



Thank you.

The Serong Family would like to thank you for your presence here today and your kindness, prayers, love and support. We are so grateful.

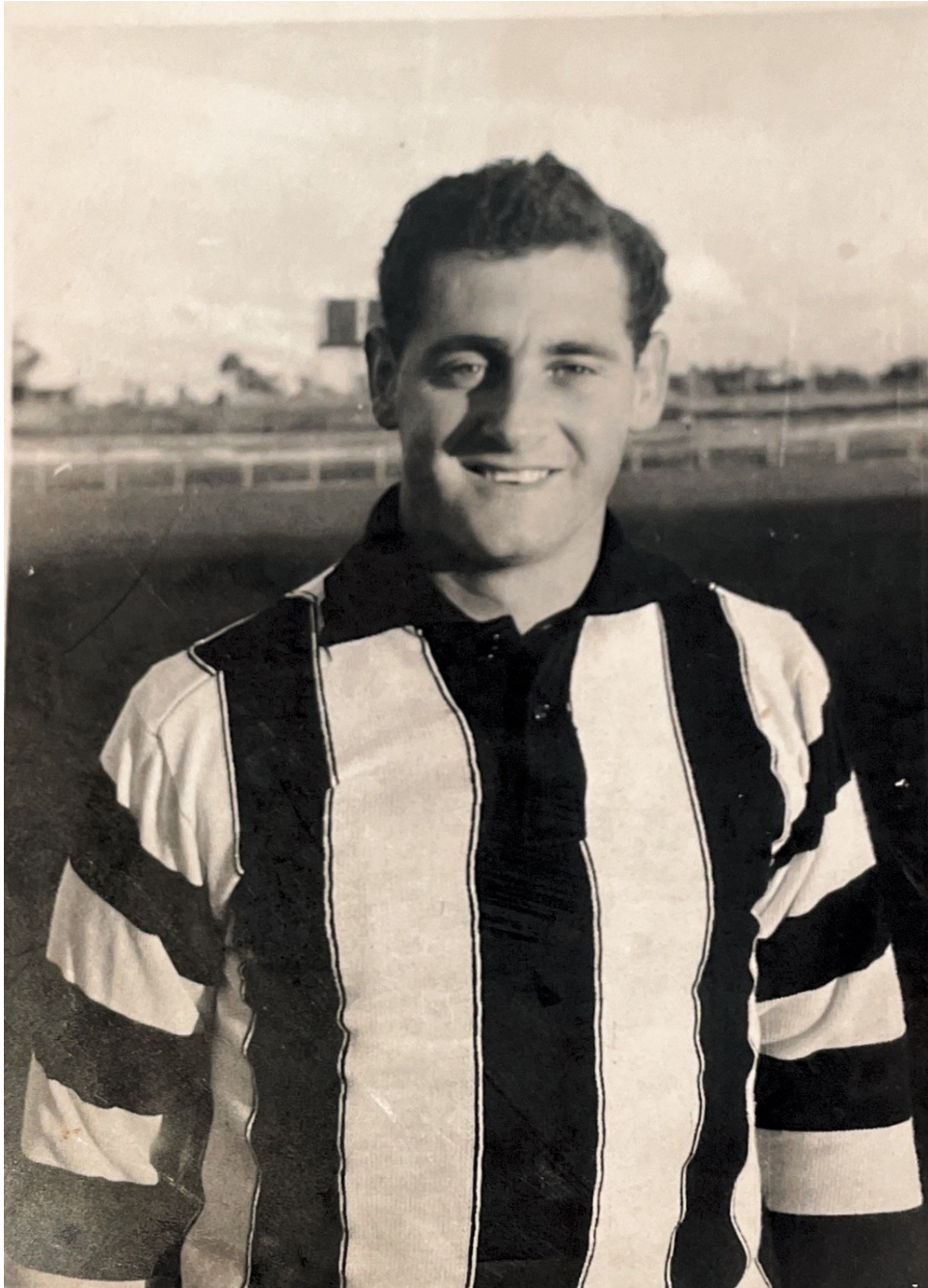


William Michael Serong

Born to life: 5 May 1936

Born to eternal life: 20 May 2024

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until they rest in you”- St. Augustine



enjoyed their visits at Emmavale Gardens where he spent his last 17 months. God was indeed merciful in taking Bill just one week following a massive stroke.

