

A service in thanksgiving for the life of

Professor Roger Kingsley Hall OAM

18th August 1935 – 19th August 2025



**St Peter's Eastern Hill
Tuesday 2nd September 2025, 10:30 am**

For the congregation

Human beings have sensed the mystery of death, and the pain of grief, since time immemorial. Every society has developed rites to mark the passage from life through death, and to commemorate the dead. Today we do this through the funeral service, and the rites by which we lay a person's body to rest.

The wounds of grief need time and care to heal. The funeral may help this process, by enabling us to acknowledge our loss, give thanks for the life of the person who has died, make our last farewell, and begin to take up life once more.

Christians believe in God, the source and giver of life. God's Good News proclaims Jesus Christ to be our living Lord, who laid down his life for us. He knew death, yet triumphed over it, drawing its sting, and was raised by God to new life. Christians affirm the presence of the Spirit of Christ, who helps us in our weakness. Yet we, with all mortals, still face death. Those who put their trust in Christ share the sufferings of their Lord, even in the midst of God's love and care.

A Christian funeral proclaims the Christian hope in the face of death—Jesus Christ, whose resurrection is the promise of our own.

The service in outline is as follows:

*We gather in the presence of God.
and remember the person who has died.
We listen and respond to the Word of God.
We give thanks for the life now ended.
and proclaim the death and resurrection of Christ.
We give thanks for the life now ended,
and pray for those in need.
We leave the deceased in God's care,
and we continue life's journey.*

Music before the service: J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750) *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* BWV 140, played by Nicholas Hall on violin and Gabrielle Hall on violoncello.

Followed by *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* played on the organ.

Introit hymn: Lord of all Hopefulness

Tune: SLANE (TRADITIONAL)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

JAN STRUTHER 1901-1953

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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

And also with you.

The priest greets the congregation and continues with these words.

We have come together to thank God for the life of Roger,
to mourn and honour him,
to commit his mortal body to be buried,
and to support one another in grief.

We face the certainty of our own death and judgement.

Yet Christians believe that those who die in Christ
share eternal life with him.

Therefore in faith and hope we turn to God,
who created and sustains us all.

*The priest invites Simon Hall and Adam Hall to offer a eulogy
followed by Dr Soni Stephen and Dr John Sheahan .*

After the eulogies the priest says

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord.

‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live.’

John 11.25

All join with the priest in saying

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.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3.1-13, 22

read by Cecilia Hall

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

For the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Tune: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry 1848-1918

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm,
O still, small voice of calm.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER 1807-1892

Psalm 23:1-6

read by Gabrielle Hall

A reading of the twenty-third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

For the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily: Fr Hugh Kempster

Hymn: Abide with me, fast falls the eventide

Tune: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk 1823-1889

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE 1793-1847

The prayers of intercession

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of all.

God of mercy, Lord of life, you have made us in your image to reflect your truth and light: we give you thanks for Roger, for the grace and mercy he received from you, for all that was good in his life, and for the gifts he shared with those around him, for the memories we treasure today.

Lord, in your mercy
All: hear our prayer

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death. Look in mercy on Vera, Cecilia, Gabrielle, Nicholas, Simon, Adam, Oliver, Nicholas, Asherah, Henry, Arlo, Genevieve, Sandy, Aphra and all who mourn. Comfort them in their sorrow, give them peace in their pain, and surround them with your everlasting mercy.

Lord, in your mercy
All: hear our prayer

Dear God, who are the Great Physician, we pray in thanksgiving for Roger's life's work at the Royal Children's Hospital, the University of Melbourne Medical Faculty and privately in paediatric dentistry practice caring for young children and adolescents with dental diseases or facial and jaw trauma, and his work as President of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry. We pray your blessing on all to whom he brought healing and relief, and for all those whom he taught and encouraged in their own practice of healing.

Lord, in your mercy
All: hear our prayer

Almighty God, whose blessed Son went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness; continue we beseech you, this his gracious work among us, especially in the hospitals and infirmaries; cheer, heal and sanctify the sick; grant to the physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and send down your blessing on all who labour to relieve suffering and to forward your purposes of love. Bless the work of their hands, and strengthen them in compassion and wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer

O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: grant to Roger and all the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son, that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and he Holy Spirit, one god, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The prayers conclude:

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

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

THE FAREWELL

The priest says

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our brother Roger
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.

The priest says

Let us entrust our brother Roger to the mercy of God.

All say

**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 Roger 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.**

THE COMMITTAL

Facing the coffin, the priest says

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 Roger
to be buried in the ground,
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.

All say

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

*The coffin is sprinkled with holy water, recalling Roger's baptism,
and honoured with incense.*

*The choir sings: Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet.
Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), lyrics by Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)*

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest says

May God give you his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy, in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Recessional: J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750) *Fantasia in G major* BWV 572



Roger's family warmly invite you to join them for
refreshments

immediately after the funeral at:

The Royal College of Surgeons

250/290 Spring St, East Melbourne.