

In Loving Memory



Di

Diana Elizabeth La Fontaine

5th November 1939 ~ 4th December 2021



Requiem Mass to Celebrate the Life of

Diana Elizabeth La Fontaine

Held at St Patrick's Church, Wangaratta
on Thursday 16th of December 2021 at 1.30pm

Celebrant Father Nathan Verallo



~ Introductory Rite ~

Entrance Song

Eagles Wings ~ Frank Anderson

Fr Nathan: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Fr Nathan: The grace and peace of God our Father,
who raised Jesus from the dead, be always with you.

ALL: And with your Spirit.

Fr Nathan: Greetings

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Craig La Fontaine

Fr Nathan: In baptism, Diana received the light of Christ.

This light has guided her through her life.

ALL: May Christ's light, now guide her into eternal life.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Fr Nathan: In the waters of baptism, Diana died with Christ
and rose with Christ into eternal life.

ALL: May Diana now share eternal life with Christ in Glory.

Placing of the White Pall

Nicole Nixon

Fr Nathan: On the day of her baptism, Diana was clothed in Christ and given a
Christian dignity forever.

ALL: May Christ now enfold in his love and bring her to eternal life.

Placing of the Symbols

Blake Nixon and Patrick Romijn

Basket - Blake and Pat

The basket we have just placed next to our Nana,
represents our family and Nana's creativity and generosity.

It has been a picnic basket, music basket and kindling
wood basket. It is a treasured piece of our family story.



Hamburger Stacker/Piano Sheet Music - Mady

Nana's hamburger stacker was used for her crafts and sewing, and the piano sheet music represents her love of teaching music and playing the piano.

Blanket - Beky

Nana's love of giving of herself and her time to her family was one of the greatest gifts she could give us. The rugs would take months, but there is love in every stitch.

Peonies - Bridie

These Peonies represent her love of the outdoors: gardening, camping and adventuring. She recognised God's gift in all creation.

Rosary Beads - Sheri

These Rosary beads, which were her mother's, are a symbol of Nana's deep faith, nurtured within a loving family and providing a faith-filled connection across the generations.

Hawthorn Scarf - Georgie

This scarf represents her love of the Mighty Hawks. Nana loved being a part of sporting clubs and being actively involved in community settings and cherished the relationships they formed.

Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)

Nicole, Annette and Craig

A Life In Pictures

You Raise Me Up ~ Josh Groban

God Only Knows ~ Beach Boys

Basket of Roses

Annette Romijn

Opening Prayer

Fr Nathan: O God, whose nature is always to forgive and to show mercy, we humbly implore you for your servant Diana, whom you have called to journey to you, and, since she hoped and believed in you, grant that she, may be led to our true homeland to delight in its everlasting joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.



First Reading

Isaiah 43:2.5 ~ Sr Jennifer Barrow L.C.M.

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be harmed;

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

Because you are precious in my eyes,

because you are honoured and I love you,

I give men in exchange for you, people in return for your life.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord Is My Shepherd ~ Brian Boniwell (to be sung)

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

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy ~ Sheridan Nixon

My life is running out like water poured from a jug,

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 line;

I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the victory prize

Of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous judge,

Will give me on that day - and not only to me,

But to all who wait with love for him to appear.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
Let them rest from their labours
For their good deeds go with them. Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading

Fr Nathan: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

Fr Nathan: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

Georgia Nixon, Bridie Nixon, Madeleine Romijn and Rebekah Romijn

Georgie: Nana understood the importance of family regardless of the distances involved. Her gift of family beliefs is her legacy today, and we ask that it continues to flow through her family and friends. Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bridie: Throughout her life, Nana's vibrant personality helped to reach out to others through relationships and her support to many. We pray we can follow in her footsteps as we live our own lives. Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Mady: We acknowledge and thank the staff of St Catherine's and all of those who cared for Nana. We pray that they continue to tend for those who are in need.

Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.



Beky: Nana's inner faith was her strength, and her life was truly in God's hands. Her response to bedside prayer in her last days was recognition of what she knew well and the comfort that it offered. May she rest in peace. Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Nathan: God our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed sister Diana. Cleanse her of her sins and grant her the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Fr Nathan: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

ALL: Blessed be God for ever.

Fr Nathan: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

ALL: Blessed be God for ever.

Fr Nathan: With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Fr Nathan: As we humbly present to you these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, for the salvation of your servant Diana, we beseech your mercy, that she, who did not doubt your Son to be a loving Saviour, may find in her a merciful Judge.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Fr Nathan: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

Fr Nathan: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Fr Nathan: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right and just.



Fr Nathan: 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.

For he is the salvation of the world, the life of the human race, the resurrection of the dead. Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

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.

Fr Nathan: 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. The mystery of faith.

***ALL: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.***

Fr Nathan: 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 Francis our Pope,
Shane our Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember your servant Diana, whom you have called today 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 welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin,
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.

Fr Nathan: 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.

The Communion Rite

Fr Nathan: 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.

Fr Nathan: 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.

Fr Nathan: 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. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL: And with your spirit.

Fr Nathan: 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.

Fr Nathan: 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

Ave Maria (Schubert - instrumental) ~ Laura Silberberg



Prayer After Communion

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

ALL: Amen.

Final Commendation and Farewell

Fr Nathan: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Diana, and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we will see Diana again and enjoy her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, may the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom.

Saints of God, come to Diana's aid, come to meet her angels of the Lord.

ALL: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.

Fr Nathan: Diana, may Christ who called you, take you to himself; may the angels lead you to Abraham's side.

ALL: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.

Fr Nathan: Eternal rest grant unto Diana, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her

ALL: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.

Fr Nathan: Into your hands, God of mercies, we commend Diana, in the sure and certain hope that together with all who have died in Christ.

May she rise with him on the last day.

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant Diana, 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 Diana for ever.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Fr Nathan: 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.

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



Farewell Song

The Galilee Song ~ Frank Anderson



Diana's family sincerely thank you for attending and all the love, comfort, support and prayers today and throughout this sad time.

We look forward to sharing more memories and would like to extend an invitation for light refreshments in the Memories Room at Mason Park, 95 Mason Street, Wangaratta.





*“ We must be willing to let go
of the life we planned,
so we can love
the life we have.”*