

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
OF
MARY FRETTINGHAM

16th October 1935 - 3rd July 2019



Our Lady and St Edward's Roman Catholic Church,
Gordon Road, Thorneywood, Nottingham

Monday 29th July 2019
at 10.00 am





ORDER *of* SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
casting its shadows near.
And on this morning, bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.

*But you are always close to me,
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.*

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
warming the earth below.
And at the mid-day, life seems to say:
I feel your brightness near me.
For you are always...

I watch the sunset fading away,
lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes,
I feel your presence near me.
For you are always...

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
waiting till morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest -
only your peace is near me.
Yes, you are always...

John Glynn (b.1948)



FIRST READING

from the Book of Wisdom, Chapter 3: verses 1-6 and 9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust. They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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 none ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
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 for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Scottish Psalter (1650)



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Anyone who believes in me will never die.

Alleluia!

A READING

from the holy Gospel according to Matthew,

Chapter 5: verses 1-12

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 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



HOMILY

BIDDING PRAYERS

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead;
with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

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

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us,
that they may have the reward of their goodness.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again,
that they may see God face to face.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith,
that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Gifts of bread and wine, gifts we've offered,
fruits of labour, fruits of love, taken,
offered, sanctified, blessed and broken;
words of one who died:

'Take my body, take my saving blood.'
Gifts of bread and wine: Christ our Lord.

Christ our Saviour, living presence here,
as he promised while on earth:
'I am with you for all time,
I am with you in this bread and wine.'
'Take my body...

Through the Father, with the Spirit,
one in union with the Son,
for God's people, joined in prayer,
faith is strengthened by the food we share.
'Take my body...

Christine McCann (b.1951)

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COMMUNION HYMN

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Come bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;

he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,

he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

David J. Evans (b.1957)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

EULOGY



RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

*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 through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and 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...

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die - I scarce can take it in:
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Then sings my soul...

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart;
when I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.

Then sings my soul...

Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

FINAL COMMENDATION

RECESSIONAL ANTHEM





Mary Frettingham (née Cassidy)

Mary was born on 16th October 1935 in Nottingham. She was the middle child, eldest daughter of William and Ellen Cassidy. She had an older brother, Patrick, and a younger sister, Kathleen (Kay). She was born into a loving, caring, encouraging and supportive family for whom Church was the centre of their life. This was the guiding way that Mary followed throughout her life. As a child, most of her social life revolved around the Church, a situation which would have both a life-changing and lifelong impact on Mary. She attended St Edward's Primary School and achieved a scholarship to St Catherine's School on Derby Road, where she was a diligent and conscientious pupil.

Her school years were happy for Mary, working dutifully and playing sport (netball and tennis). She especially enjoyed going on St Catherine's School choir outings to Padley and Beauvale. Alongside this she involved herself in Church-based youth activities, Guides and the parish children's group which put on performances, went on outings, notably at the Franciscan Convent at Melton Mowbray, and picnics.

Mary was instantly recognisable for her abundance of curly hair and huge smile which lit up the whole of her face. As she became older, she took on the role of a senior helper and mentor to younger members of the children's group.

Mary was fully committed to the new burgeoning parish of Our Lady and St Edward's, even to the extent of collecting outdoor monies from parishioners' homes. She was a parishioner of this parish for the whole of her life. Over the years there has not been any aspect of the life of the parish that Mary did not get involved in, including jumble sales, summer garden fetes and OAP suppers to name but a few. She particularly enjoyed attending the parish pilgrimages to Rome, Assisi and the Holy Land.



1950-51 proved to be a momentous year in Mary's life. At 15, on reaching the school leaving age, she left school to start work at the Inland Revenue where her flair for numeracy was put to good use. It was also aged fifteen, when she attended a church-based old-time dancing group, that she met and was paired with a young man named Anton Frettingham, and as they say the rest was history! For whatever reason they clicked and five years later, with Mary aged twenty years and requiring her father's permission, they were married on 27th October 1955 at St Barnabas' Cathedral in Nottingham (as still at that time Our Lady and St Edward's parish did not have a parish church). Mary was the most loving and supportive wife.

In the first years of marriage Mary and Anton worked relentlessly and prudently to establish their new family on secure foundations, traits that remained with Mary throughout her life. Two years into marriage Mary had her first of three children, Mark, followed two years later by Hugh, and five years after that by Jane. The family was Mary's highest priority and her life. We look back fondly on her encouragement and involvement as we grew up, even into our adult years. The three children were involved in many activities (sports, Scouts and Guides) and Mary was quietly in the background making it all possible and always there encouraging them to do their best.