Bill's lifelong love of animals, particularly dogs and cats became part of family folklore. Starting with Toby, his childhood companion, he then loved Butch who was owned by the Manager at Fitzroy Baths. Butch would accompany Bill to every Collingwood training session. Doc at Black Rock and Maggie at North Balwyn and Warrandyte, both black labs, were spoiled rotten. Avro, Bernadette's farm dog was the favourite & slept in Bill's room for several years and always received royal treatment.

Bill was larger than life in many ways. His many gifts were used for the benefit of others. He had such a kind & compassionate heart. His family will miss him terribly but will always remember him with love and gratitude. May you rest in peace William Michael.

A REQUIEM MASS TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS
FOR THE LIFE OF *William Michael Serong*

LOCATION: 11am
St John's Catholic Church,
Mitcham

OFFICIATING: Father John Dupuche
Father Arsenio Enriquez Tuazon
Father Isaac Zaki

BURIAL: 1pm
Anderson's Creek Cemetery
11 Blair St, Warrandyte

FUNERAL RECEPTION: 2pm
Grand Hotel, Warrandyte
Riverview Room
First Floor,
110 Yarra St, Warrandyte

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Emily Robertson

ENTRANCE HYMN

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

GREETING

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

All: Amen.

Fr. John: 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.

SPRINKING WITH HOLY WATER

Fr. John: In the waters of baptism, Bill died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. May he now share with Him in eternal glory.

All: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Heidi Serong

Fr. John: In baptism, Bill received the light of Christ. That light has guided him throughout his life. May he now enjoy the risen life with his risen Lord.

All: Amen.

Bill inherited a strong faith in God from his mother & Nana and after some time he remembered Jesus words from the cross THIS IS YOUR MOTHER. She led him back to Jesus, and Bill began to again experience the love, peace, forgiveness & mercy that he had long yearned for. The words from the book of wisdom rang true. IF HE ENTRUSTS HIMSELF TO HER (WISDOM), HE WILL INHERIT HER AND HIS DESCENDANTS WILL REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF HER. FOR THOUGH SHE TAKES HIM THROUGH WINDING WAYS, BRINGING FEAR AND FAINTNESS ON HIM, PLAGUING HIM WITH HER DISCIPLINE UNTIL SHE CAN TRUST HIM, AND TESTING HIM WITH HER ORDEALS, IN THE END SHE WILL LEAD HIM BACK TO THE STRAIGHT ROAD, AND REVEAL HER SECRETS TO HIM."

From his 75th birthday onwards Bill enjoyed the most peaceful times of his long life. His children, grandchildren & then great grandchildren were the providers of so much happiness, joy, and celebration for him. Members of the Warrandyte parish at St. Gerards warmly welcomed Bill and were numbered amongst his very dearest friends. He looked forward to sharing The Eucharist on a Sunday and lunches and coffee dates during the week. Even after dementia became obvious, he remained peaceful (mostly) and his wonderful and wicked sense of humour remained until the end. Following a fall when he broke & dislocated his hip, Bill's family, led by Angela, Bill and Bernadette, advocated strongly on Bill's behalf and were steadfast in anticipating his every need. Bill so

handball and was sad when forced to retire with injured ankles from footy. The Australian Medical Journal published pictures of his ankles, with many Orthopaedic experts wondering how on earth he could walk on them. Fred Italiano and Danny O'Brien were the first of his many handball friends from Melbourne & interstate.

Christopher was born following a move to Eaglemont and during those years he played pennant squash for Kooyong with friend Ian Law. A.V. Jennings built a home for himself in North Balwyn and Bill purchased this in 1978. Bernadette, Madeleine, Caroline and Timothy arrived into that noisy household and life became very hectic. Bill enjoyed a wonderful relationship with his sister Pauline Johnston. Family celebrations with Pauline and her husband Bill and their children, along with the families of his brothers Tom, Barry and Jim will always be fondly remembered.

