

REQUIEM MASS FOR  
THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF  
**COLLEEN ANNE OATEN**  
19.2.1940 – 17.1.2025  
AGED 84



**St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore**

30TH JANUARY 2025

**Celebrant:** Fr Michael Nugent **Co-Celebrant:** Fr Phillip Borla  
with Reverend Graeme Davis & Deacon Chris Wallis.

**Acolyte:** Julian Hill



## **'Christ be Our Light'**

*(Words & Tune: Bernadette Farrell)*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

**[Chorus]**

*Christ be our light  
shine in our hearts  
shine through the darkness  
christ be our light  
shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
longing for hope many despair  
your word alone has pow'r to save us  
make us your living voice.

**[Chorus]**

Many the gifts, many the people  
many the hearts, that yearn to belong  
let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

**[Chorus]**



REQUIEM MASS FOR THE REPOSE OF  
THE SOUL OF COLLEEN OATEN

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

*People: Amen.*

Priest: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*People: And with your spirit.*

Priest: On the day of her baptism,  
Colleen was welcomed into the Church,  
given new life in Christ,  
and clothed with the garment of salvation.

Today we greet the body of our sister  
and surround her with the Church's prayer.  
We commend our sister Colleen to the mercy of God  
and pray that the promise made to her in baptism  
will be fulfilled.

## **SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER**

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

## **PLACING OF THE PALL - *Trish Lloyd, Greg Oaten & Michael Oaten***

Deacon: May Christ who claimed Colleen in baptism  
now enfold her in his love and bring her to eternal life.

*People: Amen.*

## **PASCHAL CANDLE**

Deacon: In baptism,  
Colleen was enlightened by Christ.  
She walked as a child of the light  
and kept the flame of faith alive in her heart.  
May Christ, the eternal and unfailing light  
now welcome her  
into the kingdom of light and peace.

May Christ rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of sin and death.

*People: Amen.*

## **CARMELITE CANDLE** - *Emma Oaten-Forget*

Deacon: In life Colleen had a deep love and respect for the Carmelite Sisters. The Sisters have prepared a special candle for their friend Colleen which Colleen's granddaughter, Emma, will light from the Pascal Candle and place on Colleen's coffin to represent the Sisters love for Colleen.

## **PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**

### **- *The Sacred Scriptures* -**

Deacon: In life Colleen cherished the Gospel of Christ. May Christ now greet her with these words of eternal life: Come, blessed of my Father!

### **- *The Cross* -**

Deacon: In baptism Colleen received the sign of the cross. May she now share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

### **- *Flowers* -**

Deacon: These flowers we place here, as a sign of love and respect, from your family and from the community of the Risen Lord.



## COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray.

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,  
hear our prayers for your servant Colleen,  
whom you have summoned out of this world.  
Forgive her sins and failings  
and grant her a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

Let her pass unharmed through the gates of death  
to dwell with the blessed in light,  
as you promised to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Accept Colleen into your safe keeping  
and on the great day of judgement  
raise her up with all the saints  
to inherit your eternal kingdom

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

People: *Amen.*

**FIRST READING** - *Trish Lloyd*

**A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-6**

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 blessing 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.

The word of the Lord.

**All:**        *Thanks be to God.*



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** - *Cathy Shearman & Choir*

*The Lord is my Shepherd  
and I want to follow,  
wherever he leads me,  
wherever he goes.  
Over the mountains,  
the waters and by-ways,  
valleys and highways he's waiting for me.*

*I want to go to meet him there,  
to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow,  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

*And while on the journey  
to where we are going,  
he promised to be there to help us along,  
and over the mountains,  
we'll walk on together,  
to know all the wonders  
he's given to me.*

*I want to go to meet him there,  
to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow,  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*



## SECOND READING - *Greg Oaten*

### **A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

**All:**        *Thanks be to God.*



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** - *Cathy Shearman & Choir*

**All:**        *Alleluia, alleluia!*  
                 *God has called us with the gospel*  
                 *To share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*  
                 *Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL**

