their efforts and policies on including those who are marginalised and isolated.

All: We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

John was a devoted and well-loved Parish priest. May the people of St Patrick's and all those he ministered to be consoled in their grief.

All: We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

John worked for the welfare and wellbeing of others. May all who work in the social welfare space, especially those in CatholicCare, continue to be the face of compassion to those in need and advocate for those they serve.

All: We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

John strove for a more just society. May each of us be inspired by the Gospel to work for peace and social justice.

All: We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

John loved life and social interaction. May we find ways to bring people together, especially those who feel lonely and excluded.

All: We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

John remained close to the family and friends who went before him. May his deceased parents, relatives, friends and fellow priests eternally live in the presence of God.

All: We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer

Archbishop:

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption.

All: We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

OFFERTORY HYMN

Our Supper Invitation (Kevin Bates S.M)

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.
Let me befriend you now; eat take your fill.
Don't be afraid to dream; love has its will.

Take up your burden now, walk 'til you find
Just what the journey means; walk while there's time.
Food for the journey will answer your need.
Don't be afraid to walk; love, my love will lead.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Be a sweet nourishment to good friends of mine.
Let me befriend you now; eat, take your fill.
Share with your people, that love has its will.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we humbly present to you these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, for the salvation of your servant John, we beseech your mercy, that he, who did not doubt your Son to be a loving Saviour, may find in him a merciful Judge. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen

PREFACE DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

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.

Please kneel or be seated.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until the...

DOXOLOGY

Through him, 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our
day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from
all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our
Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, you 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 grant us the peace and unity of your
kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

All: Amen

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

All:

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

All are invited to offer a handshake or another gesture of peace.

AGNUS DEI

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.

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Will You Love Me? (Brian Boniwell)

Will you give me your life forever?
Will you carry my cross every day?
Will you walk in the light of my presence?
Will you follow the truth of my ways?

Refrain

Will you love me as I have loved you?
Will you live with me the darkness as I die?
For the moon and the stars will be gone like the night,
And the sun will be shining on you.

Like the purest of gold in the furnace,
Is your love strong enough to endure?
Does your faith carry on through the shadows?
Does it shine in the night for the world? *Refrain*

Can you walk in the footprints of silence?
Through the wilderness sands in the sun,
From the desert of doubt and temptation.
To the glorious mountain of fire? *Refrain*

THANKSGIVING HYMN

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman (Carey Landry)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death. Amen.

Refrain

Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong and bright,
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father;
you were chosen for the Son.
You were chosen from all women
and for woman, shining one.

Blessed are you among women,
blest in turn all women, too.
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 brother John may come to the eternal table of Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for John 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 John 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.

The coffin is now sprinkled with holy water and incensed.

SONG OF FAREWELL

Saints of God, come to John's aid!
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!

All: Receive John's soul and present him to God the Most High.

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

All: Receive John's soul and present him to God the Most High.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

All: Receive John's soul and present him to God the Most High.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother John 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 John 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 forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

On Eagles Wings (Michael 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

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

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

Music led by Jessica Di Bartolo

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Thank you for joining today to pray together and celebrate the ministry and life of Monsignor John Usher.

Following the Mass, the cortege will journey to Rookwood Catholic Cemetery where Fr John will be interred in the Priests Lawn.

All are welcome to join for refreshments at Concord Golf Club (190 Majors Bay Road Concord)





