

*Vivit vero*  
*in me*  
*Christus*  
Christ lives in me. Gal 2:20



Sr Elizabeth Funder osb

Born: 26.10.1926

Died: 13.12.2024



# Mass of Christian Burial

to celebrate the life  
of our  
beloved

Sr Elizabeth Funder osb

Born:	26.10.1926
Entered monastic life:	24.3.1947
Clothed in monastic habit:	05.10.1947
1 <sup>st</sup> Profession of vows:	11.10.1948
Solemn Profession:	11.10.1951

It is with a sadness, too deep for words, that we come together today for this celebration of Elizabeth's life. But celebrate we must for she was a woman who knew how to celebrate and give praise. How to describe her? Let us count just a few ways:

Our beloved,  
our wise woman,  
our stronghold.

The holder of our tradition,  
the keeper of our stories,  
the dreamer of our dreams.

Prioress and cellarer for many years,  
lover of God and woman of prayer,  
Benedictine monastic woman to the core of her being.

Our friend,  
our listening confidant,  
our touchstone.

Lover of life and lover of adventure,  
always enthusiastic,  
with a glint in the eye.

Heart of our community,  
heart of our hearts,  
rest now in peace dear Elizabeth.

How we will miss you!

How we will miss you!

## ORDINARY OF THE MASS: Mass of Blessing

*The Symbols of Faith are expressed by the following:*

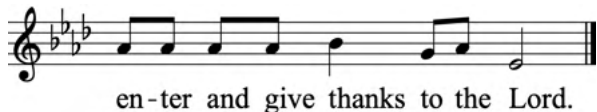
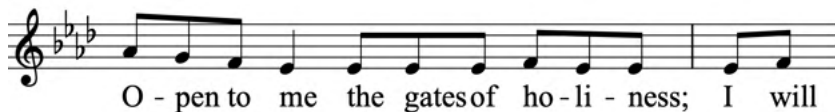
- *The lighting of the Paschal Candle – as a sign of hope which sheds its light over the celebration.*
- *The Pall has already been placed on the coffin – as a sign of the white garment of baptism returning to clothe us at the time of our death.*
- *The sprinkling with holy water – a reminder of our baptism.*
- *Personal Symbols of Faith are placed on the coffin.*

## PROPER OF THE MASS

### ENTRANCE

Words: Psalm 117:19

Music: Sr Moira Bradshaw osb



Tone: 8c

Stanbrook Abbey



Psalm 117:20-21

This is the | Lord's own gate

where the | just may enter.

I will thank you for | you have answered

and you | are my savior.

### EULOGY: Mother Hilda

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**The Canticle of Hezekiah**

I said in the noontide of my days,  
I am made to depart;  
I am consigned to the gates of Sheol,  
for the rest of my years.

I said: I shall see the Lord no more  
in the land of the living;  
never again shall I behold anyone  
of all who dwell in the world.

My tent is pulled up and thrown away,  
like the tent of a shepherd;  
like a weaver you have rolled up my life  
to cut it from the loom.

From dawn till night you bring about my end.  
I cry for help 'till the morning;  
like a lion he crushes all my bones.  
From dawn 'till night you bring about my end.

What can I say? Of what can I speak to him?  
It is he who is at work.  
I will give glory to you all the years of my life;  
out of the midst of my sufferings.

Lord, my heart will live for you,  
my spirit will live for you alone.  
For you will heal me and give me life;  
my sufferings will turn to peace.

It is you who delivered my soul,  
from the pit of destruction.  
When you cast all my sins  
behind your back.

For Sheol does not give thanks,  
death does not praise you;  
nor do those who go down to the pit  
await your faithfulness.

The living, the living are the ones to give you thanks,  
as I do today.  
The fathers declare to their children  
your faithfulness O God.

O Lord, come to our help  
and we will make our harps resound  
in front of the house of the Lord,  
all the days of our life.

The Word of the Lord.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

# RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Chantresses*

Tone: 5d

Stanbrook Abbey



**Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,  
give thanks to his holy name.**

## **Psalm 29 v1-5**

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, I cried to you for help  
and you, my God, have healed me.  
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,  
give thanks to his holy name.



2<sup>nd</sup> READING: Rev 22:17-20

Mr Geoff Harrison

**A reading from the Book of Revelation**

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'.  
Let everyone who listens answer, 'Come'.

