



St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese

Thanksgiving for the life of
Professor Katie Allen



24 February 1966–23 December 2025
Thursday, 29 January 2026, 10.30am



PROFESSOR KATIE (KATRINA) ALLEN FRACP FAHMS

Katie Allen (24 February 1966-23 December 2025) was a physician, scientist, parliamentarian and community leader. Her lifelong commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of others, shaped an extraordinary career spanning medicine, research, public service and education. She combined intellectual brilliance with deep compassion, generosity and a steadfast devotion to family and community.

FELLOWSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences
Fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Fellow of Monash University
Enterprise Professor University of Melbourne
Chair, Melbourne Girls' Grammar School Council
Board Member, Cabrini Health
Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow

EDUCATION

PhD, University of Melbourne (2002)
FRACP, Royal Australasian College of Physicians (1998)
MBBS (Hons, 1st Class), Monash University (1990)
BMedSc (Hons), Monash University/Cambridge University (1990)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Member of Parliament for Higgins (2019–2022) — central role in Australia's national COVID response, leadership on health, science, women's advancement and Indigenous policy.
Murdoch Children's Research Institute: Division Head, Population Health (2011–2019)
Director, Centre for Food and Allergy Research (2014–2019)
Consultant Paediatrician, Royal Children's Hospital (1998–2019)
Professorial Appointments: University of Manchester, University of Melbourne, Monash University

RESEARCH AND IMPACT

Author of more than 400 peer-reviewed publications in leading medical journals including *NEJM*, *The Lancet*, *BMJ*, *Pediatrics* and *Gastroenterology*.
International authority on paediatric food allergy, contributing to global guidelines and major public health shifts, advisor to US Academies of Science.

Investigator on numerous national/international research programs across allergy, asthma, gut microbiome, early immune development, public health. Her work contributed directly to new prevention strategies, changing how allergy is diagnosed, understood, and managed in Australia and worldwide.

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

Katie's life reflected a profound commitment to serving others — from improving patient care to advancing women's leadership, supporting families affected by food allergy, and strengthening the institutions she led. She was an Ambassador for Eating Disorders Families Australia and a mentor to countless clinicians, scientists and students.

PERSONAL

Katie was a devoted wife, mother, sister and friend. She raised four children — Monty, Jemima, Arabella and Archie — while sustaining a career of remarkable breadth and impact. Her warmth, humour, integrity and love were the centre of her family life. She lived vividly, generously and with deep curiosity, touching thousands of lives with her kindness.

We give thanks for, and celebrate, an extraordinary life.





SERVICE LEADERS

The Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne; The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne; The Revd Kirsty Ross, Chaplain, Melbourne Girls' Grammar School.

Members of the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral and Melbourne Girls' Grammar, directed by Canon Philip Nicholls and accompanied by Elizabeth Barwell, piano, and Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We meet on land that was taken, not ceded—the Sovereign Country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We give thanks for their ancestors, acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country, and pay our respects to all First Peoples here today.

