A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

to give thanks for the life of

The Honourable
John Michael Batt, AM

22nd September, 1935 — 28th September, 2026



St George's Anglican Church, Malvern

Monday, 12 October, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Please ensure that your mobile phones are turned off or switched to silent before the eucharist begins.

Episcopal President:	The Most Reverend Dr Ric Thorpe *Archbishop of Melbourne, Metropolitan of Victoria*
Celebrant and preacher:	The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach, *Vicar*
Deacon:	The Reverend Dr Callum Dawson, *Assistant Curate*
Assisting Clergy:	The Right Reverend Dr Philip Freier, *former Archbishop of Melbourne* The Right Reverend David Farrer, *former Bishop of Wangaratta* The Reverend Fr Matthew Dowsey, *Hon. Assistant Priest*
Organist:	Mr John Mallinson
Choir:	Members of the Choir of St George's
Setting of the Eucharist:	Parish Eucharist, Michael Dudman (*1938–94*)

Music before the service will conclude with:

'Nimrod'
from
Variations on an Original Theme (Op. 36)
by Sir Edward Elgar (*1857–1934*)

Extracts from the text of A Prayer Book for Australia
published under the imprint of Broughton Books
by E. J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd.
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The Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ's victory over death,
remains alight throughout the service.

Gathering in God's Name

All stand as the clergy enter.

The Archbishop greets the congregation:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Please sit.

The Vicar welcomes people and introduces the liturgy.

Placing of Symbols

As the service begins, Christian symbols which mark John's life, faith and service to the church are placed on the coffin by Emily Ryan, Charlie Ryan, Freddie Batt and Georgie Batt. Prayers are offered by the Archbishop, Bishop David Farrer, Bishop Philip Freier and Father Matthew:

A candle:
Light immortal,
you brought life and immortality to life through the gospel.
May we, with John and all the baptised
know the full light of your risen presence. **Amen.**

Water:
In the waters of baptism we died with Christ,
And began to walk in newness of life.
May we, with John and all the baptized,
be brought to the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

A copy of the Scriptures:
In life, John was nourished by the word of God.
May Christ greet us, with John, saying:
Come, blessed of my Father! **Amen.**

A cross:
Lord Jesus Christ, you bore our sins on the cross.
May this cross be a sign to us of your love for John
and the forgiveness of his sins. **Amen.**

We stand to sing:

1. Here at journey's end we meet you:
   Lord, hear our prayer.
   In the faith of Christ we greet you:
   Lord, hear our prayer.
   With your gentle Spirit, tend us,
   With the Saviour's love, befriend us,
   Strength and peace and comfort send us:
   Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For the blessings God gave to him,
   thanks be to God.
   For the blessings God gave through him,
   thanks be to God.
   For the memories we treasure,
   Times of struggle, times of pleasure,
   Grace bestowed in generous measure,
   thanks be to God.

3. Death must come, but life comes after:
   all shall be well.
   We will trust, through tears and laughter:
   all shall be well.
   Now in Christ our friend is sleeping,
   Though we still need time for weeping,
   All are held in God's safe-keeping:
   all shall be well.

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (*1956–*)
Music: *Ar Hyd Y Nos*, Welsh trad. melody

Please sit.

The Vicar continues the liturgy with other sentences of Scripture, before we pray together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,
and fill us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please sit.

Tribute

A tribute to John is offered by

David and Carolyn

This is followed by a pictorial tribute

The Ministry of the Word

First Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 50b–58

read by Thomas Ryan

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God,
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
Listen, I will tell you a mystery!
We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable,
and we will be changed.
For this perishable body must put on the imperishable,
and this mortal body must put on immortality.
When this perishable body puts on the imperishable,
and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'
'Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory,
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable,
always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

Reader: For the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gospel

John 11:17–27

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

'I know that my redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth;
then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side.'

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deacon: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany,
he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,
and many people had come to Mary and Martha
to console them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him,
while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus,
'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'
Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'
Martha said to him,
'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'
Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'
She said to him, 'Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,
the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

For the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit.

The Homily The Vicar

THE PRAYERS

Prayers are offered in thanksgiving for John's life and for those who mourn, by Alice and Sam Batt, concluded by the Vicar.

Alice: Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we thank you that you received John by baptism
into the family of your Church on earth,
and granted him the gift of eternal life.
He ate with us the bread of life
and drank from the cup of salvation.
We thank you for all your goodness to John,
in Christ our Saviour. **Amen**.

