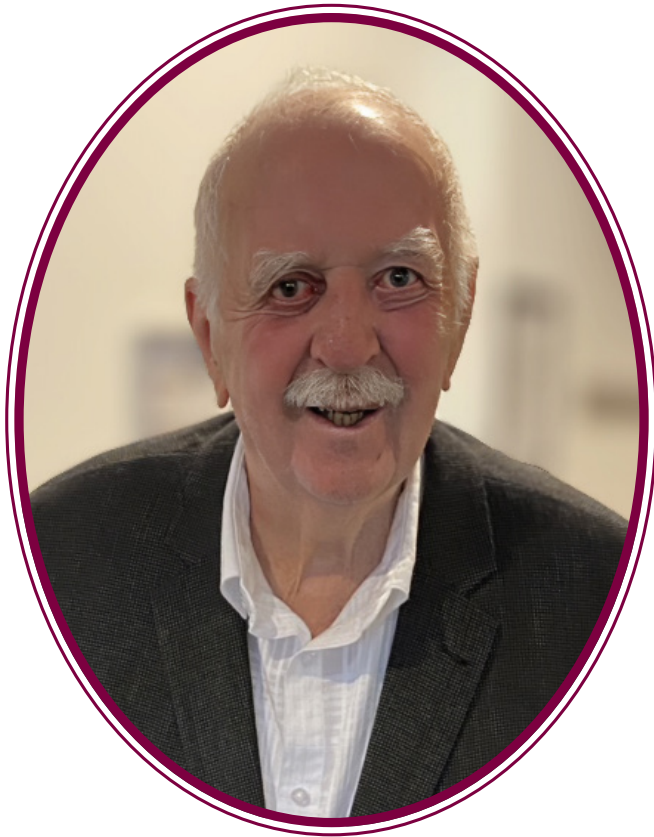


We Lovingly Commend to God

Ross Michael Bourke

Born to this Life: 4th March 1938

Born to Eternal Life: 13th April 2025



Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Banyo

28th April 2025

Celebrant: Fr John Gillen, SM

Altar Server: Rory Chowdhury

ENTRANCE HYMN:

‘Here I am, Lord’ (Dan Schutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

GREETING:

Fr John: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

All: And with your spirit.

Lighting of the Paschal Candle by Ciaran Chowdhury

Fr John: In baptism, Ross received the light of Christ. This light has guided him throughout his life.

All: May he now enjoy eternal light and peace.

Sprinkling of the Water

Fr John: Water is the source of all life and a symbol of the new life received by Ross at his baptism.

All: May he now enjoy the fullness of this life.

Placing of the Pall by Oscar Bourke & Hugo Bourke

Fr John: On the day of his baptism, Ross put on Christ and was clothed in white.

All: May Christ the Good Shepherd now enfold him in his tender love.

Tokens of Remembrance

Genevieve Chowdhury - Barrister's wig - symbol of Ross' career as a Barrister-at-Law

Stella Bourke - Mortar and pestle - symbol from Ross' first career as a pharmacist

Margaret Bourke - Photo of Ross

Olivia Bourke - Family Bible - symbol of Ross' great faith and love of family

Freya Eastgate - Rosary Beads - symbol of Ross' great faith

Fr John: In life Ross cherished so much. May Christ now greet him with these words of eternal promise:

All: Come, blessed of my Father!

Penitential Rite

Fr John: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Fr John: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Fr John: Lord, have mercy.
All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Fr John: Father, Almighty God,
Ross believed that Jesus is the Christ, the risen Lord. Embrace him now in your love and grant him the gift of your perfect peace.
May Ross be with you in the glory of Your kingdom. Raise him to share in the glory of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.
All: **Amen.**

Words of Remembrance

Eulogy by Damian Bourke including Prayer of instruction written by Aaron Bourke

Prayer of Instruction

Dear Lord

We give back to you your son, Ross Michael Bourke. Regrettably he doesn't come with an instruction booklet but based on our decades of lived experience we offer to you the following advice.

Don't bother trying to argue with him. It will get you nowhere and frustratingly (and with all due respect to your omniscience) he will probably turn out to be right.

Give him someone to watch over who needs a person to fight for them. He loves an underdog and his most rewarding professional work in this life was when he could advocate for someone who needed help. Although he started out as a chemist, his calling to the Bar was where he found people who truly needed him. He once told us that representing children was his most fulfilling role.