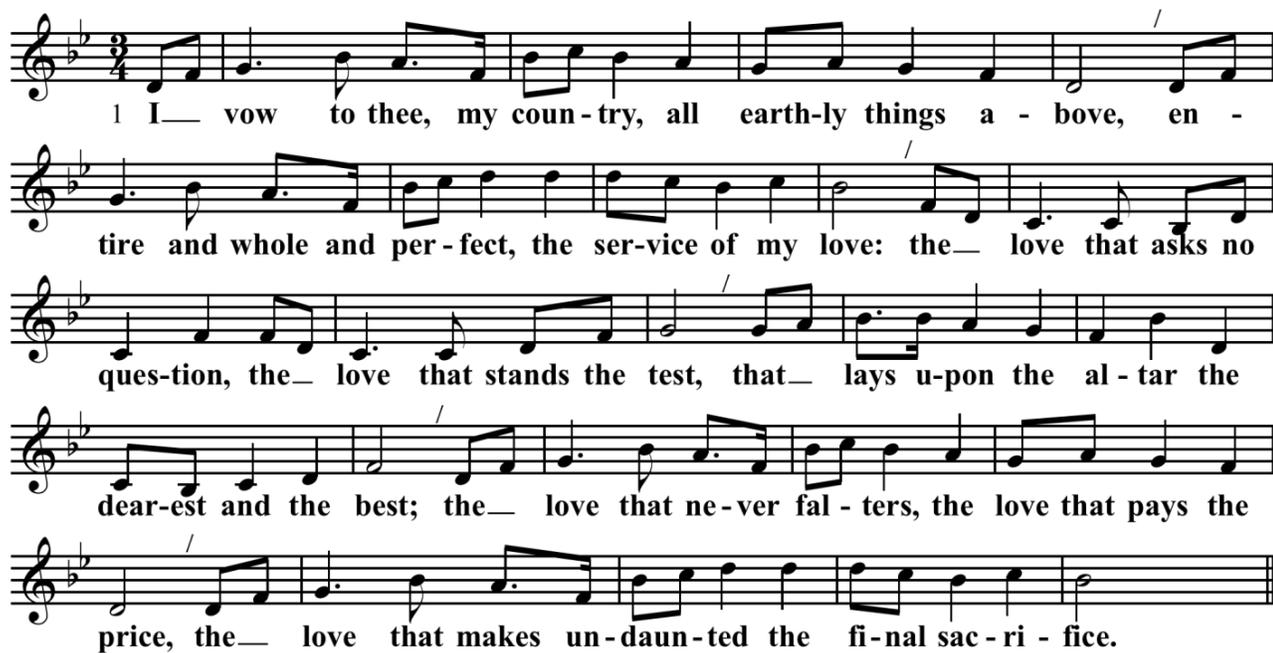
ORDER OF SERVICE

Please put your phones to silent mode.

*Please join in singing the hymns and saying the responses printed in **bold** type.*

Please stand as the procession enters and sing

THE INTROIT HYMN



1 I— vow to thee, my coun-try, all earth-ly things a - bove, en -
tire and whole and per-fect, the ser-vice of my love: the— love that asks no
ques-tion, the— love that stands the test, that— lays u-pon the al-tar the
dear-est and the best; the— love that ne-ver fal - ters, the love that pays the
price, the— love that makes un-daun-ted the fi-nal sac - ri - fice.

**And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.**

Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918)
Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard 295

THE WELCOME AND GREETING

The Dean introduces the service

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you.

And also with you.

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4.18

Today we come together
to remember before God our sister Katie,
to give thanks for her life
and to comfort one another in our grief.

The Archbishop prays

Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your own image
and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.
We thank you now for Katie Allen
and what she meant to each of us.
As we honour her memory,
make us more aware that you are the one
from whom comes every perfect gift,
including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please be seated for

THE TRIBUTES

Prof. Kathryn North AC, *on behalf of the Medical and Medical Research Community*

Canon Dr Toni Meath, *on behalf of Melbourne Girls' Grammar School and women's leadership*

The Hon. Greg Hunt, *on behalf of the Parliament and the Liberal Party*

Archie, Arabella, Jemima and Monty Allen, *Katie's Children*

Malcolm Allen, *Katie's husband*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Natalie (1950-2015) and Nat King Cole (1919-1965)

Unforgettable

Unforgettable, that's what you are
unforgettable, though near or far:

Like a song of love that clings to me,
how the thought of you does things to me,
never before has someone been more

Unforgettable in every way
And forevermore — that's how you'll stay.

That's why, darling, it's incredible
that someone so unforgettable
thinks that I am unforgettable, too.

Unforgettable, in every way
And forevermore, that's how you'll stay.

Lyrics: Irving Gordon (1915-1966)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE READING

William Butler Yeats (1865–1939), The White Birds

Read by Mrs Siobhan McKenna

I would that we were, my beloved, white birds on the foam of the sea!
We tire of the flame of the meteor, before it can fade and flee;
And the flame of the blue star of twilight, hung low on the rim of the sky,
Has awaked in our hearts, my beloved, a sadness that may not die.