We have happy memories of camping holidays spent in all parts of the United Kingdom during which she somehow managed to cook a full English breakfast and evening meal on little more than a camping stove - she made it look so easy! Likewise, she supported Anton in his sporting activities, even to the extent of washing and drying the whole football team's kit every week, come rain or shine! Her dedication to the family was unending.



During this time her involvement in the Church continued as fervently as ever, be it in assisting in the formation of a Cub pack alongside Anton (the 54th Nottingham Our Lady and St Edward's) serving as Baloo, the Assistant Cub Leader, or as an active member of a flourishing Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) being their parish secretary for many years. Whilst her family was growing, Mary's career was put on hold. She was actively involved in her children's education, being a founder member of the PTA at Christ the King Catholic School, as well as volunteering in a wide variety of activities such as costume maker for school plays, a taxi for school sports teams and a parent helper on a school visit abroad (Paris). Mary was never one to seek the limelight but worked quietly behind the scenes; if there was a job that needed doing, no matter what, she was happy to do it with no fuss or fanfare.

Whilst much of her life was family-focused, Mary and Anton did continue their enjoyment of dancing and would be seen dancing at The Greyfriars on a Monday night for many years. This pleasure in dancing was a constant throughout her life and alongside Anton she enjoyed many dancing holidays in her more senior years both in Britain and abroad. As the family got older Mary went back to work, initially working for the NHS in the Finance Records Department and then moving on to help run the local Post Office on Porchester Road.

During much of her adult life Mary devoted herself to looking after and caring for her parents as they aged and succumbed to serious illnesses. Following the death of her father, Mary's mother was able to spend more time with and helping the Frettinghams. Mary created a family home where all felt welcome, accepted and loved. Mary took great pleasure in her role as a grandparent, supporting her grandchildren as much as she had supported her own children. Mary was always available when required to take the grandchildren to school, music exams, school trips and events and even when they were off school ill, she would be there to look after them. She frequently baby-sat and enjoyed witnessing her seven grandchildren grow and develop into fine young adults. She is a much loved and cherished Nana.

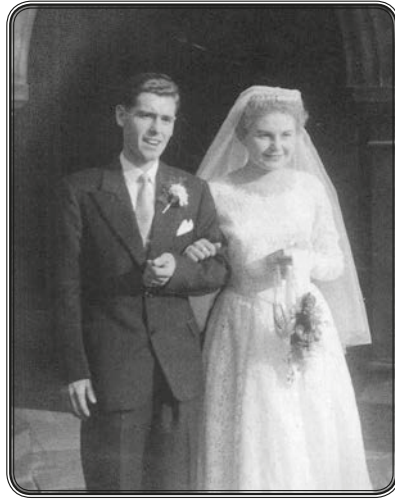


Unfortunately, in her senior years, Mary suffered with numerous forms of ill health but true to her character she coped with them in her usual stoic and unflappable manner. However, this did not stop her being active and travelling, visiting New Zealand, Australia and Europe. Mary enjoyed holidays with the family and loved not only seeing different parts of this country but relished sharing the experiences with her family. Sadly, Mary was diagnosed with dementia in 2016 but this opened up another experience for her – Vicky McClure’s Dementia Choir, of which a documentary was made and shown on the BBC in May of this year. Mary always loved singing, being a member of various church choirs throughout her life, having sung at Nottingham Castle, the Albert Hall, the cathedral and other notable venues. She enjoyed the English comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan and performing in The Dementia Choir was a fitting finale to Mary’s life.

Mary was her own person, humble in her outlook, supportive, caring and totally dependable. Everyone who knew her commented on her warm, engaging smile and as someone recently commented upon when remembering Mary, ‘She was a lovely, kind lady whose face lit up when she saw you. She will be a great loss to the family’.

She is and will be missed but never forgotten.





Mary's family thank you all for sharing in their celebration today, which they very much appreciate. Mary will be buried at Carlton Cemetery, where you are welcome to join the family, if you so wish. Refreshments will be served in the Greyfriars Club, where the family will be delighted to see you.

Donations in memory of Mary for
Macmillan Cancer Support
and the
Alzheimer's Society

may be left in the collection box on exiting the church
or sent to A.W. Lymn The Family Funeral Service at the address below.



A.W. LYMN

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