Despite his complications, to keep him distracted just give him a tractor and a side paddock to plough. He won't grow anything in it, he'll just drive around for hours and hours stirring up red dust – he will time it perfectly, starting up the tractor just as the washing is being hung out on the line. When he gets bored with the tractor he is pretty handy with an arc welder. He can make go-karts, horse floats, trotting gigs, sometimes he even just likes welding stuff together for purposes apparent to him alone. He is also partial to wood turning but before you set him loose on a lathe beware that his repertoire is fairly limited and before you know it your altar will be overloaded with wooden egg cups, bowls and wooden clocks.

If you have horses or other livestock up there, just beware, shutting gates is optional for him. And if you have gallopers in need of a good trainer, when he puts his hand up, maybe give him some nags to play with but leave your good bloodlines with Bart Cummings.

Great with words and intimidatingly smart – if you have less talented people who need shadow writers for debating and oratory competitions, well, he's your man.

And have you got an orphans up there? He is a great dad – he'll give piggy back and horsey rides to bed and he'll let you jump off the fridge or the piano and he'll catch you before you hit the ground.....almost every time. He won't miss a game of kid's sport and he'll be supportive no matter how badly you know you played. He will sit in a boat in 35 degree summer heat and tow kids around water skiing for hours on end without complaint. Oh, and if you do give him a boat he will definitely need your help to launch it. In particular can you please make sure he has put the bungs in. There have been too many occasions in this life where this key step has escaped him and he has nearly sunk his beloved bright orange "Bandoleer".

Although he deserves one, don't bother trying to spoil him with BMWs, Mercedes or Porsches. He has a strong preference for barely road worthy old Holden Kingswoods, Ford Fairlanes and Falcons. For years he took great joy in parking these clapped out eyesores next to his colleagues' luxury European motor vehicles at the Inns of Court on North Quay. And be careful, he has a lead foot. We've all had speeding camera fines but Ross broke new ground when one turned up in the mail showing him 25 kilometres over the speed limit.....towing a horse float. But speed cameras were a blessed relief for the police because they no longer had to pull Ross over to write a ticket for defective vehicles or speeding infringements. While some people talk about run ins with the law we are sure the local constabulary to this day talk in dismay about run ins with Ross Bourke.

By the way, you did a good job putting him together, he was definitely resilient.....falling off horses, strokes, heart bypass, cancer, he loved a scotch, would drink cream straight from the punnet, and he thought saturated fats were one of the most essential of the food groups. We thought he hit a new high the day he came home with a 1kg bag of parsons noses, baked them in oil, showered them with salt, and ate the lot - it took a lot of effort on his part to find his way back to you after 87 years and he made sure he enjoyed every step of the way. But just remember he did have a good crack at giving something up for Lent each year.

Although pride may be one of your "deadly sins", you will need to cut him some slack here because you won't find anyone more boastful than he about his children. He taught us how to argue, how to be witty and how to stand up for ourselves. Family dinners would have guests, boyfriends and girlfriends shellshocked and ducking for cover over what we thought was just usual light hearted banter. He was all about his family and that included the people his

children married, in fact he would annoyingly side with his in-laws more often than not.

He does tend to repeat the same jokes and stories over and over – just smile and nod, that’s what we did. He also has some pretty ordinary practical jokes so please just remind yourself that you are an “all loving God”.

With his trade mark scowl and rambunctious laugh, he was a man we are all going to miss but it was time to give him back to you. We saw him in life and some of us saw him in death where he looked so so small, which only leads us to conclude that the man had a giant of a soul.

And finally, he is oh so stubborn, dear Lord, so don’t try and change him, just accept him and love him for who he is....he is a free bird and this bird you cannot change.

We commend him to you and thank you for the time you gave him to us. Our day too will come and we will see him again, but until then, be patient with him for he is a great man to have back in your fold.....and please, give him our love and let him know we are truly grateful for the part he played in our lives.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
First Reading: by Maris Eastgate

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-36, 42-43)

God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.

Then Peter began to speak to them:

‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my Shepherd (Crimond) (Jessie Seymour Irvine)

Sr Maria Joyner and Frances Price

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 no ill,
for thou art with me and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.

Second Reading: by Ruth Chowdhury

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. This is also why you should never pass judgement on a brother or treat him with contempt, as some of you have done. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life - it is the Lord who speaks - every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation: (John 11:25-26)

Alleluia Alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
Whoever believes in me will not die forever.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Fr John: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

Fr John: A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John (14:1-6)

All: Glory to you, Oh Lord.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that 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 Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

Via video from Philadelphia, USA and led by Liam Bourke, Staci Crossin-Bourke, Declan Crossin, Maeve Crossin, Torin Bourke and Vera Bourke

Fr John: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he now intercedes for us with these prayers.