**Deacon:**    The Lord be with you.

**People:**    *And with your spirit.*

**Deacon:**    A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
                 11:25-30

**People:**    *Glory to you, Lord.*

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**    *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**HOMILY** - *Fr Michael Nugent*

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS - *Grandchildren*

*Josh, Emma, Jasmin, Lachlan & Noah*

Priest: My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only for our departed sister, but also for the church, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

Josh: For our Granny, 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:

**All:** *Hear our prayer.*

Emma: Granny was nourished constantly with the Body of Christ, the Bread of life. Through the Eucharist, the pledge of eternal life, may she be raised up on the last day.

Lord, in your mercy:

**All:** *Hear our prayer.*

Jasmin: For all of 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:

**All:** *Hear our prayer.*

Lachlan: Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord.  
Give refreshments, rest and peace to all whose faith  
is known to you alone.

Lord, in your mercy:

**All:** *Hear our prayer.*

Noah: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith,  
that we ourselves may be gathered at length  
into God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy:

**All:** *Hear our prayer.*

Priest: O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful,  
grant to the souls of your departed servants release  
from all their sins. Hear our prayers for those we love  
and give them the pardon that have always desired.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**People:** *Amen.*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### PROCESSION OF GIFTS

*Brought up by Colleen's Grandchildren;  
Rafael, Samuel, Lachlan & Noah.*

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## O Breathe On Me Breath of God

*(Lyrics: 86.86; Edwin Hatch)*

O breathe on me, O breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love  
and do what thou wouldst do.

O breathe on me, O breath of God,  
until my heart is pure;  
until with thee I have one will,  
to do and to endure.

O breathe on me, O breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine;  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

O breathe on me, O Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

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## PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

*People: Blessed be God for ever.*

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine may we come  
to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself  
to share in our humanity.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

*People: Blessed be God for ever.*

*Please stand.*

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

*People: 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 GIFTS

Priest: Lord,  
in your love receive this sacrifice of peace  
your people offer.  
We entrust your servant Colleen to your mercy  
with faith and confidence.  
In the human family she was an instrument  
of your peace and love.  
May she rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

People: *Amen.*



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III Preface of the Dead IV

Priest: The Lord be with you.

*People: And with your spirit.*

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

*People: It is right and just.*

Priest: 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.

For it is at your summons that we come to birth,  
by your will that we are governed,  
and at your command that we return,  
on account of sin,  
to that earth from which we came.

And when you give the sign,  
we who have been redeemed by the Death of your Son,  
shall be raised up to the glory of his Resurrection.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise,  
as without end we acclaim:



## HOLY, HOLY *Sung*

**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 sit or kneel.*

## CANON

**Priest:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created  
rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF 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, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice 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 ETERNAL 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** *Sung*

**All:**      *We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your  
Resurrection until you come again.*

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death  
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
with Saints Carthage and Patrick our patrons  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant Francis our Pope and  
Gregory our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.

Remember your servant Colleen  
whom you have called  
from this world to yourself.

Grant that she who was united with your Son  
in a death like his,  
may also be one with him in his Resurrection,  
when from the earth  
he will raise up in the flesh those who have died,  
and transform our lowly body  
after the pattern of his own glorious body.

To our departed brothers and sisters, too,  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness  
of your glory,  
when you will wipe away every tear from our eyes.  
For seeing you, our God, as you are,  
we shall be like you for all the ages  
and praise you without end,  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

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. (sung)*

*Please stand.*

## COMMUNION RITE

Priest: 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.*

Priest: 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

**Priest:** 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.

**People:** *Amen.*

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** *And with your spirit.*

**Deacon:** Let us offer each other a 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 sit or kneel.*

## COMMUNION

**Priest:** 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 is available to take, if you would like just a blessing,  
please bow your head and place your hands across your chest as you  
go up towards the priest.*



## Come As You Are

*Sr Deirdre Browne ibvm*

Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
No need to fear, love never ends.  
Don't run away, shamed, and disheartened.  
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise  
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.  
Come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.  
All will be well, just come as you are.