Then let all who are thirsty come:  
all who want it may have the water of life,  
and have it free.

The one who guarantees these revelations  
repeats his promise:  
I shall indeed be with you soon.  
Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Music: Sr Hildegard Ryan osb – Mass of Blessing

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!'. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The second staff contains the accompaniment: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half).

Make your | home in me,  
as I | make mine in you.

**GOSPEL:** John 15:4-11

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,

but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

All who remain in me, with me in them,

bear fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Those who do not remain in me

are like a branch that has been thrown away –

they wither;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,

and they are burnt.

If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will

and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples.

As the Father has loved me,

so I have loved you.

Remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments

and remain in his love.

I have told you this

so that my own joy may be in you

and your joy be complete.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY Fr Wayne



## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Sr Mary

1. We give thanks today for Sr Elizabeth's faith and enthusiasm in the living out of her Benedictine monastic vocation. We give thanks for her humility, obedience and loyalty to our community, holding steadfast to the solemn vows she made in 1951.

*Brief Pause*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. We remember in prayer Sr Elizabeth's parents, Emma and Christian, and all our sisters who have gone on before us, especially those whom we have known and loved. May Elizabeth now join them in an eternal choir of praise.

*Brief Pause*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For the nurses and staff at "Uniting Elanora". May they be blessed for their kindness to our Elizabeth and their consistent courtesy to all of us who visited her. We ask a special blessing upon their families and all in their care.

*Brief Pause*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. We pray for eternal joy for our Sr Elizabeth and for those who have died this year whom she loved:  
Br Terry of Arcadia, Alan Hickey our friend and oblate and Margaret Walker her cousin.

*Brief Pause*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. We pray for those who love Elizabeth and cannot be with us today. May Elizabeth's strong, prayerful presence, be with them to guide them along their journey. May God bless their families and friends.

*Brief Pause*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

6. For all of us here at this celebration, that the Lord will increase our faith, and help us to walk on with a new song in our hearts as we give thanks for a life well lived, in prayer, integrity, good zeal and always with a glint in the eye and a kind word on her lips.

*Brief Pause*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Words: Job 19:25

Music: Sr Moira Bradshaw osb

My Re - deem-er is liv - ing,  
and at the end he will re - new me.

Tone: 5a Stanbrook Abbey

I am sure I shall see the Lord's | goodness  
in the land | of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take | heart.

Hope | in the Lord!

# COMMUNION

Words: Psalm 119:175

Music: Sr Hildegard Ryan osb

Let your love come and

Let your love come and

I shall live, I shall live, I shall live.

I shall live, I shall live, I shall live.

Tone: 6c

Stanbrook Abbey

Psalm 62

O God, you are my God, for | you I long;  
for you my | soul is thirsting.  
My body | pines for you  
like a dry, weary land | without water.  
So I gaze on you | in the sanctuary  
to see your strength | and your glory.

**POST COMMUNION:** “I know that my Redeemer lives”

**Fr Paul & Sr Magdalen**

## THE FINAL COMMENDATION

*After the priest says the Prayer after Communion those appointed come forward and remove the symbols, flowers and the pall. The person taking the flowers holds them and when everything is removed she puts the flowers back onto the coffin.*

*The Abbess proceeds to the head of the coffin and the community move down in their stalls so as to be ready for the singing of the “Non Nobis” and then the procession from the church during the “In Paradisum”.*

*The priest stands near the coffin for the Rite of Burial and Final Commendation.*

### **Celebrant**

With faith in Christ, we reverently bring the body of our Sister Elizabeth to burial in its human imperfection.

Let us pray with confidence to God, who gives life to all things, that he will raise up this mortal body to the perfection and company of the saints.

May God give her a merciful judgment and forgive all her sins.

May Christ the Good Shepherd lead her safely home to be at peace with God our Father.

And may she be happy forever, with all the saints, in the presence of our eternal Lord.

*All pray in silence. The body is then sprinkled with holy water and incensed.*

### **Celebrant**

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 Abraham's side.

**All: Receive her soul**

**and present her to God the Most High.**

### **Celebrant**

Give her eternal rest, O Lord,

And may your light shine on her forever.

