

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



John Russell Thomas

27TH SEPTEMBER 1973 - 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Tuesday, 5th October 2021 at 10:30AM
St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga

Celebrant: Fr Kevin O'Reilly

ENTRANCE HYMN
"Hallelujah" by Jeff Buckley

GREETING

Fr O'Reilly: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Fr O'Reilly: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

LIGHTING OF THE PASCAL CANDLE
Joan and Russell Thomas

EULOGY

Shelby Thomas and Dianna Somerville

PHOTO REFLECTION

"Angels" by Robbie Williams

"Somewhere Over The Rainbow" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

Brock and Shelby Thomas
Joan Thomas

OPENING PRAYER

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM 4:7-15

Read by Trish Wilson

But the just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported--snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire **transforms** the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

HYMN

"Come As You Are"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Read by Shelby Thomas

The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow.

Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

Over the mountains, the water and byways,

Valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

Refrain: 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 will walk on together

To know all the wonders he's given to me. **Refrain:**

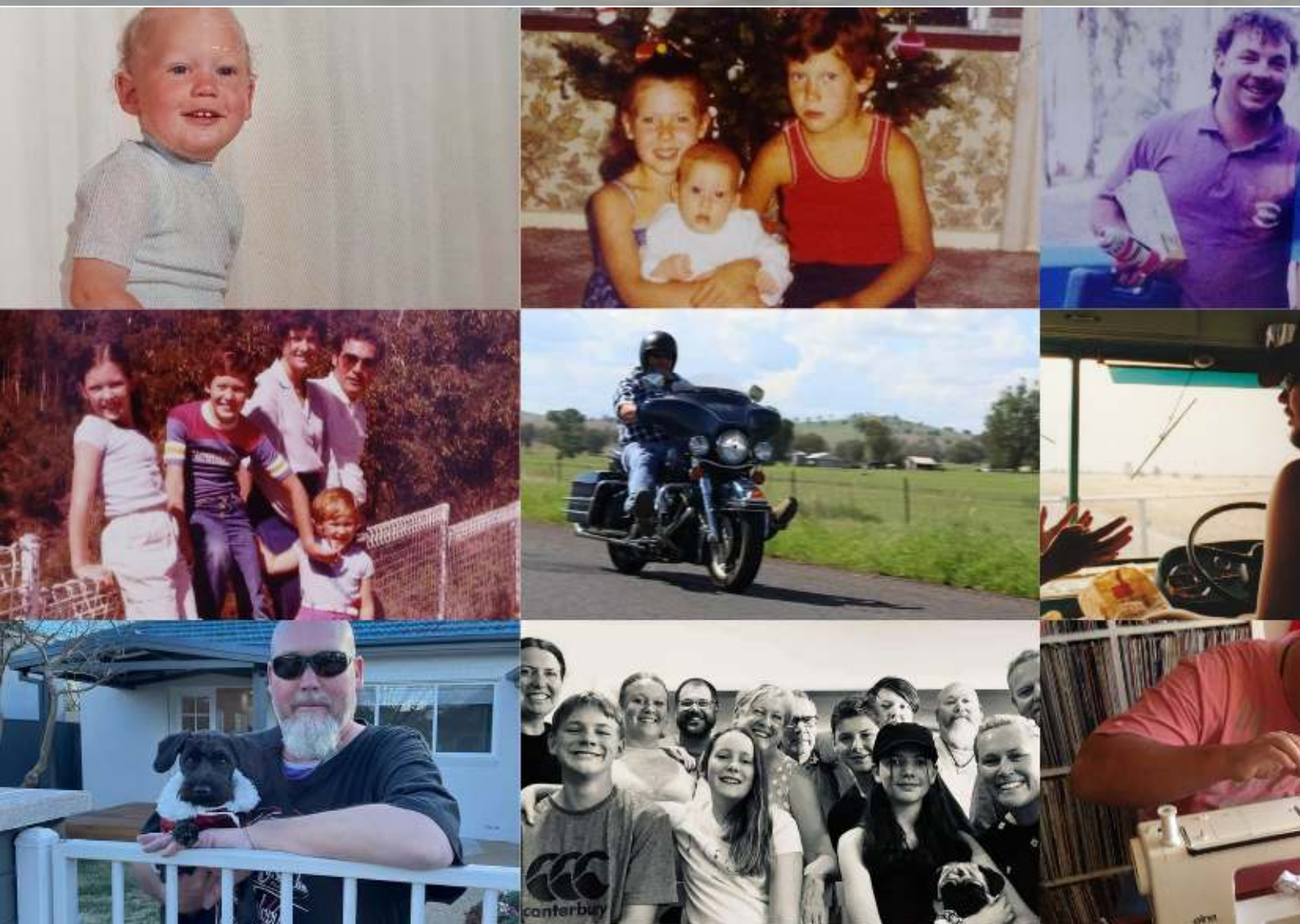
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia!
I am the resurrection and the life, said the Lord;
Whoever believes in me will never die.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Fr O'Reilly: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

Fr O'Reilly: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
All: Glory to you, O Lord.



Fr O'Reilly: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.

There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.

Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

"How happy are the poor in spirit theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called the sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY







PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Fr O'Reilly: We come to our loving Father, asking Him to give eternal rest to those who sleep in Christ and comfort and hope to the living. With faith and love we pray.

Reader: We pray for all the deceased family and friends, may they be one with John in heaven.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all who have supported and encouraged John during his life with their time and especially those who have cared for him during his illness.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all family and friends who have loved John and his contagious love of life.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: May John's love continue to inspire us to love and forgive each other.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for Shelby and Brock, may they be comforted in their sorrows as they continue to remember the life and love of their life.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Fr O'Reilly: God of our salvation, you reward the just and console those who mourn. Hear this families prayers in the name of your risen Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Fr O'Reilly: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

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

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Fr O'Reilly: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Fr O'Reilly: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Fr O'Reilly: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Fr O'Reilly: And so with the angels and all the Saints we declare your glory, as with one voice we acclaim:

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.

Fr O'Reilly: The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Fr O'Reilly: Through Him, with Him and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Fr O'Reilly: At the saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

Fr O'Reilly: 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 coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

Fr O'Reilly: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your church, and graciously grant him peace and unity in accordance with **your** will? Who live and reign for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Fr O'Reilly: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit and my soul shall be healed.

Fr O'Reilly: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

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.

Fr O'Reilly: 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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

SONG OF FAREWELL

Response: Receive her soul and present her to God the most High.

Fr O'Reilly: Saints of God, come to his aid!
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord! **Response**

Fr O'Reilly: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself,
May angels lead you to Abraham's side. **Response**

Fr O'Reilly: Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him. **Response**

RECESSIONAL HYMN
"Amazing Grace"

COFFIN BEARERS

Brock Thomas
Shelby Thomas
Russell Thomas
Brett Fellows
Daniel Esler
Richard Draper

***The service for John will continue at the Wagga
Wagga Lawn Cemetery, Brunksill Road***

Softly from the shadows. There come a gentle call, you took the hand of God and quietly left us all. God saw that you were troubled and did what he thought best. He put his arm around you and whispered "come to rest."



John's family thank everyone for their loving support at a time when it is appreciated most.
Your kindness will always be remembered.

"Livin' The Dream"