

REQUIEM EUCHARIST

offered in thanks and praise for the life and
ministry of

The Reverend Roger William Prowd

12th December, 1949 — 21st February, 2026



St Peter's Eastern Hill, East Melbourne

Thursday, March 5, 11:00 a.m.

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

Vicar, St Peter's Eastern Hill:
The Reverend Dr Michael Bowie

Celebrant:
The Reverend Cara Greenham Hancock
Curate, St Peter's Eastern Hill

Preacher:
The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach,
Vicar, St George's Malvern; colleague and friend of Roger

Assisting Clergy: The Right Reverend Philip Huggins,
Long-time friend of Roger

Prayers: Ms Di Clark

Organist: Mr Rhys Arvidson

Director of Music: Mr Christopher Watson

Music before the service will include some sentimental favourites of Roger's that he often enjoyed with the family.

*Extracts from the text of A Prayer Book for Australia
published under the imprint of Broughton Books
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*Text for hymns from
New English Hymnal
The Canterbury Press, Norwich, 1986*

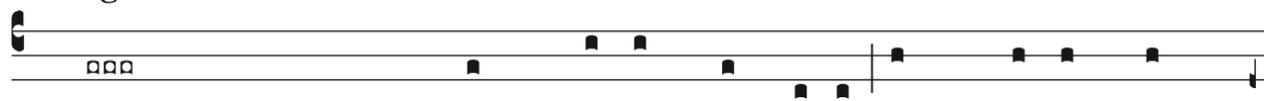
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The Paschal Candle, the great symbol of Christ's victory over death, remains alight throughout the service.

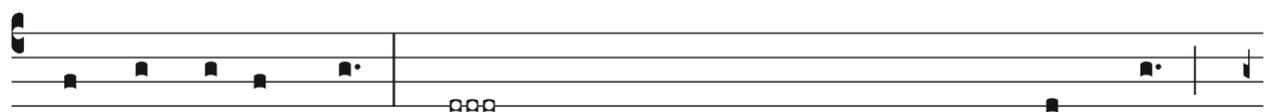
GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

All stand as the clergy enter.

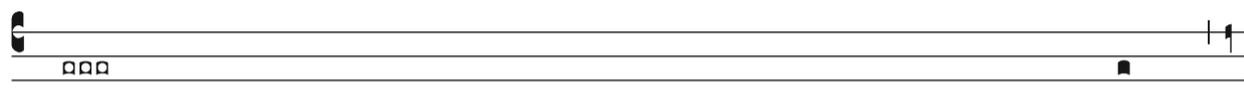
The Angelus



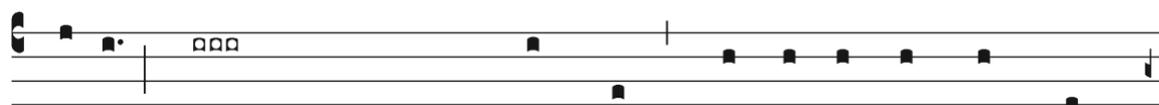
The angel of the Lord brought ti-dings to Ma-ry: **and she con-ceived**



by the Ho-ly Ghost. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,



Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,



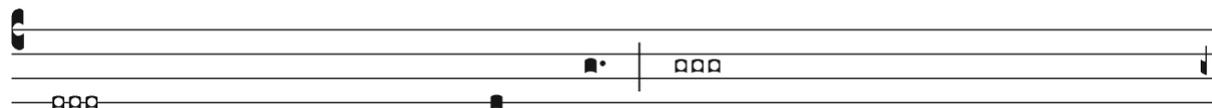
Je-sus: **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sin-ners now**



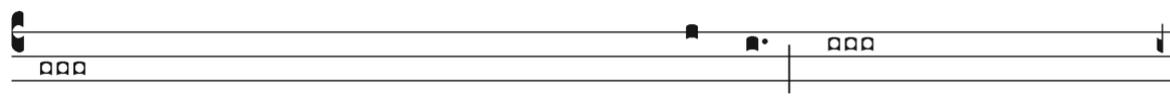
and at the hour of our death. A-men. Behold the handmaid



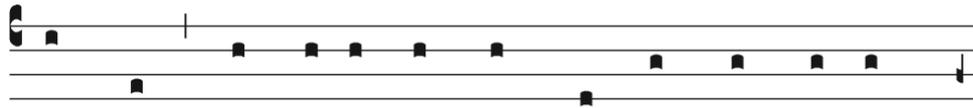
of the Lord: **Be it unto me ac-cor-ding to thy word.** Hail Mary,