**All: Receive her soul**

**and present her to God the Most High.**



### **Celebrant**

O Loving God, into your hands we commend our Sister Elizabeth. We are confident that with all who have died in Christ she will be raised to life on the last day and live with Christ forever.

We thank you for all the blessings you gave her in this life, to show your fatherly care for all of us, and the fellowship which is ours with all the saints in Jesus Christ.

Welcome our Sister Elizabeth to paradise and help us to comfort each other with the assurance of our faith until we all meet in Christ to be with you and with our sister forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**



*Guiding the coffin from the church. 4 of the sisters move to take their positions beside the coffin. They remain there until the end of the singing of the “Non Nobis Domine”.*

*After the “Non Nobis Domine” the four sisters escort the body of Sr Elizabeth from the church.*

### ***Non Nobis Domine***

Words: Psalm 115 and RB Prologue 30

Music: Patrick Doyle

Arrangement: Graham Preskett

Non no - bis do - mi - ne, do - mi - ne, non  
no - bis do - mi - ne, sed no - mi - ne sed  
no - mi - ne tu - o da glo - ri - am.

# In Paradisum

Fr Paul Gurr Ocarum

*The verses of the "In Paradisum" are sung, by Fr Paul.*

*All join in with the refrain and walk behind the coffin, through the cloister, to the hearse.*

## Refrain



May the choirs of an - gels come to greet you.



May they speed you to par - a - dise.



May the Lord en - fold you in his mer - cy.



May you find e - ter - nal life.

## 10 Verses



1. The Lord is my light and my
2. There is one thing I ask of the
3. O Lord, hear my voice when I
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's



1. help; it is he who pro - tects me from
2. Lord; that he grant me my heart - felt de
3. cry; have mer - cy on me and give
4. good-ness I shall dwell in the land of the



# ARRIVAL AT THE CEMETERY

## THE RITE OF COMMITAL

### OUTLINE OF THE RITE

1. Invitation
2. Scripture Verse
3. Prayer over the Place of Committal
4. Committal Intercessions
5. The Lord's Prayer
6. Concluding Prayer
7. Prayer over the People

## Invitation

*When all are assembled at the cemetery the priest says the following.*

### **Priest**

Our Sister Elizabeth has gone to her rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome her to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist her with our prayers. Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day with Sister Elizabeth. Together may we meet Christ Jesus when he who is our life appears in glory.

## Scripture

### **Sr Maureen Therese**

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

John 6:39

## Prayer over the place of committal

### **Priest**

All praise to you, Lord of all creation. Praise to you, holy and living God. We praise and bless you for your mercy, we praise and bless you for your kindness. Blessed is the Lord, our God

**R: Blessed is the Lord, our God.**

### **Sr Hildegard**

You sanctify the homes of the living and make holy the places of the dead. You alone open the gates of righteousness and lead us to the dwellings of the saints. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

**R: Blessed is the Lord, our God.**

## **Sr Hildegard**

We praise you, our refuge and strength.

We bless you, our God and Redeemer.

Your praise is always in our hearts and on our lips. We remember the mighty deeds of the covenant. Blessed is the Lord, our God

**R: Blessed is the Lord, our God.**

## **Priest**

Almighty and ever-living God, remember the mercy with which you graced your servant Elizabeth in life.

Receive her, we pray, into the mansions of the saints. As we make ready our sister's resting place, look also with favour on those who mourn and comfort them in their loss.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen.**

*The priest then says the words of committal during which the coffin is lowered.*

## **Priest**

Because God has chosen to call our Sister Elizabeth from this life to himself, we commit her body to the earth, its resting place, for we are dust and unto dust we shall return. But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead.

## **Intercessions**

### **Priest**

For our Sister Elizabeth, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

### **Sr Antonia**

- a) Our Sr Elizabeth was nourished with your body and blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

We pray to the Lord:

**R: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Sr Joanna**

- b) You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

We pray to the Lord:

**R: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Sr Veronica**

- c) You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

We pray to the Lord:

**R: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Sr Teresia Benedicta**

- d) You promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring Sister Elizabeth to the joys of heaven.

We pray to the Lord:

**R: Lord, have mercy**

### **Naomie**

- e) Let us pray also for ourselves as we continue our pilgrimage through life. We remember especially those whose journeys have been cut short because of the violence of war and loss.

