

In Loving Memory
of
Rebecca Irene Rowe



5th May, 1972 — 25th July, 2025

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

for

Rebecca Irene Rowe

August 1st, 2025

10:00am

INVOCATION & REMINDER OF BAPTISM

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P As we gather here now to give thanks to God for Rebecca's life, St Paul comforts us with these words: "Don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection". (Romans 6:3-5)

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom you raised from the dead. Assure us that you keep watch over all your children, and not even death itself can snatch us out of your hand or separate us from your love. Comfort us in our grief and remind us that you are always near. We give you thanks for Rebecca who is safe in your care. We praise you for the love you gave us through her and the mercy you have on us all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

LHS 426 “What a friend we have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden?
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge!
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

REMEMBERING BEK

Rebecca was born to Graham and Lynne Mibus on May 5th, 1972, at The Grange Hospital, Victoria.

She was the first born of the 6 daughters born to her parents and she was baptised and confirmed in the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hamilton. Her Godparents were Keith Mibus, Irene Hicks and Rosalie Kruger.

Although born in Australia, Rebecca lived her earliest years in Papua New Guinea where her father worked in various locations around the country for Lutheran Mission Australia.

From November 1976, Graham and Lynne returned to Australia to leave Rebecca & Monica with their Grandma Mibus while they finalised their business in Papua New Guinea. However, Grandma in her late 60's struggled to keep up with a busy 3- and 4-year-old and Mrs Betty McPhee another returned Lutheran Missionary cared for the girls for about nine months until their parents return. She was their very own Nanny McPhee.

Rebecca attended Good Shepherd Lutheran Kindergarten, Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School, Good Shepherd College and The Hamilton High School. Rebecca found the academic side of school ok but thoroughly loved the social aspect the best.

While attending Good Shepherd Lutheran kindergarten, Bek who only spoke pidgin English, was accompanied by her little sister Monica for company, Mon was an essential companion until they both learned to speak clear English.

Rebecca enjoyed a happy childhood along with her sisters until the time of the passing of her youngest sister June, from SIDS. Rebecca was 9 years old. This event was very traumatic for her and would have a profound impact on her for many years to come, having been the one to find the baby had passed away. It was a defining moment in the family's life that took a toll on each of us for many years to come.

Rebecca was a keen sports person who was a passionate Blues supporter in the AFL and was involved in netball, athletics and

softball competing at state championship level in the softball.

One of Bek's earliest jobs was as an apprentice chef at the Caledonian Hotel. We're not sure why that didn't continue but as soon as Bek could, she moved to Melbourne to experience the big smoke and worked at various restaurants, café and pubs in Blackburn, Carlton & North Melbourne to name a few. Selling Kirby vacuum cleaners in Muswellbrook was among the many jobs she worked at while on her adventures. At the age of 25, Bek travelled to remote WA where she found work in an outback pub. This led her to the mining industry and to driving extraordinarily large D series dump trucks in Kalgoorlie.

Whilst working in the mines Bek met her first husband Irish Niall and lived through an Irish green card adventure of marriage, migration and upon returning to Australia, divorce. That chapter ended with her arrival at Merbein where she lived with James and Monica for a time. Whilst living here Bek worked at the Merbein Mushroom Farm and at the Mildura Grand Hotel where she had the privilege of working with kind of famous Chef, Stefano Di Pieri of "A Gondola on the Murray" and his beautiful and creative wife Donata Carrazza. This experience reignited her passion for good food and hospitality which she pursued when she returned to Hamilton a short time later.

Rebecca work at various food and fine dining establishments around the district before finally completing her chef's certificate at Café Gray in Hamilton.

Rebecca's most rewarding and valuable achievement occurred on July 13th, 2004, with the arrival of William Edward

Graham Rowe. And she shared how proud of him and how thankful she was for him right up to her last days. Bek was so happy that William had found his greatest supporter and the love of his life in Rychelle and was thrilled to be 'Mimi' to her precious granddaughter Rose.

On Boxing Day 2009 Rebecca married her Love, Richard Rowe in a small garden wedding at their home on Hensley Park Road. The marriage was officiated by the Reverend Peter Cook who recently Baptised Rose April Rowe at Rebecca's bedside in room 304 at the Hamilton Base Hospital. Something which brought her great joy at the end of her life.

