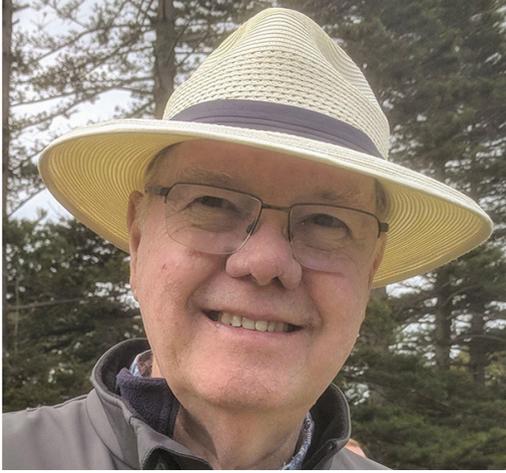


A Mass of Thanksgiving
to celebrate the life of



John Foxe

27 February 1945 – 19 January 2021

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Kingsgrove

25 January 2021



Introductory Rites

Entrance

COME AS YOU ARE

Deirdre Browne ibvm

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
 Come as you are, feel quite at home.
 Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
 Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
 No need to fear, love never ends.
 Don't run away, shamed and disheartened.
 Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
 I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
 Each time you fail to live by my promise,
 Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
 Come as you are; trust me again.
 Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
 All will be well, just come as you are.

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Welcome

Presider: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: *And with your spirit.*



Sprinkling with Holy Water

Presider: In the waters of Baptism John Allan Foxe died with Christ and rose with Him to new life.

All: May he now share with Him eternal life.

The Paschal Candle

Reader: The light of Christ was given to John in baptism as a sign of Jesus' love. John generously shone that light of unconditional love on others.

All: May it now lead him into eternal joy and peace

Placing of the Pall and Christian Symbols

Reader: On the day of his baptism, John was clothed in Christ and given the flame of faith. As we robe the coffin with the white pall we pray:

All: May the risen Christ bring John to the fullness of life.

Reader: Music was an integral part of John's life. He readily shared his talent with others, bringing enjoyment and fun to so many, including himself. He loved playing the sax, the clarinet, the guitar, singing and dancing.

All: May the heavenly band welcome him home

Reader: John enjoyed drawing and painting throughout his life. On retirement, he attended art classes at Hazlehurst, showing a natural talent for a variety of media including watercolours, Japanese ink and charcoal.

All: May God now bring to fulfilment all of John's creative gifts



Reader: John loved his family and they were his first priority. He worked hard so as to provide all that they needed. He was generous and kind. He led by example and added humour to keep the family home happy and loving.

All: May the loving relationship of the Trinity embrace John

Reader: John was a people-centred person. His social nature and friendly personality made him a good friend to many. His hats were part of his identity - and he was always easy to find in a crowd.

All: May the angels welcome him to Paradise

Reader: John's faith and deep spirituality were fundamental to his life and the choices he made. The confronting diagnosis of such an aggressive cancer caused him to dig deep and his faith sustained him through it all.

All: May God's faithfulness and mercy hold him close

Eulogy

Opening Prayer

Presider: O God, you have set a limit to this present life,
 so as to open up an entry into eternity,
 we humbly beseech you,
 that by the grace of your mercy
 you may command the name of your servant John
 to be inscribed in the book of life.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
 for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Revelation

14: 13

I John, heard a voice from heaven say to me,
 “Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord!
 Happy indeed, the Spirit says;
 Now they can rest forever after their work,
 since their good deeds go with them.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

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 byways,
 Valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

*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.

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Gospel Acclamation

Spoken: Alleluia Allelulia

*Your love should not be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active.*

1 Jn 3:18

Alleluia

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you O Lord.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14: 1-6a

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall return and will take you with me, so that where I am, there you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily



General Intercessions

Presider: God will take care of us in life and in death. Let us pray with confidence and trust.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader: John's creative gifts found expression through music, art and writing. May he now be elated by the symphony and artistry of heaven. We pray to the Lord

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader: Values of respect, honesty and integrity were foundational in John's relationships with friends and family. May we be inspired by his example. We pray to the Lord

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader: John's capacity to meet new challenges, to never stop learning and to do all things with a positive attitude and sense of humour endeared him to many. His loyalty ensured lasting friendships. May all who mourn losing him as a friend, find peace and consolation in good memories. We pray to the Lord

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader: We pray for Colleen, Simon, Amy and Justin, Laura and Andy and for his beloved grandchildren Ruby, Gale, Jack and Darcy. May the legacy of unconditional love that John so freely lavished upon them continue to give them strength and security in knowing they were deeply loved. We pray to the Lord