We pray to the Lord:

**R: Lord, have mercy.**



## The Lord's Prayer

**Priest**

Now let us pray as Christ the Lord has taught us:

**All: Our Father...**

## Concluding Prayer

**Priest**

God of holiness and power, accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Elizabeth, do not count her deeds against her, for in her heart she desired to do your will.

As her faith united her to your people on earth, so may your mercy join her to the angels in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen.**

## Prayer over the People

**Priest**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

*All pray silently. The priest, with hands outstretched over the people, says the following prayer.*

Merciful Lord, you know the anguish of the sorrowful, you are attentive to the prayers of the humble. Hear your people who cry out to you in their need, and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen.**

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

**R: And let perpetual light shine upon her.**

May she rest in peace.

**R: Amen.**

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**R: Amen.**

May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

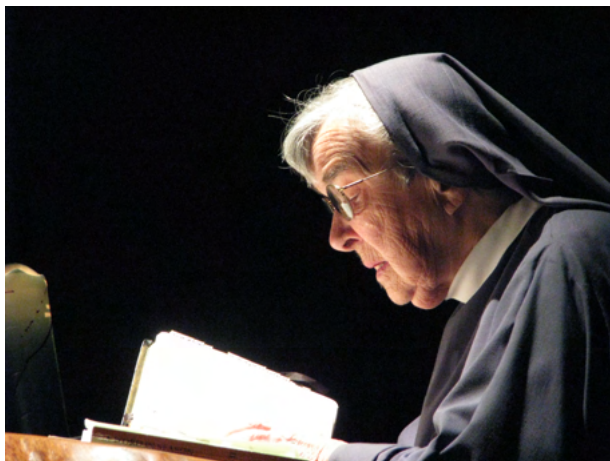
**R: Amen.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**R: Amen.**

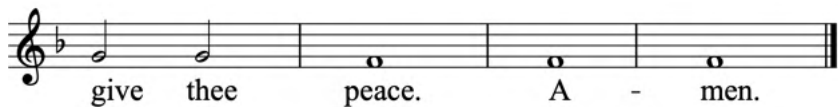
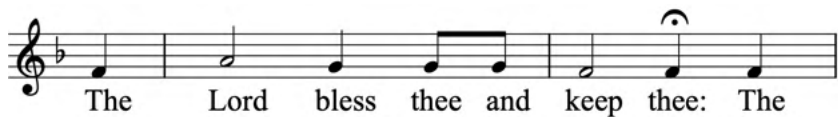
Go in the peace of Christ.

**R: Thanks be to God**



## *The Lord Bless Thee* *sung by all*

Words: Numbers 6:24-26



*The sisters and visitors now sprinkle the grave and coffin with holy water and lower a flower into the grave.*

A favourite prayer that Sr Elizabeth loved, which is taken from the Monastic Psalter

*Go forth upon thy journey from this world,  
O Christian soul.*

*Go in the name of God the Father Almighty  
who created thee.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, his Son,  
who suffered for thee.*

*In the name of the Holy Spirit  
who strengthened thee.*

*In communion with the blessed saints  
and accompanied by angels and archangels.*

*May thy portion this day be peace,  
and thy dwelling*

*in the heavenly Jerusalem.*

Amen

Sr Marie Gregory  
Elizabeth's close friend  
throughout their life together.



# A glimpse into Elizabeth life

## Early years



Parents:  
Emma & Christian



Home: Toxteth Road, Glebe



Elizabeth



School years: 1937 - 1943



University



## Newman Society

1<sup>st</sup> Residential Newman Camp, Newport 28.5.1945

Elizabeth, 7<sup>th</sup> from left



Entered "Subiaco" Rydalmere 1947



“Subiaco” community.



Sr Elizabeth 6<sup>th</sup> from left in back row - enlargement below





Moved from "Subiaco" Rydalmere to Pennant Hills 1957



Visiting mum 1967



1973 Sr Elizabeth was on loan to the A.I.M. – “Aid to

International Monasteries” and lived in Vanves Monastery, France. During this time she also attended the Bangalore Conference.