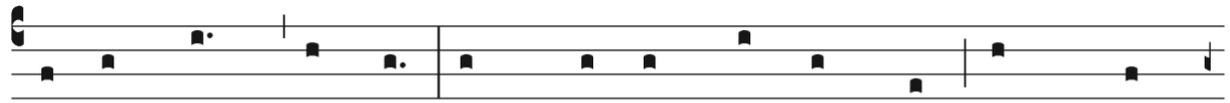
full of grace, the Lord is with thee, Blessed art thou among women



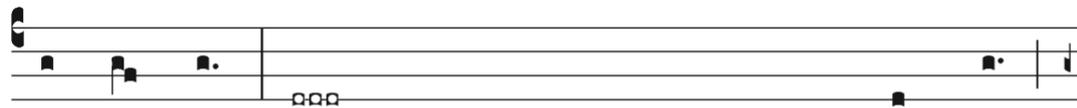
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Je-sus: **Holy Mary, Mother**



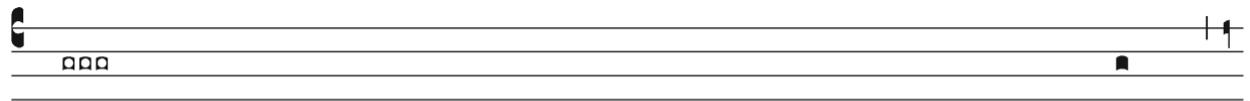
of God, pray for us sin-ners now and at the hour



of our death. **A-men.** And the Word was made flesh: **And dwelt**



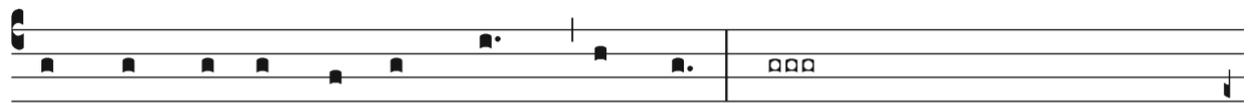
a-mong us. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,



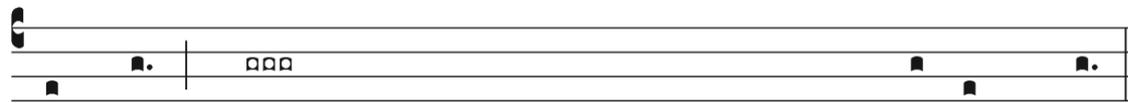
Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,



Je-sus: **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sin-ners now**



and at the hour of our death. A-men. Pray for us, O Holy Mother



of God. **That we be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Collect

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts;
that, as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ
by the message of an angel,
so by his cross and passion
we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Celebrant 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 Celebrant welcomes people to St Peter's, and offers an Acknowledgment of Country.

The Celebrant introduces the liturgy.

Symbols

In preparation for the liturgy symbols which mark Roger's life, faith, ministry and important relationships have been placed on the coffin:

A candle, the Scriptures, a stole, a holding cross, a Melbourne football scarf, a Phantom comic, a CD of Luciano Pavarotti, a copy of Grimm's Fairy Tales and LOTR, a copy of Roger's "Day Book", family photos and grandchildren's toys.

We stand to sing:

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

REH 3

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88).

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901).

*The Celebrant 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.

Tributes

*Tributes to Roger are offered by
Cordelia and Kate.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Habakkuk 3:17-19

read by The Reverend David Moore (Roger's long-time friend)

Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

Reader: For the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

sung by the choir

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-27

read by Elissa Nitschinsk (Roger's niece)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the

children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes^[c] with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: For the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gospel

Luke 9:22b-27

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised. If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.'

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit.

The Homily

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

THE PRAYERS

Ms Di Clark offers prayers in thanksgiving for Roger's life and for those who mourn.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant: With Roger and all God's people of every time and place,
we are the Body of Christ.

All: **His spirit is with us.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Risen Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please exchange a sign of God's peace with those around you.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

As the altar is prepared, we sing:

**There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.**

**Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour!'
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its life-blood.**

**Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,
nor fire consumed it.**

**See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow.
I will give blessing.'**

**This is my ending; this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.**

**All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ,
whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!'
Amen! Our Saviour.**

TIS 427

Words: Erik Routley based on a Hungarian Hymn
by Pecselyi Kiraly Imre (1585-1641)

Music: *La Leilée Méthode...du Plain-chant*, 1782

When all is prepared, the Celebrant begins:

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.

And continues to:

The joy of resurrection fills the universe
and so, we join with angels and archangels,
with Roger and all your faithful people,
evermore praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.**

.....

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

.....

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:
**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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the bread is broken, the following is said:

As this broken bread was once many grains
that have been gathered together and made one bread,
**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.**

We say together:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant him rest.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant him rest.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant him eternal rest.**

The Celebrant issues the invitation:

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.

