



# Rite of Committal for Sister Anita Gallagher rsj



## Gathering

**Celebrant** As we gather we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land which is also the burial place of our Sisters, family and friends. With reverence we visit this holy ground where their bodies were placed within the womb of the earth to wait the final day of glory.

We pause in silence to be united with them and with Anita whom we bring to her resting place today.

*Pause for silent prayer*

## Invitation

**All** As we commend Anita to God and commit her body to the earth, let us express in prayer our common faith in the resurrection. As Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, we too are called to follow him through death to the glory where God will be all in all.

*The Grave is now sprinkled with Holy Water*

## Committal

*During this prayer the coffin is lowered into the grave*

**Celebrant** Mothering earth, receive Anita's body created by the hand of God and now returned to your embrace.

**All** Anita we let you go into the soil from which all life springs,  
Into the earth that has nurtured you all your life,  
Into communion with the sunshine of the world,  
Into the waters and rains of life,  
Into at-oneness with the winds and air of our planet,  
Into the stars and stardust of our beginnings,  
Into the One in whom you have lived and moved and had your being,  
Into the heart of the Mystery of our good God.

## Concluding Prayer

**Celebrant** God of our life, you invited Anita to walk the journey of life and for a large part of it, the Josephite journey. We thank you for the gift she has been to each of us and for calling her now into your abundant and hospitable heart, to be in the company of St Joseph, St Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods, all the Josephite Sisters gone before her and her family and friends. We ask this through Jesus our Way and the Spirit of Comfort.

**All** *Amen*

## Eternal Rest

**Celebrant** As a symbol of closure and entrusting Anita's body to the earth, please wait for the Funeral directors to invite you to place some soil or flower petals on her coffin.