*For Grammy with love Samuel*



# On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge  
My rock, in whom I trust!"

[Chorus]

*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you  
And famine will bring you no fear  
Under His wings, your refuge  
His faithfulness, your shield

[Chorus]

You need not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Though thousands fall about you  
Near you it shall not come

[Chorus]

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

[Chorus]

[Coda]

*And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand.*

Priest: Let us pray.

Father all-powerful, God of mercy,  
may the sacraments we receive free us from our sins.  
May this sacrifice be our prayer for pardon,  
our strength in weakness,  
our support in all we do,  
and may it be for the living and the dead  
the forgiveness of all their sins  
and the pledge of eternal redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*People: Amen.*

## FINAL COMMENDATION Invitation to Prayer

Deacon: With faith in Jesus Christ, we must reverently bury  
the body of our sister Colleen.

Let us pray with confidence to God, in whose sight all  
creation lives, that he will raise up in holiness and power  
the mortal body of our sister and command her soul  
to be numbered among the blessed.

May God grant her a merciful judgement, deliverance  
from death, and pardon of sin. May Christ the Good  
Shepherd carry her home to be at peace with the Father.  
May she rejoice for ever in the presence of the eternal  
King and in the company of all the saints.

## SIGNS OF FAREWELL

Deacon: In baptism Colleen shared in the death  
and resurrection of Christ.  
May she be welcome into the glory of eternal life.

Deacon: As a sign of respect for our sister we let this incense rise  
to God, who has called Colleen to share in his glory.

## SONG OF FAREWELL *Sung*

Soloist: Saints of God come to her aid!  
Come to meet her, angels of the Lord.

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

Soloist: May Christ who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

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

Soloist: Give her eternal rest, O Lord,  
and may your light shine on her forever.

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



## REMOVAL OF PALL *Trish Lloyd, Greg & Michael Oaten*

Priest: Could Trish, Greg and Michael come forward to remove the Pall from the coffin.

*Choir: May the choirs of angels come to greet you.  
May they speed you to paradise.  
May the Lord enfold you in his mercy.  
May you find eternal life.*

*May the choirs of angels come to greet you.  
May they speed you to paradise.  
May the Lord enfold you in his mercy.  
May you find eternal life.*



*Mum/Granny, Mick & Rafael*

## PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Priest: To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of Colleen  
your servant;  
in the sight of this world she is now dead;  
in your sight may she live for ever.

Forgive whatever sins she committed  
through human weakness  
and in your goodness grant her everlasting peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*People: Amen.*

Priest: May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem:

Where Lazarus is poor no longer  
may you my sister find eternal rest.

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



### PALLBEARERS

*Greg, Mark, David, Maree, Michael & Joshua Oaten.*

### COLLEEN'S PHOTO

*Jasmin MacKenzie (Granddaughter)*

### CARMELITE CANDLE

*Emma Oaten-Forget (Granddaughter)*

## **‘How Great thou art’**

*Stuart K Hine*

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**[Chorus]**

*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 see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

**[Chorus]**

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.

**[Chorus]**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”

**[Chorus]**



**A Private Burial attended by family  
will follow the Service.**

*Family & friends are invited  
to join us in celebrating  
Colleen's life following the Mass at  
Lismore Turf Club  
9A Woodlawn Rd, North Lismore  
from 11:00am*

# COLLEEN ANNE OATEN

## A SHORT HISTORY

*By Cathy Shearman, Maree Oaten & Colleen Oaten*

Colleen was born on 19 February 1940 to Ann Imelda Woods and Harold Alfonsus Woods in Hamilton, Newcastle. She was the last of 4 children. She has 2 brothers, James (Jim) Woods, Fr John Woods (deceased) and an older sister Patricia (Trish) Lloyd. All 4 children were born by C-section which was an extremely risky business back in the 1930s/1940s.

