

A CELEBRATION
OF THE LIFE OF
Barbara Joan Baker



Born: 16 August 1930

Born to Eternal Life: 12 March 2026

Funeral service at the
Church of St Michael Archangel, Ashburton

Friday 20 March 2026

Order of Service

Gathering Hymn

Laudate Dominum: Psalm 117;
Musical setting:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Words of Welcome

Reverend Darien J Sticklen, Celebrant

We Remember Barbara's Christening

Light from the Easter Candle

In Baptism, Barbara received the light of Christ. Throughout her life she has kept this flame of faith alive in her heart.
May Barbara now share eternal light and life.

Sprinkling with Holy Water from the Baptismal Font

In the waters of Baptism, Barbara died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May Barbara now share with him eternal life.

Placing of the White Garment

On the day of Barbara's Baptism, she was robed in white. As we now robe her with the white pall we pray: May Christ now enfold Barbara in his love, and clothe her in bright glory.

Placing of Life Symbols

Jennifer Gleeson

Words of Remembrance

Brittany Gleeson, Michael Baker,
Joshua Baker & Kai Baker

The Collect

Cel: Let us pray: Lord, in our grief we turn to you.
Are you not the God whom we call love,
always ready to hear our cries?
Listen to our prayers for your servant Barbara,
whom you have called out of this world:
lead her to your kingdom of light and peace,
and count her among the saints in glory.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of The Word

First Reading

Sirach 44:10-15

read by Daniel Gleeson

A Reading from the Book of Sirach.

Here is a generous woman whose good works have not been forgotten. In her descendants there remains a rich inheritance born of her. They stand by the covenants and give thanks to her: so do her children's children. Her offspring will last forever, and her glory will not fade. Her body will be interred in peace and her name will live on for generations. The people will proclaim her wisdom; the assembly will celebrate her praises.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

23rd Psalm

Musical setting: 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

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand)

All: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
 I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
 The one who believes in me shall have eternal life.
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Cel: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Cel: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Sermon on the Mount – The Beatitudes

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hillside. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak, and this is what he taught them:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the gentle; they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, when people revile you, and persecute you, and speak all kinds of falsehood against you on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Fr Darien

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

read by John Morris

Reader: For Barbara, that she may be securely held in the loving hands of God for all eternity.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all of us who grieve the loss of Barbara, that we will be comforted in our sorrow.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For Barbara's loved ones who have departed this life, and for those throughout the world who die by violence, war and famine each day, that God's mercy will embrace those who suffer so unjustly these sins against love, and gather them into the eternal kingdom of peace.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Cel: Most High and Merciful Lord, please hear and grant the prayers we make this day, if it be your will, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Please stand)

Cel: 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.

Cel: 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
harm 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 forever.

The Peace

Cel: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
"Peace I leave you, my own peace I give you", look
not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her the peace and unity of
your kingdom where you live forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Cel: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Cel: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Presentation of Photo Memories

Hallelujah – sung by Lucy Thomas

You Raise Me Up – sung by Celtic Woman

The Final Commendation & Farewell

Cel: With faith in Jesus Christ, we reverently commit the body of Barbara to the elements in its human imperfection. At the same time, we commend Barbara's soul into the loving arms of the Most High. Let us pray with confidence to God, who gives life to all things, that He will raise her mortal body to the perfection and the company of the saints.

Cel: May Christ, the Good Shepherd, lead her safely home to be at peace with God our loving Father. And may Barbara be happy forever with all the saints in the presence of the Eternal King.

With water and with incense, we call on the Lord Jesus to welcome her into the glory of eternal life.

Cel: 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.

Cel: 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.

Cel: Give her eternal rest, O Lord,
And may your light shine upon her forever.

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

Cel: Almighty, ever-living God, into your hands we commend your servant Barbara. Though this congregation may depart in sorrow, 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 the blessings you gave her in her life to show your care for all of us, and the fellowship which is ours with all the saints.

Merciful Lord, hear our prayer: welcome our beloved Barbara into Paradise, and help us who remain to comfort one another with the assurance of our faith, hope and love, until we all meet in Christ to be with you and with Barbara forever. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Cel: Barbara, 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.

Dearlly Beloved, let us depart in peace.

Recessional Music

Dancing Queen – ABBA

Thank You

Barbara's family and loved ones thank you
for your presence here today to celebrate the gift of her life.
Your support, friendship and prayers are a great comfort to us.

After Final Prayers, please join with our family for refreshments at
OYDIS BAR & DINE, 190 High Street Ashburton.



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