Sr Elizabeth kneeling



## Bangalore Conference – Sr Elizabeth centre left



## Visit to Israel



## Pennant Hills 1976

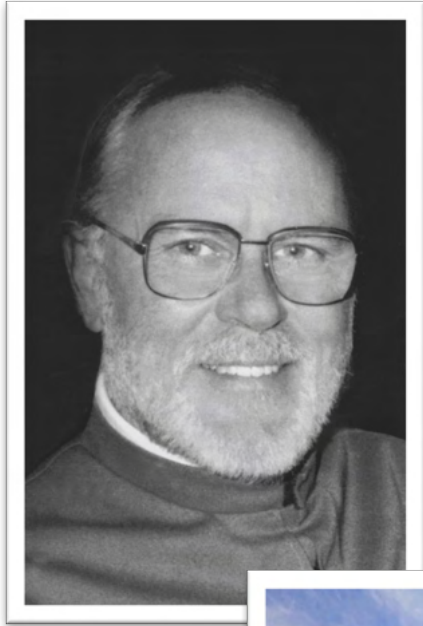
Sr Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> right, second row.



In 1982 Sr Elizabeth went overseas with Mother Benedicta and visited 58 monasteries from March to October.



1983 – overseas to study Meditation at the John Main Centre in Montreal. Also, to do monastic studies at St John's Collegeville.



From 1987-1988 Sr Elizabeth travelled around NSW, with Mother Benedicta and the Council, looking for a suitable property for the new Abbey. We found one on Jamberoo Mountain.



Leaving Pennant Hills and enjoying workdays at Jamberoo



# 1989 Opening and Blessing of the Abbey





Sr Elizabeth loved the singing of the Psalms and was faithful to the Liturgy of the Hours in the Church.

If you went looking for her at other times you would find her sitting in the sun, reading a book, doing her *lectio divina* and praying.



How can we properly extol this woman so full of prayer, the Rule of St Benedict, enthusiasm, vitality and love.

2000 and 2004 - Two trips to Our Lady of the Desert,  
New Mexico.



2006 – Trip overseas in gratitude to Sr Elizabeth for all she had given to the community. She went with Sr Hilda, now Mother Hilda, and visited Stanbrook Abbey UK, Worth Abbey UK, Downside Abbey UK, Vanves France, Kylemore Ireland, Dubuque USA, Kopua New Zealand, Tarrawarra Australia.



2009 – Elizabeth went on the “Indian Pacific” train journey with Mother Joanna from Stanbrook Abbey

Oprah Winfrey: *Every day brings a chance for you to draw in a breath, kick off your shoes and DANCE.*  
Sr Elizabeth knew how to enjoy life and “kick off her shoes”!



Her cup was overflowing with friendship and love









These are only a few photos of Elizabeth enjoying the company of those she loved.

You blessed her life & heart in great abundance.  
Thank You.



We want to especially thank the people at “Uniting Elanora” nursing care who filled Elizabeth’s last two years with such tenderness and love. Also, our deep thanks to our abbey carers – Lauren, Rachelle and Michelle, and the individual nuns who cared for Elizabeth – Mechtild, Mary, Joanna, M Bernadette, Naomie and others. Thank you all for walking this last journey with Elizabeth. You filled her days with love, care, tenderness and a touch of humour. You will be forever remembered in our prayer and our grateful hearts.

Just in case you are wondering why - Elizabeth wore a beanie at Elanora it was to keep the hearing aids, for the cochlear implant, in place. The following photographs were sent to us from “Uniting Elanora”:





Elizabeth's lamp, her life,  
shone in our community like a bright star  
lighting the way for us.  
With radiance and clarity of vision it beamed forth.



We don't expect that light to dim in any way  
because her enthusiasm, good zeal and zest for life  
will continue to shine forth within us.

She left her mark!

St Hildegard of Bingen told her sisters to  
*Be ablaze with enthusiasm.*

Elizabeth lived that to the full and may we,  
who follow in her footsteps, live our monastic life  
with enthusiasm and good zeal.



Thank You  
for coming  
to celebrate  
Sr Elizabeth's life  
with us,  
and to thank God  
for her presence  
along our journey,  
and for the love,  
listening ear, friendship  
and the joy  
she shared so generously

All are invited to the Abbey Dining Room  
for refreshments  
and to share our memories of Sister Elizabeth.