A weariness comes from those dreamers, dew dabbled, the lily and rose;
Ah, dream not of them, my beloved, the flame of the meteor that goes,
Or the flame of the blue star that lingers hung low in the fall of the dew:
For I would we were changed to white birds on the wandering foam: I and you!

I am haunted by numberless islands, and many a Danaan shore,
Where Time would surely forget us, and Sorrow come near us no more;
Soon far from the rose and the lily, and fret of the flames would we be,
Were we only white birds, my beloved, buoyed out on the foam of the sea!

Howth, Ireland, 1892

Please stand as the choir leads

THE PSALM

Nisi Dominus

A. E. Floyd (1877-1974)

Members of the MGGS school community are invited to join in singing the psalm

Except the Lord build the house,
their labour is but lost that build it.
Except the Lord build the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain.
It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness.
For so he giveth his beloved sleep.
Except the Lord build the house,
their labour is but lost that build it.

Psalms 127

We look to the city that hath foundations
whose Builder and Maker is God.

Hebrews 11.10

THE READING

Revelation 21.1-7

Read by Ms Charlotte Myer

A reading from the twenty-first chapter of the Revelation to St John the Divine.

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘Behold, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the former things have passed away.’

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.’

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

THE ADDRESS

The Dean

THE ANTHEM

John Rutter (b. 1945), *A Gaelic Blessing*

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you:
Deep peace of Christ,
the light of the world, to you.

THE PRAYERS

Led by the Reverend Kirsty Ross and Mrs Carolyn Clarke OAM, Friend

Prayers are offered, giving thanks for Katie's life, and for those who grieve.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.**

Please stand to sing

THE HYMN

1 And did those feet in an-cient time walk u-pon Eng-land's moun-tains
green? And was the ho-ly Lamb of God on Eng-land's plea-sant pas-tures
seen? And did the coun-te-nance di-vine shine forth u-pon our clou-ded
hills? And was Je-ru-sa-lem buil-ded here a-mong those dark sa-ta-nic mills?

2 Bring me my bow of bur-ning gold! Bring me my ar-rows of de-
sire! Bring me my spear, O clouds un-fold! Bring me my cha-ri-ot of
fire! I will not cease from men-tal fight, nor shall my sword sleep in my
hand, till we have built Je-ru-sa-lem in Eng-land's green and plea-sant land.

William Blake (1757-1827),
Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard 294

Remain standing as the Reverend Kirsty Ross prays

Neither death nor life
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8.38-9

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but also for those whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power
to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
so may we trust your love
to give eternal life to all who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Dean leads

THE COMMENDATION

Almighty God, in your great love
you made us by your hand
and breathed life into us by your Spirit.
In your tender mercy you sent your Son
to restore in us your image.

In obedience to your will he gave up his life for us on the cross.
By your mighty power you raised him from the grave
and exalted him to the throne of glory.
Rejoicing in his victory and trusting in your promise
to make alive all who turn to Christ,
we commend Katie to your mercy
and we join with all your faithful people
and the whole company of heaven
in our unending song of praise:

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

The Archbishop blesses the people

THE BLESSING

Now may the God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will.

Hebrews 13.20

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain standing for the procession and sit for

THE POSTLUDE Enrico Morricone (1928-2020), 'Gabriel's Oboe' from *The Mission*
played by Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist

MAKE A DONATION TO REMEMBER KATIE

Katie's abiding passion was mentoring and supporting young people (especially women) to make a difference. Her final trip, two months before her death while actively on chemotherapy, was to Canberra where she hosted ten women interested in transitioning to politics.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to honour Katie's memory, please support the Dr Katie Allen Memorial Fund, which assists Pathways to Politics for Women via this web link: <https://giving.unimelb.edu.au/allen>.



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