*"My first memories were when I was three. We lived at Waratah across the road from Corpus Christi Church. My sister Trish had something I wanted but she climbed onto a chair so that I could not reach it. I tried to climb up after her, but I slipped and fell and cut my tongue. Mum picked me up and carried me to the Mater Hospital a block away where I had some stitches put in."*

A precocious child - as a young child of about 2 and a bit she would tease Mrs McDowell, the washing lady, by doing a handstand and asking her if she could do one too. At 3½ she would help out in her parents' newspaper shop and would pull a box up to the counter so she could see over the top and say "Yes please" to the customers. One gentleman would insist on being served only by her.

*"We used to sometimes sit on the front veranda at night in the dark (everyone had to have blinds to keep the lights inside), we would watch the searchlight scanning the sky for Japanese planes. We didn't ever see any."*

*"I remember one day our little dog Tessie got out and ran under a tram out front. She came out unscathed but we made sure the gates were closed after that."*

She was an independent child at this age insisting her mother stay inside the house while she went on an errand at the shop 5 houses away. All the neighbours knew each other back then and would keep an eye on her as she made her way to the shop.

*"I started school a few weeks before I turned four. I remember one day I took a couple of sticks of coloured chalk from the shop in a paper bag, by the time the bell rang to start school, I had coloured chalk all over my face and clothes."*

*"I got a lovely medal for my music theory. I was the youngest to get 100% for my theory exam. I still have the Medal"*

Starting at 15 yrs & 9 months old, Colleen did her Leaving Certificate and went to Teacher's College. She completed the 2 year course and qualified to teach Junior Secondary School. She taught at Cessnock and Singleton in 1958, at Grafton in 1959 and then at Casino High School, where, at 20 years of age, she met our father, Bill Oaten, through mutual friends.

*"My first school as a qualified teacher was at Singleton. I was younger than some of the kids in the fifth year. The next year I went to Gateshead, the following year I went to Grafton for six months, then to Kyogle for six months. Next, to Casino for a couple of years. Meanwhile I met up with Bill and that kept me grounded. We got engaged. We then were married on Monday 17th July 1961, by my brother John, who had just been ordained a priest."*

Mum's older brother Fr John Woods was ordained on Saturday 15 July 1961 and had his first Mass on Sunday 16th July and then married them on Monday 17th July 1961 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church Waratah, Newcastle, across the road from where Mum's parents lived in Bridge St. She took a taxi to the church. The taxi took her around the block before setting her down at the church.

Eventually Mum transferred to Kyogle High School to teach biology and mathematics.



On 30 June 1962 they welcomed the first of their six children, Greg. Mark was born on the 9 January 1964, Cathy on the 25 March 1965, David on 19 March 1967, Maree on 5 September 1979 (the year of the Child) and finally Michael on 15 January 1982.

All six children were born in Kyogle.

Mum transferred from Kyogle High School to St Bridget's Primary School in Kyogle where she taught for over 10 years.

Mum and Dad started Kyogle Appliance Centre in 1973 which became Oaten's, Casino. In 2023 they celebrated 50 years in business. Our brother Mark is the Manager of the business, with Dad still going over to the shop to keep his hand in.

Mum was proud of her children.  
Her greatest joy and greatest frustration!

Mum's strength of faith... After finishing teaching, she continued to teach her faith to primary school children in Lismore and Goonellabah through the RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children). She made many good friends through the RCIA and at the Carmelite Monastery where she attended church every day during the week and on Sundays. She read at church and arranged the reader's roster. The Carmelite Sisters held a special place in Mum's heart as I am sure she does in theirs.

Mum was diagnosed with Vascular Dementia in 2021.

Then came Mochi, Mum's mini poodle pride and joy on 1 January 2022. Dad introduced him to the family as our new brother. Mochi kept Mum company and went everywhere with her including Mass. However, his lack of understanding that one remained in one's pew during Mass got him banned from the Monastery.

She went to live at Regis Magnolia Aged Care in Upper Coomera in July 2022. Dementia robbed Mum of some of her memories but not her faith. But we knew who she was to us. Our Mum was the glue that kept our family together.