Bill was a very gifted lawyer and worked extremely hard to represent his many clients well. A number of his friends were Magistrates, and some stories of his court appearances were hilarious in the re-telling. Sadly, a number of poor business and financial choices led to much personal pain which Bill expressed with the words "I feel as though I have fallen into a big black hole." The death of his eldest son Jeremy to cancer in 2005 added greatly to his pain.

PLACING OF THE WHITE PALL

Ruby Serong

Fr. John: At his baptism, Bill received a white garment, symbol of his dignity as child of God. We now cover his coffin with a white cloth in recognition of his trust in God. May the Lord not look on any wrong that he may have done during his life, but rather look upon his faithfulness to his God and his love for his family and friends.

All: Amen.

SYMBOLS OF BILL'S LIFE

Meryn Serong

Caroline Serong

Zoe Serong

Sienna Serong

Stella Serong

Edward Jackson

Jeremy Pentelow

Julian Pentelow

OPENING PRAYER

Fr. John: Let us pray. O God, almighty Father, our faith professes that your Son died and rose again; mercifully grant, that through this mystery your servant, Bill, who has fallen asleep in Christ, may rejoice to rise again through him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

Angela Serong

Isaiah 55: 1-13.

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; Though you have no money, come!

Buy and eat; come buy wine and milk without money, free!

Why spend money on what cannot nourish and your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me; Listen, and you will live.

I shall make an everlasting covenant with you in fulfilment of the favours promised to David.

Look, I have made him a witness to peoples, a leader and lawgiver to peoples.

Look, you will summon a nation unknown to you, a nation unknown to you will hurry to you for the sake of Yahweh your God, because the Holy one of Israel has glorified you.

Seek out Yahweh while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked abandon his way and the evil one his thoughts. Let him turn back to Yahweh who will take pity on him, to our God, for he is rich in forgiveness;

For my thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not my ways, declares Yahweh.

For the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

about throughout their 62 year relationship). At Christmas in 1963, Ann returned from N.Z. and in July 1964 they became engaged on her 21st birthday and were married at St. Bede's North Balwyn on 17th February 1965. Already a family of 4 with Nana & Jim and black labrador Doc.

During their married years Bill & Ann had family homes at Black Rock, Hampton, Eaglemont, North Balwyn and Warrandyte. Jeremy, Mark and Andrew were born whilst at Black Rock and as with all the children's births were joyfully welcomed with appropriate celebrations. Andrew had a severe brain disease and Bill made it his personal mission to ensure he had as comfortable and happy a life as possible. Although the doctors predicted "Roo" would die at about age 12, he lived until just prior to his 33rd birthday. Anyone who attended Andrew's funeral heard Bill recite many hilarious stories from his life. Bill then purchased a lovely house in Bolton Ave, Hampton. Young Bill, Damian and Angela arrived and Jim by this time was studying law. Being their first girl, Angela's birth was greeted with great joy.

During these years, Bill travelled to Clifton Hill each day for work and handball. His handball career was long and distinguished. He played pennant handball for Clifton Hill and represented Victoria at many Easter Carnivals. With partner Des Jones, Bill won the Australian Handball Doubles Championship in 1980, aged 44. Bill loved

Premiership Team. Bill loved his time at Collingwood where he again made many lifelong friends. Fellow teammates who died in recent years were always fondly remembered ie. Mike Delanty, Harry Sullivan, Ray Gabelich, Murray Weideman, Ken Turner, Mick & Bill Twomey, Frank Tuck, Ron Kingston, Peter Lucas, Ken Bennett etc. (May they all RIP). Until quite recently Bill had regular conversations with his great old mates Thorold Merrett, Brian Gray, Kevin Rose & Keith Burns. He knew from which town each player was recruited and details of their lives after footy. A detailed summation of Bill's VFL career can be found on both the Collingwood and North Melbourne websites.

The family relocated from Clifton Hill to Black Rock but sadly both Bill's parents died within a period of 6 months. Bill then took care of younger siblings Pauline and Jim and Nana, Annie Maria.