Reader: We pray for the family and friends of Ross that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for those who trusted in the Lord, and who now sleep with Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all those who cared for Ross, particularly in the last months of his life. Guide and strengthen them in their concern and care for others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the friends and colleagues of Ross who enjoyed his counsel and humour over the years and whose companionship and kindness he also valued. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Lord, please take Ross into your care and strengthen our faith and trust in you. We pray that Ross’ dedication, loyalty, determination and generosity will live on in us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis, who led with humility and compassion—may he and Ross be welcomed into the light of God’s eternal peace and their legacy inspire unity and peace across the world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr John: Look favourable on our offerings, O Lord, so that your departed servant, Ross, may be taken up into glory with your Son, in whose great mystery of love we are all united. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory procession by Ella Bourke, Natasha Bourke & Jack Bourke



Offertory Hymn Prayer of St Francis (Christopher West)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Prayer over the Gifts

Fr John: The Lord be with you
All: **And with your spirit.**

Fr John: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Fr John: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right and just.**

Preface

Fr John: 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, through Christ our Lord.
For as one alone he accepted death, so that we might all escape from dying, as one man he chose to die, so that in your sight we might all live forever.
And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:
All: **(spoken) 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer III

Fr John: The mystery of faith
All: **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and Resurrection You have set us free.**

Fr John: Through Him, 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.**

Communion Rite

Fr John: 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.**

Fr John: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant us peace in our days.
That, by the help of your mercy, we may always be 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 forever.
Amen.**

Fr John: 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 peace and unity in accordance with your will; who lives and reigns forever and ever.
All: **Amen.**

Fr John: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**

Sign of Peace

Fr John: 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.

Fr John: 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:

On Eagle's Wings (Frank Andersen)

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!"

Refrain:

And He will raise you up on eagles' 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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

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

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

The Galilee Song (Frank Andersen)

Deep within my heart, I feel voices whispering to me.
Words that I can't understand; meanings I must clearly hear!
Calling me to follow close, lest I leave myself behind!
Calling me to walk into evening shadows one more time!

Refrain:

So I leave my boats behind!
Leave them on familiar shores!
Set my heart upon the deep!
Follow you again, my Lord!

In my memories, I know how you send familiar rains
Falling gently on my days, dancing patterns on my pain!
And I need to learn once more in the fortress of my mind,
To believe in falling rain as I travel deserts dry!

Refrain

As I gaze into the night down the future of my years,
I'm not sure I want to walk past horizons that I know!
And I need to learn once more like a stirring deep within,
Restless, 'til I live again beyond the fears that close me in!

Thanksgiving Hymn

Ave Maria (Franz Schubert) – Sr Maria Joyner and Frances Price

Photographic Reflection

End of the Beginning (Russell Morris)

You Raise me up (Brendan Graham & Rolf Lovland feat. Alessandra Sorace)

Prayer after Communion

Fr John: Lord God, whose Son left us, in the sacrament of His body, food for the journey, mercifully grant that, strengthened by it, Our brother, Ross, may come to the eternal table of Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

FINAL COMMENDATION & FAREWELL

Fr John: Before we take Our brother, Ross, to his final resting place, let us take our leave of him. May our farewell express our love for him, may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

Song of Farewell

Fr John: With water and with incense we farewell Ross. Saints of God, come to his aid, Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!

All: **Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Fr John: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself. May angels lead you to Abraham's side.

All: **Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Fr John: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

All: **Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Prayer of Commendation

Fr John: Into your hands, God of mercies, we commend our brother, Ross, in the sure and certain hope that together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise with Him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you have bestowed upon him in life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our union with the saints in Christ. Grant him eternal rest.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of Committal

Fr John: In peace let us take our brother, Ross, to his place of rest.

PALL BEARERS:

Tony Bourke, Craig Chowdhury, Justin Chowdhury, Tess Bourke, Annie Bourke & Kathleen Bourke

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Come as you are (Deirdre Browne)

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.





Ross' family would like to thank you for attending today as they celebrate his life, and to thank you for your support, prayers and sympathy.

You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments following mass at the Nudgee Golf Club, 1207 Nudgee Road, Nudgee.

If you would like to leave a memorial message for the Bourke family or you would prefer a digital copy of this service sheet, please scan the QR code below.

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GREGSON & WEIGHT