Communion is distributed.

This is the Lord's table: all are welcome here.

If you receive the sacrament in your own church, please come forward to receive it here.

If you prefer, please come forward to receive a blessing.

The sacrament is offered in both kinds.

*Those who wish to receive the bread only are free to do so; but please **do not** intinct ('dip' the bread into the wine).*

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

The sacrament will be brought to those who wish to receive but are unable to approach.

During communion, the choir will sing In Paradisum from the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924), followed by the congregational hymn:

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: for God shall undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul; for Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

REH 422

Words: Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel (1697–c. 1770)

tr. Jane Laurie Borthwick

Music: 'Finlandia', Jean Sibelius (1865–1957)

After communion silence is kept. All then stand for the post-communion prayer.

THE FAREWELL AND COMMITTAL

A prayer is offered, before Bishop Philip Huggins says:

Let us entrust our brother Roger 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 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.**

Another prayer is said, concluding with:

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

A final committal is pronounced, then the coffin is then sprinkled with holy water as a reminder that, in the waters of baptism, Roger 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 Roger's and those of all the faithful, rise to God in glory, during which time the choir will sing the Contakion.

We stand to sing:

**Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, thou light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to thee again.**

**Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,
Thou savest those that on thee call,
To them that seek thee thou art good,
To them that find thee, all in all.**

**We taste thee, O thou living bread,
And long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the fountain-head,
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.**

**Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad when thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**

**O Jesu, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world thy holy light.**

REH 384
Words: Latin 12th Century
tr. Ray Palmer (1808-87)
Music: S.S. Wesley (1810-76)

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The blessing is pronounced:

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
raised us to newness of life through the waters of baptism,
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith,
and bring you, with Roger and all the saints, to your eternal inheritance.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please remain standing as the casket is prepared, during which the choir will sing God be with you 'til we meet again, by William Tomer (1833-96), words by Jeremiah Rankin (1828-1904).

RECESSIONAL

Bach Fantasia in C Minor

The clergy lead the coffin from the church, followed by Kate and the family.

The congregation is invited to follow Roger's family and stand in silence as the hearse is led along Albert St. You are warmly invited to gather with them in the hall for refreshments and further sharing of memories of Roger's life.

Kate and the family are very grateful for the love, prayer and support so generously offered throughout the time of Roger's illness, and offer their heartfelt thanks for this kindness.

Roger was born in December 1949, the younger brother of Diana, nearly six years his senior. The family home was at Rippon Lea in Melbourne. At just two and a half, his mother, Gena, died of cancer. Roger and Diana were raised by their father, Bill, a bank manager, with close support from their paternal grandparents. This early loss would shape his own ministry and pastoral care to others in years to come. A succession of housekeepers helped manage the home; the last later married Bill when Roger was sixteen.

Roger was educated at Caulfield Grammar School and went on to study economics at Monash University during the politically charged era in the late 1960s and early 1970s. After graduating, he taught economics and social studies for three years before joining the public service in Aboriginal education.

He then travelled for a year through the United Kingdom and Europe, living in London squats and spending three transformative months on a kibbutz in Israel. Though baptised and raised Anglican, it was whilst travelling, at twenty-eight, that he experienced his conversion to Christianity, ultimately leading him to offer for Holy Orders in the Anglican Church.

While studying at Trinity Theological College, Roger met Kate. They married in 1984 and he was ordained in 1985. After two curacies, he became Priest in Charge at St Agnes' Black Rock, during which time their daughters Phoebe and Cordelia were born.

Roger discerned an abiding call to hospital chaplaincy and Clinical Pastoral Education. He served at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and The Alfred before moving with Kate and the girls to Dunedin, New Zealand, for another chaplaincy position. They returned to Australia at the end of 2003, and early in 2004 welcomed their third daughter, Eleanor.

Roger later ministered with Benetas and at St Vincent's, served as a funeral celebrant, and spent his final decade of full-time parish ministry at St Stephen's Gardenvale, followed by locum work and more chaplaincy, at Alfred Health (Caulfield).

A devoted supporter of the Mighty Demons!, Roger treasured being at the 1964 Grand Final and rejoiced in their 2021 premiership—Winners are grinners, even from Perth stadium.

Diagnosed with glioblastoma in September 2025, Roger faced his rapid disease progression and journey towards the end of his earthly life with

the same steadfast faith he had long offered others – his small holding cross was rarely out of his grasp.

Roger leaves a family who loved him deeply, and were deeply loved in return. We give thanks for his life and faithful service. To love another person is to see the face of God (*Les Mis*).

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