At the end of his time at North Melbourne, Bill was holidaying at Torquay where he met his beautiful, dutiful wife Ann (Bill's words). Ann and family, although from Melbourne, had relocated to New Zealand for a 3-year placement & she was in Torquay staying with her Grandma for the Christmas break. Following a great year with North Melbourne Bill had accepted a coaching position in Echuca in 1963 & completed his Articles. He wrote letters to Ann roughly every 3 weeks throughout that year & Ann wrote about 4 letters in return (something Bill teased Ann

For, as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return before having watered the earth, fertilising it and making it germinate to provide seed for the sower and food to eat, so it is with the word that goes from my mouth: it will not return to me unfulfilled or before having carried out my good pleasure and having achieved what it was sent to do.

Yes, you will go out with joy and be led away in safety.

Mountains and hills will break into joyful cries before you and all the trees of the countryside clap their hands.

Cypress will grow instead of thorns, myrtle instead of nettles. And this will be fame for Yahweh, an eternal monument never to be effaced.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Chris Serong

Response: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Chris: My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
All my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
and never forget all his blessings.

All: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Chris: It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

All: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Chris: The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.

All: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Chris: As a Father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are dust.

All: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Chris: But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
His justice reaches out to Children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth.

All: O bless the Lord, my soul.

SECOND READING

Australian Regular Army

Revelations 3: 20-22

Major B Serong

Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share a meal at that person's side.

Anyone who proves victorious I will allow to share my throne, just as I have myself overcome and have taken my seat with my Father on his throne.

Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

he commenced at Toorak Teachers College and befriended lifelong mates Graham Edgar, John James, Neil Roberts and Kevin Opie.

His first teaching appointment was to Terang in the Western District. He loved his time in Terang where he made many friends and enjoyed playing full forward in the 1955 premiership team. The education department moved Bill to Ocean Grove where he taught with Fred Le Deux (Tom Hawkins' grandfather). The students were largely from Dutch families fleeing Europe following WW2. By this time Collingwood F.C. had recruited Bill but he trained most of the year with Geelong. On returning to Melbourne, Bill became part of the Victorian Physical Education Staff and worked in the Western Suburbs. He often joked he probably failed here as his most famous student was Clive Palmer.

Whilst at Collingwood, a member of the Galbally family convinced Bill to complete year 12 and study Law at Melbourne University. It was there he befriended close mates Judge Les Ross, Ron Beazley, Judge Joe Meagher, Ken Barry, John Monahan, Peter King, Michael Richardson & others affectionately known to this day as "THE PUSH". Other contemporaries included the Winneke brothers, Andrew & Susie Peacock, Ian Hayden and Ian Law. During his law course he studied, worked 2 jobs and played footy. Naturally the highlight of his decorated footy career was playing in the 1958 Collingwood

BRIEF RESUME OF LIFE OF

William Michael Serong

1936 - 2024

Bill was born the 3rd son to Ruby and Andrew Serong on the 5th of May 1936. He shared the family home at 42 Alexander Pde, Clifton Hill with grandparents Annie and Thomas, older brothers Thomas and Barry and younger siblings Pauline and James. Home was always affectionately known as 42. Bill's love of music was nurtured there by Ruby, who was a beautiful pianist. When she was not playing, Papa would have classical music playing on the radio. Bill commenced at St. John's parish school before his 4th birthday hence was always the youngest student in class. One day he walked to school with his older brothers, wandered into the prep classroom and sat down and the teacher allowed him to stay. The Christian Brothers then taught Bill at St Thomas's Clifton Hill until Year 10. During these years his giftedness in many sports was nurtured. He represented the school in handball, football, cricket, swimming, diving, athletics, and gymnastics. Bill had a great love of learning fostered by the Brothers which remained until his senior years. Bill had wonderful memories of early years spent with extended family especially The Fordhams at Glenmorgan St. and at their "shack" in Williamstown and Sadie & Viv Turner and cousins. Bill left school early and worked for one year at the Harbour Trust before returning to Parade College in East Melbourne. The following year

GOSPEL

Fr. John

John 3: 16-18

For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be judged; but whoever does not believe is judged already, because that person does not believe in the Name of God's only Son.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Fr. John

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Caitlin Serong, Stephanie Serong, Harrison Serong, Noah Serong, Mia Watson, Tess Pentelow

Fr. John: My dear friends, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, shall never die."

