



Mass of Christian Burial  
**Sr Paulina Pilkington, rsc**



*“To love Jesus and to make him loved”*

18 October 1927 – 26 November 2023

Mary Mother of Mercy Chapel Rookwood  
President: Fr Peter Clifford OFM  
Monday 4 December 2023

# Acknowledgement of Country

**Welcome:** Sr Laureen Dixon, rsc Congregational Leader

## Opening Hymn

*Come As You Are (Sr Deirdre Brown ibvm)*

Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits  
No need to fear, love never ends.  
Don't run away shamed and disheartened  
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise,  
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.  
Come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.  
All will be well, just come as you are.

**Presider:** Greeting

## **Blessing of the Coffin – Sprinkling of Water**

In the waters of Baptism, Paulina was claimed for God. She lived a long life of fidelity to her God. In our faith, we rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings Paulina received in this life and through her, the many graces given to others.

## **Placing of the Pall and Symbols**

**Reader:**

*The Pall.*

*Paulina's Crucifix, Bible & Constitutions, Member of Australia recognition, Family Photo.*

## **Words of Remembrance**

*(Sr Helen Clarke then Jane Bryant)*

## **Opening Prayer**

**Presider:**

Gracious and loving God, we pray for our sister Paulina. She responded to your call to live her whole life impelled by the love of Christ. May she now rejoice with you in the fullness of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading:**

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

With God on our side, who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm** (*Sung*)

### **The Lord is my Shepherd**

1. The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.  
Over the mountains the waters and byways,  
Valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

*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.*

2. 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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are they who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good works have gone before them. Alleluia!**

# Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed 'I bless you Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

'Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

## Prayers of Intercession

**Presider:** God's love for us is unfailing and unchanging. It is stronger than death. Let us pray together with confidence.

**Reader 1:** We pray for courage and strength for Pope Francis, as he tries to form us into a humbler, serving and inclusive Church.

**All:** **God of abundance, hear our prayer.**

**Reader 2:** We pray for all those committed to the care of others, especially those in the Nursing profession that was so dear to the heart of Paulina.

**All:** **God of abundance, hear our prayer.**

Reader 3: We pray for all those who have cared for Paulina, particularly her special friends Srs Helen and Maria and also Sue Andruskin, Marian Rudge, Grace Mahdavi, Sisters of Charity, Father Paul Foley and the staff of Stella Maris Cronulla.

**All: God of abundance, hear our prayer.**

Reader 4: We pray for Paulina's family, especially her niece Jane who has been faithful to her aunt with regular phone calls and visits.

**All: God of abundance, hear our prayer.**

Reader 5: We pray for all those who have gone before us – Paulina's parents Hilda and William, her sisters Mary and Joan, her brother Peter and Sisters of Charity who have been on life's journey with Paulina.

**All: God of abundance, hear our prayer.**

**Presider:** We offer these prayers with confidence, trusting that they will be heard and granted in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **Presentation of Gifts**

*Reflective music*

## **Prayer over the Gifts**

**Presider:** Loving God, we bring our gifts of bread and wine as we thank you for the gift of our sister, Paulina. May she have a place at the eternal banquet, prepared by Christ for all who believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **Preface**

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

## **Sanctus**

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.

## **Acclamation**

We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

## **Our Father**

## **Sign of Peace**

## **Lamb of God**

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.

## **Communion Song**

Veni Sponsa - Traditional Song of the Sisters of Charity

*(Pall and symbols are removed from the coffin)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**Presider:** Lord God, Your Son Jesus Christ gave us the Sacrament of his Body and Blood to guide us on our pilgrim way to your Kingdom.

May our sister, Paulina, who shared the Eucharist, come to the banquet of life that Christ has prepared for her. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

## **Final Commendation and Farewell**

### **Invitation to Prayer**

**Presider:**

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

### **Sprinkling and Incense**

### **Song of Farewell**

**Presider:** Saints of God, come to her aid. Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord.

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

**Presider:** May Christ who called you, take you to himself; may the angels lead you to Abraham's side. **(Response)**

**Presider:** Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. **(Response)**



## **Prayer of Commendation**

**Presider:** Father into your hands we commend our sister, Paulina. 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.

Welcome Paulina to paradise and help us comfort each other with the assurance of our faith until we all meet Christ to be with you and Paulina forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** Let us take our sister Paulina to her place of rest.

## **Recessional Hymn**

### **HOW GREAT THOU ART**

1. 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.

2. 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. (R)

3. 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 (R)



Sisters Margaret Lee, Paulina Pilkington, Patricia Grantham and Maria Cunningham, 1988.



Sister Paulina Pilkington with a group of graduate nurses about 1965.



The **Sisters of Charity** and  
**Paulina's family**  
thank you most sincerely  
for your presence here today.

Your loving wishes, support and prayers,  
are very much appreciated.



Please join us for refreshments  
at the Mary Mother of Mercy Lounge  
at Rookwood Cemetery.