

Funeral Mass for

Carmel Veronica Watson

Born on 20.07.1929 — Born into Eternal Life 21.06.2026



*Tuesday, 7th July 2026, 10am
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hendra
Officiant — Father Michael Grace*

Order of Service



Opening Hymn: *How Great Thou Art* (S.K. Hine)

O Lord my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all
The works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout
The universe displayed;

When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
I hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze;

*Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!*

When Christ shall come,
With shouts of acclamation,
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim,
“My God, how great Thou art!”

Eulogy

1. Jessica Sparkes (Granddaughter)
2. Claire Patterson (Granddaughter)
3. Greg Watson (Son)

Opening Rites

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

All: *Amen.*

Fr: The Lord be with you.

All: *And with your spirit.*

Remembrance of Baptism

The priest sprinkles the coffin with holy water to remind us that Carmel has been baptised in Christ and has died with Him in eternal life. Rita Sparkes (daughter) & Anne Patterson (daughter) place the pall, reminding us of the white garment received by Carmel at her baptism.

Fr: In the waters of baptism
Carmel died with Christ and rose with Him to new life.
May she now share with him eternal glory.

Placing of Symbols

*In 1952 dad gave mum this Latin mass missal as a birthday present.
Mum's rosary beads with the medal of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.*

Carmel's Rosary Beads	Anne Patterson
Photo of Carmel on 90 th Birthday	Greg Watson
Carmel's Latin Prayer/Hymn Book	Rita Sparkes

Opening Prayer

Fr: My brothers and sisters,
we have come together to renew our trust in Christ who,
by dying on the cross, has freed us from eternal death and,
by rising, has opened for us the gates of Heaven. Let us pray
for our sister, Carmel, that she may share in Christ's victory,
and let us pray for ourselves, that the Lord may grant us the
gift of His loving consolation.

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father it is our certain faith that Your Son,
who died on the cross, was raised from the dead, the first-fruits
of all who have fallen asleep. Grant that through this mystery
Carmel, who has gone to her rest in Christ, may share in the
joy of His resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

(Please be seated)

First Reading

David Sparkes (Grandson)

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts
will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food.
On this mountain He will remove the mourning veil
covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
He will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
He will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said:
See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice that He has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23 (Sung) – Crimond

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod, and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished, in presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life, shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more, my dwelling place shall be.

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand)

Alleluia, Alleluia!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Fr : The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Fr : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

Fr: Jesus said to the disciples:
'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am, 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,
so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated)

Homily

Fr Michael Grace

Prayers of the Faithful

Leonie Watson (Daughter-In-Law)

(Please stand)

Leonie: For Carmel, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life,
that she now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Leonie: We give thanks and praise for Carmel's full life.
She was loved by everyone she knew. She taught us
to embrace life with strength, resilience and kindness.

We pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Leonie: For our sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life,
that she may be raised up on the last day.

We pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Leonie: For Dr Curtis Staunton, the nurses and care staff at
Mercy Community Aged Care who cared for Carmel,
that their works of care and service be richly blessed.

We pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Leonie: That Carmel's family and friends may be comforted
in our grief knowing that she joins her husband Garrett
and son Justin who have been waiting for her.

We pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Fr: God, our shelter and our strength,
You listen in love to the cry of Your people:
hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.

Cleanse them of their sins,

and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Offertory

(Please be seated as the altar is prepared)

The gifts of bread and wine are brought forward by:

Thomas Watson & Hannah Watson

Offertory Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord (Eric Tom) — Isaiah 6*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Fr: Pray Brothers and Sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

(Please stand)

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

Fr: As we humbly present to You these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, for the salvation of Your servant Carmel we beseech Your mercy, that she who did not doubt Your Son to be a loving Saviour, may find in Him a merciful Judge. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

Preface

Fr: The Lord be with you.

All: *And with your spirit.*

Fr: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

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

All: *It is right and just.*

Fr: It is truly right and just.....

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.*

(Please Kneel – or if you are unable to, please feel free to sit)

Eucharistic Prayer II

Fr: You are indeed Holy, O Lord....

Fr: The mystery of faith.

All: *When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim Your Death, O Lord, until You come again.*

Fr: Therefore O Lord, ...

Fr: Through Him, and 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.*

(Please stand)

Fr: 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: 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.*

Sign of Peace

Fr: 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 her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

Fr The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: *And with your spirit.*

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

Breaking of the Bread

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.*

(Please Kneel – or if you are unable to, please feel free to sit)

Fr: 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 Hymn: Strong & Constant (Father Frank Andersen)

I will be your God who walks with you!
You will be always within my hand!
Take your heart and give it all to me!
Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!

Should you wander far away from me,
I will search for you in ev'ry land!
Should you call, then you will truly know:
Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!

When you know sorrow within your life,
I will come, I will embrace your heart!
Through your pain you will discover me!
Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!

Reflection Hymn: Ave Maria (F. Schubert)

Ave, Maria, grátia plena
Maria grátia plena
Maria grátia plena
Ave, ave Dóminus
Dóminus tecum

Benedícta tu in muliéribus
Et benedíctus, benedíctus
Fructus fructus ventris tui, Iesus
Ave, Maria

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatóribus
Ora, ora pro nobis
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatóribus

Nunc et in hora mortis
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

Prayer After Communion

Fr: Let us pray. *(Please stand)*
Grant, we pray, almighty God, that Your servant, Carmel,
who today has journeyed from this world,
may by this sacrifice be cleansed and freed from sin,
and so receive the everlasting joys of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*



Words of Remembrance

Rita Sparkes

Tributes

Fr Jim Spence & Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

Fr Jim: Thank you very much for your generous support as sacristan in our parish over the years. You were always there to care and look after me and your help was always very much appreciated Carmel. Fr said he'd pray for mum in mass.

Fr Paul: It was such a pleasure to work with you dear Carmel. Thank you for all your support and care for me. I will keep you in my prayers and wish you all the best. Many blessings!

(Please be seated)

Final Commendation and Farewell

(Please stand)

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

Fr: Saints of God, come to her aid!
Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord!

All: ***Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.***

Fr: May Christ, who called you, take you to Himself;
May angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

All: ***Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.***

Fr: Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.

All: ***Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.***

Fr: Into Your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister, Carmel, in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, she will rise with Him on the last day.

Fr: We give You thanks for the blessings
which You bestowed upon Carmel in this life:
they are signs to us of Your goodness
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.
Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of Paradise to Your servant
and help us who remain to comfort one another
with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ
and are with You and with our sister forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In peace let us take our sister to her place of rest.

Recessional Hymn: *Abide With Me* (St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney)

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 fool the tempest's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cold and sunshine, Lord, 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.



Carmel's Sacristan Handover



Rita, Carmel, Greg, Anne



*The family would like to thank you for your kindness
and prayers here today. God bless you all.*

*Those who would like to join the family after mass for
morning tea outside the church, are most welcome.*