Rebecca opened the Oasis Cafe in Ballarat Road which was greatly appreciated by the locals who showed great patronage to the café. Oasis especially catered for the school kids & the working parents who could grab a pie or pre-prepared meal to take home for their families.

Sadly Oasis was forced to close when Bek who had been diagnosed that same year with breast cancer was overwhelmed by the exhausting effects of chemotherapy and radiation and trying to be as present as possible for a busy eight year old William.

Food for Café Church and the opportunity to serve wholesome nutritious meals at Eventide Lutheran Homes were the two opportunities that gave Bec the most heartfelt satisfaction in her food career.

Rebecca's courage was perhaps most clearly seen in the face of her illness. She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013. Bec took the necessary steps for treatment and achieved a period of remission however by 2019 she was again experiencing some ill health which, by 2020 was a confirmed

cancer diagnosis showing it had spread to her bones.

Bec fought with grit and a fire in her spirit that defied all expectations. Time and again, she outpaced and outlived the timelines doctors gave her, refusing to let illness define her life and her legacy.

Rebecca was, and will always be, remembered for her strength, her spirit, and the love she gave to those around her. Rebecca was a woman of vision and determination.

In 2018, she began her journey into business, starting with her own venture, Axis Forestry, a koala spotting company, her friend and relative, Alison Reid of Southwest Fibre (Also a woman of grit and determination), encouraged her take the step, guiding her along the way. Not long afterwards Axis had landed a contract with Southwest Fibre, and subsequently Australian Bluegum Plantations. Contracts which continue to this day.

Bek expanded into projects that reflected her love of food, community, and hospitality. She poured her heart into building Ted's Roadhouse and The Penshurst Pub, creating spaces that weren't just about food and drink, but about connection, comfort, and character. Owning and running her own restaurant had always been one of Bek's greatest dreams and in 2024, she brought that dream to life with the opening of Manna Cafe Bar and Grill, in Thompson Street, Hamilton.

It was more than just a place to eat; it was an extension of Rebecca's heart, warm, welcoming, and open to everyone. Whether Bec was cooking in the kitchen or chatting with customers, she was doing what she loved.

Rebecca would be the first to tell you, “I’m not everybody’s cup of tea” but she was generous, bold and unapologetically herself.

Bek, as she is known by everybody, has her entire life been an advocate for the underdog. As a child there were occasions where she would take responsibility and the consequent punishment for another sibling’s wrongdoings. Whenever she saw a need that she could possibly meet for someone else, she would do whatever she could to help. Sometimes to her own detriment. Rebecca had a way of showing up when people least expected it, but most needed it — with a kind word, an encouraging nudge, strong advice or a listening ear with of course a glass of red and no judgement here!

She could lift others up without even trying, and when it was time to celebrate, she did it with full heart — partying hard, laughing loud, and making memories that her loved ones will treasure forever.

Underpinning Bec’s entire existence, her magnanimous love, her irrepressible drive and forceful nature, her sometimes profound sadness and her oftentimes volatile emotions was the rock-solid understanding of where her help came from. And for this we are eternally thankful.

Psalm 121: v 1-2 “I lift up my eyes to hills, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.”

On Friday 25 July, Rebecca went home to her Heavenly Father.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

~ LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

~ THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 14:1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

WORDS OF COMFORT

LHS 851 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toil, and snares,
I have already come
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his Word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord Jesus, remember us, and help us to pray the prayer you have taught us.

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P The Lord watch over you, as you go out and as you come in, now and forever. And the blessing of Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

C Amen.

LHS 888 “MAY THE FEET”

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

Aubrey Podlich 1946- (1983)

THE RECESSIONAL

P In the sure hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, we will now take the body of Rebecca, our sister in Christ, to its last resting place. Let us go now in peace.

C In the name of Christ. Amen.



*The family thank you for your love and support,
and for your attendance today.*

*Following the committal at the South Hamilton
Lutheran Cemetery , there will be a time of fellowship
and light luncheon in the church hall.*

You are warmly invited to join us.