We take comfort knowing that Mum is now happily reunited with her parents, her brother John, dear friends Nan, Pop & Geoff Gough, Delia & Lino Bolzicco, Zio Johnny, Gwen King and with her God.

She will live on forever in our hearts.



# Your Mother Is Always With You

by Deborah R Culver

*She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street.*

*She's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick,  
the fragrance of life itself.*

*She's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well.*

*She's your breath in the air on a cold winters' day.*

*She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep,  
the colours of a rainbow.*

*She is Christmas morning.*

*Your mother lives inside your laughter.*

*She's crystallized in every tear drop.*

*She's the place you come from, your first home.*

*She's the map you follow with every step you take.*

*She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy.*

*But nothing on Earth can separate you.*

*Not time.*

*Not space.*

*Not even death.*





*Photograph by Maree of Broadbeach, Gold Coast Sunrise, 24.1.25*

# Footprints in the Sand

- Mary Stevenson

*One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.  
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.  
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,  
other times there were one set of footprints.*

*This bothered me because I noticed  
that during the low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from  
anguish, sorrow or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints.*

*So I said to the Lord,  
“You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you,  
you would walk with me always.  
But I have noticed that during  
the most trying periods of my life  
there have only been one  
set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most,  
you have not been there for me?”*

*The Lord replied,  
“The times when you have  
seen only one set of footprints,  
is when I carried you.”*





Colleen passed away peacefully at  
Magnolia Aged Care, Upper Coomera, Qld.

Beloved wife of Bill.

Darling Mum to Greg, Mark, Cathy, David, Maree & Michael.  
Mother-in-law to Glenda, Suzanne, Russell, Tracy, Bruce & Natalie.

Cherished Granny to Joshua, Emma, Madison, Ella,  
Jasmin, Lachlan, Noah, Rafael & Samuel.

Great Granny to Lennox & Haisley.

Dearest little sister to Jim, Trish & John (dec.).  
Sister-in-law to Thirza, Paul, Earl (dec.) & Muriel (dec.) & Joyce (dec.),  
Norma & Hink (dec.), Fay (dec.) & Charlie (dec.), Ann & Laurie (dec.).

Adored by Mochi.



*In lieu of flowers, donations to the Children's Hospital Foundation  
would be appreciated. [www.childrens.org.au](http://www.childrens.org.au)*

*The Oaten family would like to express our deepest gratitude...*

*To the team at Regis Magnolia, Upper Coomera,  
for their wonderful care of Colleen over the past 2.5 years.*

*To Rachel, a wonderful friend, carer and Mochi whisperer.*

*To Moira for taking Colleen to Mass on a regular basis,  
something she cherished dearly.*

*To Fr Mauro for your pastoral care, the Community of St Mary's Catholic  
Church, Upper Coomera and the Extraordinary Ministers of  
Holy Communion.*

*To Sr Mary Rose and the Carmelites for their prayers,  
love and sisterhood.*

*To Fr James, a dear family friend who visited and anointed Colleen,  
bringing her peace in her final days.*

*To Dr Penny King for her expert care, wise counsel  
and sound advice over many years.*

*To Donna for her ongoing and selfless love and support to Maree.*

*To the St Carthages Cathedral Choir and Warren for the gift of music in  
honour of Colleen today.*

*To Fr Michael, Fr Phillip, Reverend Graeme, Deacon Chris & Acolyte  
Julian for your pastoral care and celebrating Requiem Mass today.*

*To everyone who knew her, for your part in making Colleen's life over  
the past few years happy and spiritually fulfilling.*

*For Granny of Mochi by Jasmin*



*Thank you*

# An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*May God be with you and bless you:  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings.  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.*

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home,  
And may the land of a friend always be near.*

*May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.*



*For Granny with love Madison*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This funeral service was prepared using the texts from the ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS © 1989:

From the English Translation of the Roman Missal, © 1973, ICEL.

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