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader: We pray for all who have died especially John's parents, Erma and Allan, his parents-in-law Pat and Ron Mitchell, and members of the extended family. May they all be united in the peace of Your loving presence. We pray to the Lord

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader: We ask a special blessing on the medical teams who looked after John with enormous dedication, skill and kindness. May they know how grateful the family is for their loving care and be encouraged in their compassionate service. We pray to the Lord

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*



Presider: Merciful God, look kindly on John and count him among the saints in heaven.
We pray through Christ our Lord

All: Amen

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

Instrumental: I'll Be Always Loving You

Trisha Watts

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: Lord God, whose Son left us, in the Sacrament of his Body,
food for the journey, mercifully grant that, strengthened by it,
our brother John may come to the eternal table of Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Presider: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

*All: May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

Presider: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

Presider: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just



Holy, Holy, Holy

*All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
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.*

Memorial Acclamation

*All: Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

Communion Rite

Presider: As sons and daughters of a loving God, we pray in the confident words of his Son:

*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*

Presider: 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 sin
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 for ever.



Lamb of God

*All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

Presider: Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

Communion

YOU ARE MINE

David Haas

I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear,
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice,
Be still, and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see;
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light;
Come and rest in me.

*Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home,
I love you and you are mine.**

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I HAVE LOVED YOU

Michael Joncas

*I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine;
I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.*

Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
He will bring you his light and his peace.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
He will bring you his joy and his hope.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
He will bring you his care and his love.

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Prayer after Communion

Presider: Lord God, your Son Jesus Christ gave us the sacrament of his body and blood to guide us on our pilgrim way to your kingdom. May our brother John, who shared in the Eucharist, come to the banquet of life Christ has prepared for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reflection on the life of John Foxe



Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Presider: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother John.
 May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and
 strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the
 love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

Song of Farewell

The coffin is sprinkled with holy water and incensed

Presider: Saints of God, come to his aid!
 Come to meet him angels of the Lord!

All: *Receive John's soul and present him to
 God the Most High.*

Presider: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
 may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

All: *Receive John's soul and present him to
 God the Most High.*

Presider: Give John eternal rest, O Lord
 and may your light shine on him for ever.

All: *Receive John's soul and present him to
 God the Most High.*



Presider: To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of our brother John:
 in the sight of this world he is now dead;
 in your sight may he live forever.
 Forgive whatever sins he committed through human weakness
 and in your goodness grant him everlasting peace.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Recessional

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
 who abide in his shadow for life,
 say to the Lord "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust."

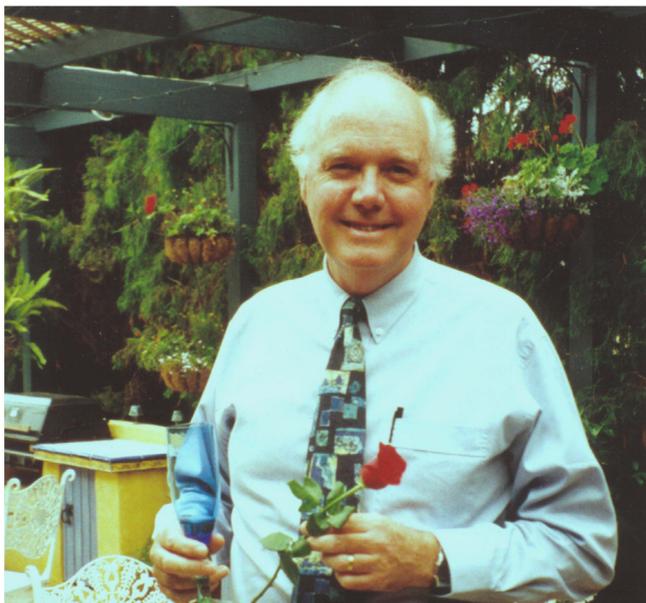
*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings.
 Bear you on the breath of dawn,
 Make you to shine like the sun,
 and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
 and famine will bring you no fear;
 Under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

For to his angels he's given a command
 to guard you in all your ways;
 Upon their hands they will bear you up,
 lest you dash your foot against a stone.

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Thank You

The family would like to thank you for attending today and for the loving sympathy and support you have shown throughout John's illness and at this sad time.

The immediate family will leave after the Mass for Woronora Crematorium.

At a later time, we will organise a celebration of John's life when we can gather without restrictions.

Thank you for your understanding.