Sam: God of all mercy, giver of all comfort:
look graciously, we pray, on those who mourn,
Casting all their cares on you,
may they know the consolation of your love;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen**.

The Vicar: Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

As the altar is prepared, please remain standing as we sing:

1. For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
   Who thee by faith before the world confest,
   Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.
   Alleluya! Alleluya!

2. O blest communion! Fellowship divine!
   We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
   Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
   Alleluya! Alleluya!

3. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
   The Saints triumphant rise in bright array:
   The King of glory passes on his way.
   Alleluya! Alleluya!

4. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
   Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
   Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
   Alleluya! Alleluya!

Words: W. Walsham How (*1823–97*)
Music: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (*1872–1958*)

Please remain standing.

When all is prepared, the Celebrant begins:

Blesséd are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blesséd be God for ever.

Blesséd are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.
Blesséd be God for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant offers a Prayer of Thanksgiving, which leads to the Sanctus, sung by all:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blesséd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving continues until:

…we celebrate his death until he comes.

We then sing together:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving continues until:

…all glory is yours, eternal Father, now and for ever.

We then sing together:

Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

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.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the Vicar breaks the bread, the following is said:

The disciples knew the risen Lord in the breaking of the bread.
We who are many are one body
for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei is said:

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world; **grant him rest.**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world; **grant him rest.**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world; **grant him eternal rest.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The people and ministers receive the sacrament.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament, which is offered in both kinds.

During communion, the choir will sing:

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
   He makes me down to lie
   In pastures green; he leadeth me
   The quiet waters by.

2. My soul he doth restore again,
   And me to walk doth make
   Within the paths of righteousness
   E'en for his own name's sake.

3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
   Yet will I fear no ill:
   For thou art with me, and thy rod
   And staff me comfort still.

4. Goodness and mercy all my life
   Shall surely follow me;
   And in God's house for evermore
   My dwelling place shall be.

Words: Psalm 23, Scottish Psalter (*1650*)
Music: Crimond, Melody by Jesse Irvine (*1836–87*)

After communion silence is kept.

All then stand for the post-communion prayer.

Vicar: Lord of life and death,
we thank you that in your great love
you have given us this foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for John and all your saints.
Grant that this sacrament of Christ's death may be to us
a comfort in affliction,
a firm assurance of his resurrection,
and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom
where death and sorrow are no more,
but all things are made new.

All: **Amen.**

THE FAREWELL, COMMENDATION AND COMMITTAL

We stand to sing:

1. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Words: Edmond Budry (*1854–1932*), *trans.* Richard Hoyle (*1875–1939*)
Music: from 'Judas Maccabæus', Georg Frideric Handel (*1685–1759*)

All sit.

A prayer is offered by Bishop David:

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our brother John
by water and the Spirit.
Grant that his death may recall to us
your victory over death,
and be an occasion for us
to renew our trust in your Father's love.
Give us, we pray, the faith to follow
Where you have led the way;
To live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Let us entrust our brother John to the loving mercy of God.

Silence is kept, before all pray together:

Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust John to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit
in glory for ever. Amen.

Bishop Philip then begins the Committal:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have given us a sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life.
In your keeping are all who have departed in Christ.
We here commit the body of our dear brother John
to be cremated
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,
and who shall change our mortal body
that it may be like his glorious body.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A final committal is pronounced by the Archbishop,
as the coffin is sprinkled with holy water: a reminder that, in the waters of baptism,
John entered into the death of Christ that he might share Christ's risen life.

It is then censed as a sign that our prayers, with John's and those of all the faithful,
rise to God in glory.

All stand.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Archbishop pronounces the blessing:

To God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you:
May the Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord cause his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you,
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you his peace.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

RECESSIONAL

Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major (BWV 552)

by

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 –1750)

The clergy lead the coffin from the church, with the coffin guided by John's grandchildren, followed by David, Carolyn and the rest of the family.

The congregation is invited to follow and stand in silence on the Church forecourt, then watch as the hearse is led down Glenferrie Road.

John's family thank you for your presence today, and invite you to join them for refreshments in the Parish Centre.









He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;
and what doth the LORD require of thee,
but to do justly, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

And I said to the Man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied,
"Go into the darkness and put your hand
into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way!"

from *'God Knows',*
by Minnie Louise Haskins (*1875–1957*)