Caitlin: We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Peter and all the Priests, religious and leaders of your Church. May they always be guided by your Holy Spirit and be filled with the gift of compassion for all people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Stephanie: For the families and friends who are mourning the loss of our beloved Poppy. May they find comfort in their treasured memories of him, may they be filled with gratitude at the countless ways he touched our lives with his comic spirit, wisdom, and love, and may we all find solace in the knowledge that he is now at peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Harrison: We thank you for all those who were a part of Pop's life and brought him joy, companionship and love. For Pop's beloved wife, Ann, our Nanny, who walked by his side, sharing his joy and whose love and devotion were a constant source of strength; for his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who brought him immense happiness; for his friends in all his communities who enriched his life; and for his health care professionals and caregivers who tended to him with compassion through his final days, we give thanks. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Noah: At this moment, we remember Poppy's loved ones who have gone before him – his parents, Andrew and Ruby, his brothers Tom and Barry, his sister Pauline and his sons, Jeremy and Andrew. We pray in faith that they may all be united in Your eternal love. Lord, hear us.

Fr. John: Father into your hands we commend our brother Bill. We are confident that with all who have died in Christ, he will be raised to life, and live with Christ forever.

Lord, hear our prayer, welcome our brother Bill to paradise and help us to comfort each other with the assurance of our faith, until we all meet in Christ to be with you and our brother Bill forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Fr. John: May the angels of the Lord accompany you; may the Martyrs welcome you.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"How great Thou art"

PALL BEARERS

Mark Serong

Damian Serong

Tim Serong

Australian Regular Army Major B Serong

Chris Serong

Philip Serong

PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE

"Cavalleria Rusticana Intermezzo" – Pietro Mascagni

"Nessun Dorma" – Giacomo Puccini

FINAL COMMENDATION & FAREWELL

Fr. John: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother Bill. 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.

(All pray in silence).

SONG OF FAREWELL

Fr. John: Saints of God, come to his aid!

Hasten to meet him, Angels of the Lord!

All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

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

All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

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

All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Mia: We give thanks for all staff at Emmavale Gardens Dementia care facility who cared for Poppy over the past 17 months.

May You continue to guide them as they deliver this most important service, care and compassion to all the precious residents. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Tess: Lord, we thank you for your love, mercy and forgiveness bestowed upon us all at the cross. That because of your immeasurable gift, we can know that this is not the end for our beloved Pop, but the beginning of his eternal life. Lord we pray not only for comfort for all of us mourning now, but also for renewed hope, in knowing that we will be rejoicing with him, in time to come. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Come to the Water"

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Caroline Serong and Sienna Serong

Fr. John: Pray, brethren, 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.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Fr. John: Lord, receive the gifts we offer for the salvation of Bill. May Christ be merciful in judging our brother Bill, for he believed in Christ as his Lord and Saviour. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREFACE

Fr. John: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Fr. John: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right and just.

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Nicole Davies

COMMUNION HYMNS

"You Raise Me Up"

"Holy is His name"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Fr. John: Let us pray. 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 Bill come to the banquet of life Christ has prepared for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

EULOGY

Billy Serong

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Madeleine Serong

"Maggie"

the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

**All: For the Kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Fr. John: 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.

All: Amen

Fr. John: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your Spirit.

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

COMMUNION

Fr. John: 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.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes
away the sins of the world. Blessed are those
who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Fr. John: It is truly right and just, our duty and our
salvation, always and everywhere to give you
thanks, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal
God, through Christ our Lord.

In Him the hope of blessed resurrection has
dawned, that those saddened by the certainty
of dying might be consoled by the promise of
immortality to come. Indeed, for your faithful,
Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this
earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal
dwelling is made ready for them in Heaven.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with
Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts
and powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your
glory, as without end 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Fr. John: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all
Holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we
pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them
like the dewfall, so that they may become for us
the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered
willingly into his Passion, he took bread and,
giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his
disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat it: For this is my body which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it. For this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

The Mystery of Faith.

All: When we eat this bread, and drink this cup we proclaim death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Fr. John: Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the bread of life and chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church spread throughout the world; and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope, Peter our Bishop, and all the clergy.

Remember your servant Bill whom you have called from this world to yourself. Grant that he who was united with your Son in death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy; welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph her spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be co-heirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Fr. John: 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. John: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant us 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