



Robert and family thank you for the great comfort, support and expressions of love and sympathy given during this difficult time. We appreciate your attendance here today to celebrate the life of Bernie, our beloved wife, mother and friend.



In Loving Memory of  
*Bernadette Mary Close*  
 February 12, 1958 - July 24, 2022

# Order of Service

**WORDS OF WELCOME & BERNIE'S COMMUNITY LETTER:**  
 Gerard Watt

**OPENING HYMN:** *Amazing Grace* – Judy Collins

**CELEBRANTS:**  
 Fr George Kuruvila, Fr Patrick Flanagan, Fr Damien Heath,  
 Fr Patrick Mugavin

**GREETING:** Celebrant

**PLACING OF THE CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**  
 Sprinkling of the Baptismal Water: Celebrant  
 Placing of the Pall, Placing the Book of the Gospels, Placing a  
 Cross, Lighting of the Candle: Patrick Fallon, Margaret Segrave,  
 Christine Alderton, Brian Close

**PLACING OF LIFE SYMBOLS**  
 Kurra-Wirra Woollen Blanket, Nursing Fob Watch & Stethoscope,  
 Pathways to Harrow Book, Family Photo, Tea Cup & Marie Biscuits,  
**Flowers:** Anna-Grace Close, Anita Vogel, Kathryn Close, Alice Close,  
 Bridget Close, Lauren Irvine

**OPENING PRAYER:** Celebrant

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Jennifer Ellis  
 A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Who shall find a valiant woman? Who shall find a woman of strength?  
 A pearl of great price is she. Her friends all have confidence in her and  
 benefit from her wisdom. She initiates good, not evil, every day of her life.  
 She opens her heart to the needy, she is generous with the poor, yet she  
 does not neglect her family's needs nor priorities of her own. She is known  
 for her dignity and strength, and she laughs at the days to come. She often  
 speaks with wisdom and acts in a kindly way. Those who are close to her  
 praise her, her family and associates and friends.  
 'Many women succeed or do outstanding things, but you surpass them all!'  
 Charm is superficial, and beauty fades, but the woman who is wise is the  
 one to be praised.

**This is the word of the Lord**  
**All: Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
 The Lord is my Shepherd – Boniwell

**GOSPEL:** Celebrant  
 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (31:10-31)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it  
 has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.  
 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men  
 waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the  
 door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the  
 master finds awake when he comes. I tell you, he will put on an apron, he  
 will sit them down at table, and he will come and wait on them. It may be in  
 the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: Celebrant

OFFERTORY HYMN: *The Prayer* – Celine Dion & Andrea Bocelli

OFFERTORY PROCESSION:

Marie Close, Catherine Zito, Barbara Caldwell, Andrea Mason

COMMUNION: Celebrant

COMMUNION HYMNS:

*You Raise Me Up* – Josh Groban

*Angels* – Robbie Williams

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE:

Laurie Close, Christopher Close, Simon Close, Anthony Close, Michael Close, Anna-Grace Close, Robert Close

VISUAL PRESENTATION: *The Power of Love* – Andrea Bocelli

RITE OF COMMENDATION: Celebrant

FAMILY VIDEO & SONG OF FAREWELL: *Home Among the Gum Trees*  
– John Williams (Please sing along)

COFFIN BEARERS:

Robert Close, Christopher Close, Simon Close, Anthony Close,  
Michael Close, Anna-Grace Close



finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HOMILY: Celebrant

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Tim Close & Ferdinand Zito

We give thanks for Bernadette's life and love. She was a very special woman; a loving wife, mother and most recently, a grandmother. We pray for Rob and give thanks for the love he and Bernie shared in their marriage, accompanying each other in good times and bad, in health and sickness. May that love and the life they shared be treasured in Rob's heart and bring him peace, strength and hope.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for Bernadette's family who filled her with so much pride and joy. May their special memories of love and laughter, her amazing strength and courage comfort them and may the bonds of family protect them all in their journey through life.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

We give thanks for the many memories we have of Bernie; her love, faith, compassion, kindness and devotion to her family and community.

May all of us who knew and loved her be strengthened and inspired by how she lived and the quiet dignity with which she faced her illness.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

We give thanks for Bernadette's exceptional skills as a nurse and for the outstanding work that nurses do. We see these qualities live on in Anna-Grace who took such loving care of Bernie in her final weeks. May nurses be supported to continue their invaluable service to us all.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

Bernadette played an important role in rural nursing during her time at the Harrow Bush Nursing Centre. Remote communities like Harrow need these services to support their health and wellbeing. We pray for all those who continue to contribute to this vital work.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

We give thanks for women in agriculture. May they experience the fulfilment and pride that Bernie did during her years at Kurra-Wirra.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

Bernadette will now be reunited with her sister Anne, brother John and her parents, Jack and Eileen. We remember and miss all the family and friends who have gone before us. May their legacy continue to live on through us.

**Lord Hear Us.**

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**