



*Funeral Mass  
in Celebration of the Life of*

***Rev Monsignor  
Robert Francis Aitken  
PA PE***

*Born 25 May 1929  
Entered Eternal Life 11 November 2023*



*Funeral Mass celebrated on  
Friday 24 November 2023  
in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide*

# *Ministries and Appointments*

*Ordained in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral – 22 July 1952*

*Assistant Priest, Croydon Parish, 1952 - 1957*

*Assistant Priest, Adelaide Cathedral Parish, 1957 - 1967*

*Administrator, Adelaide Cathedral Parish, 1967 - 1997*

*Parish Priest, Dulwich / Burnside Parish, 1998 - 2004*

*Appointed Prothonotary Apostolic with title of Monsignor, 1980*

*Granted title of Pastor Emeritus, 2004*

*Chaplain, Christian Brothers' College*

*Chaplain, Order of Malta*

*Chaplain, Order of Lazarus*

*Service to the Archdiocese -*

*Liturgical Commission, 1973 - 1974*

*Consultor, 1974 - 1997*

*Council of Priests, 1980 - 2002*

*Vicar General, 1980 - 1989*

*Diocesan Pastoral Council, 1980 - 1989*

*Priestly Life and Ministry Committee, 1992 - 1995*

*Senior Priests Care Committee, 2002 - 2007*

**Greeting**

**Sprinkling with the Water of Baptism**

**Placement of Baptismal Pall**

*Placed by Louise Kendall (nee Aitken) and Bernadette Aitken*

**Procession**

*Monsignor Aitken is brought into the Cathedral by his brother Priests:*

*Rev Father George Nader*

*Rev Fr Maurice Shinnick*

*Rev Father John Herd*

*Rev Monsignor John Swann OAM*

**Processional Hymn**

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (Parry)*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
re clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.  
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.  
Rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!  
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.  
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.  
O still, small voice of calm.

## Placement of Symbols

Stole	<i>Placed by Rev Father Robert Wilkinson</i>
Chalice	<i>Placed by Deacon Remo Patroni</i>
Breviary	<i>Placed by Rev Monsignor Dr Robert Rice</i>
Family Photograph	<i>Placed by Sharon Aitken, with Jessica Templeton (nee Aitken) and Leo Templeton</i>
Shakespearean Play	<i>Placed by Ann and Peter Zwaans Snr</i>
Handel's Messiah	<i>Placed by Brie Yang</i>
West Adelaide Guernsey	<i>Placed by Charlie Lardner</i>

## Collect

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### First Reading

*Isaiah 25: 6-9*

*Read by Matthew Aitken*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich food, and of fine wines.

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 God 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 Hymn**

*The Lord's My Shepherd Psalm 22(23)*  
*To the tune of Crimond (Irvine)*

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 in 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 has furnishéd 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.

**Second Reading**

*1 John 3: 1-2*

*Read by Christine Shinnick (nee Aitken)*

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
for that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people,  
we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future  
has not yet been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord.

*All Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*John 11: 25*

Cantor Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!

*All (Sung) Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Cantor I am the resurrection and the life, said the Lord:  
Whoever believes in me will not die forever.

*All (Sung) Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## Gospel Reading

*John 14: 1-6*

The Lord be with you.

*All*            *And with your spirit.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*All*            *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his 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.*

## Homily

*Rev Father Peter Zwaans*

## Universal Prayer

*Read by Bridget Shinnick, Natalie Shinnick and Olivia Aitken*

... We pray to the Lord.

*Response*        *Lord, hear our prayer.*

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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## Offertory Procession

*Brought forward on our behalf by Arlene Macdonald and Greg Mead*

## Offertory Hymn

## *The Day Thou Gavest (Scholefield)*

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended,  
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy church, unsleeping,  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world, her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

## Preparation of the Gifts

Pray, brothers and sisters,  
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

*All*            *May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good,  
and the good of all his holy Church.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

*All*            *And with your spirit.*

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*            *It is right and just.*



## **Preface for the Dead**

*All (Sung) 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.*

## **Memorial Acclamation**

The mystery of faith.

*All (Sung) We proclaim your death, O Lord,  
and profess your resurrection until you come again.*

## **Great Amen**

Through him, with him, in him, O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

*All (Sung) Amen.*

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## COMMUNION RITE

## **Lord's Prayer**

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.*

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.  
In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety  
as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

## **Sign of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*All And with your spirit.*

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

## **Fraction Rite**

*All (Sung) 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 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 Hymns**                      *Soul of My Saviour (Maher)*

Soul of my saviour, sanctify my breast;  
body of Christ, be thou my saving guest;  
blood of my saviour, bathe me in thy tide,  
wash me with water flowing from thy side.

Strength and protection may thy Passion be;  
O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;  
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,  
so shall I never, never part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign;  
in death's dread moments make me only thine;  
call me, and bid me come to thee on high,  
when I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.

*Ave Verum Corpus (Byrd)*

*Ave Verum (Elgar)*

## **Communion Reflection**                      *The Lord Bless You and Keep You (Rutter)*

## **Prayer After Communion**

## **Words of Remembrance**

*Offered by Fiona Lardner*

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## FINAL COMMENDATION

## **Song of Farewell**

*Sung to the tune of Old Hundredth*

*Come to his aid, O Saints of God, O Angels meet him now:  
Receive his soul, present him now, to God, the Lord Most High.*

*May Christ who called you take you home to rest near Abraham:  
Receive his soul, present him now, to God, the Lord Most High.*

*Give him eternal rest, O Lord, may he have endless light:  
Receive his soul, present him now, to God, the Lord Most High.*

## Prayer of Commendation

### Recession

*Monsignor Aitken leaves the Cathedral accompanied by his family:*

*Jonathan Lardner*

*Matthew Aitken*

*Bernard Shinnick*

*Jacob Shinnick*

*Jonathan Beilby*

*Matthew Templeton*

### Recessional Hymn

*Sweet Saviour, Bless Us Ere We Go (Monk)*

O Saviour, bless us ere we go;  
thy word into our minds instill,  
and make our lukewarm hearts to glow  
with lowly love and fervent will.

Through life's long day and death's dark night,  
O gentle Jesus, be our light.

The day is done, its hours have run,  
and thou hast taken count of all,  
the scanty triumphs grace hath won,  
the broken vow, the frequent fall.

Through life's long day and death's dark night,  
O gentle Jesus, be our light.

Grant us, dear Lord, from evil ways  
true absolution and release;  
and bless us, more than in past days,  
with purity and inward peace.

Through life's long day and death's dark night,  
O gentle Jesus, be our light.

Do more than pardon; give us joy,  
sweet fear and sober liberty,  
and simple hearts without alloy  
that only long to be like thee.

Through life's long day and death's dark night,  
O gentle Jesus, be our Light.

For all we love, the poor, the sad,  
the sinful, unto thee we call;  
O let thy mercy make us glad:  
thou art our Jesus, and our all.

Through life's long day and death's dark night,  
O gentle Jesus, be our Light.

*Monsignor Aitken's Committal Service will take place  
in the Catholic D Section of Centennial Park Cemetery  
760 Goodwood Road, Pasadena.*

*You are welcome to attend the Committal Service.*

*For those not able to attend the Committal Service,  
you are invited to pay your last respects to Monsignor Aitken  
with rose petal tributes before the hearse departs.*

*Salve Regina, Mater misericordiae;  
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.*

*Eia ergo, Advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.  
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.*



**FRANK J SIEBERT**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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