

A FUNERAL SERVICE  
TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF



Gwendolyn  
  
Rose Black

*1st October 1952 - 22nd April 2024*  
*Aged 71 years*

***The Cathedral Church of St Alban the Martyr, Griffith***  
***Friday 3rd May 2024 | 10:00am***

*Celebrant:*  
*The Very Rev'd Thomas Leslie*  
*Dean of St Alban's Cathedral, Griffith*



## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Opening Music: "Morning Has Broken" - Cat Stevens*

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. *1 John 3.2*

Let us pray.

We remember, Lord, the slenderness  
of the thread which separates Life from Death,  
and the suddenness with which it can be broken.  
Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division  
we, and those we love, are surrounded by your embrace.  
Persuade our hearts that, when our dear ones die,  
neither we nor they are parted from you.  
In you may we find our peace,  
and in you be united with them in the glorious body of Christ,  
who has burst the bonds of Death and is alive for evermore:  
for he is our Saviour, now and for ever. **Amen.**

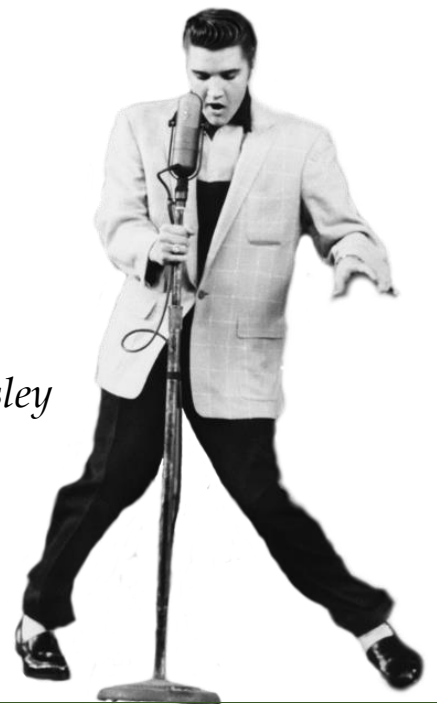
## THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Eulogy: *Read by George Riboldi*

Tribute: *Christina Petri*

Slideshow: a celebration of Gwen's life in pictures.

*Reflective music: 'Can't Help Falling in Love' -Elvis Presley*



## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*First Reading: Psalm 139.13-19, read by Melody Kelleher and Karley Betts*

It was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them – they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end – I am still with you.

*Second Reading: Revelation 21.1-6, read by Nayte Scott*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned  
for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'  
And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
'See, I am making all things new.'  
Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

For the Word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Reflection: *Fr Thomas*

## THE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

*Prayers of thanks for the gift of Gwen's life are offered, followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses.  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE FAREWELL

Let us entrust our sister Gwen to the Love and Mercy of God.

*The coffin is sprinkled with baptismal water as a sign of the promise of resurrection which is our inheritance through baptism into Christ, and blessed with incense, representing our prayers surrounding Gwen's soul in its ascent.*

*Please stand.*

*Elvis Presley*

**Holy and loving Father,  
by your mighty power you gave us life,  
and by your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.  
We entrust Gwen to your merciful keeping:  
in the faith of Jesus Christ,  
who died and rose again to save us,  
and who now lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. Amen.**

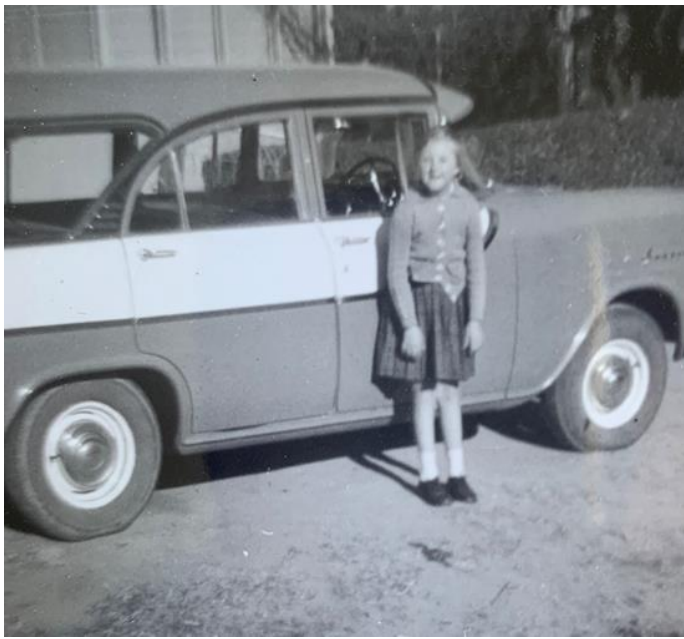
**Blessed are those who die in the Lord.  
For they rest from all their labours.**

*Please remain standing as the coffin is taken from the Church.*

*Recessional Music: 'You Are My Sunshine' – Johnny Cash*







# *Thank You*



*for your attendance today and  
your thoughts and prayers  
during this difficult time.*

*You are invited to join with us at the  
Southside Leagues Club for some light  
refreshments following the service  
at the cemetery.*



*Griffith Regional Funeral Services  
(02) 6964 4473*