

We celebrate and give thanks at
this

Vigil

for the life and love of
Sister Joan Luff rsj



Entered Life	30 November 1926
Entered Religious Life	10 May 1949
Professed	6 January 1953
Entered Eternal Life	10 January 2023

St Joseph's Chapel
16 York Street, South Perth
4.00pm Tuesday 24 January 2023



Acknowledgement of Country Denise Casey rsj

Welcome Frances Maguire rsj

Gathering Song **Standing on the Shoulders**

I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me
I am stronger for their courage, I am wiser for their words
I am lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future
I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this Earth

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us
They are saints and they are humans, they are angels, they are friends
We can see beyond the struggles and the troubles and the challenge
When we know that by our efforts things will be better in the end

They lift me higher than I could ever fly
Carrying my burdens away
I imagine our world if they hadn't tried
We wouldn't be here celebrating today

I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me
I am honored by their passion for our liberty
I will stand a little taller, I will work a little longer
And my shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow me

They lift me higher than I could ever fly
Carrying my burdens away
I imagine our world if they hadn't tried
We wouldn't be so very blessed today

I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me
I am honored by their passion for our liberty
I will stand a little taller, I will work a little longer
And my shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow me
My shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow me

Lighting of the Paschal Candle Karen Scott rsj & Diane Kingston rsj

Diane: We light the Paschal candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which Joan brought into our world. May she live forever in the radiance of God's presence.

Paschal candle is lit.

Opening Prayer

Assembly: God of life, the day you birthed us into being is the day we began our journey back to you. You are with us every step of the way. Give us the grace to embrace our journey with joy and appreciation.

Help us to see the beauty around us - the beauty of nature and the beauty of friendships. Let our gratitude for all your gifts make us aware of your presence and love for us.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Rosary Maree Riddler rsj, Dora Maguire rsj & Kathleen Laffan pbvm

Maree: Joan at her First Profession took the name Sr Concepta of the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout her life the Eucharist was central to her. She spent many hours in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and was very faithful to celebrating the Eucharist. As we pray the Rosary we reflect on Pope Francis' invitation to us to be a real presence to each other.

Dora: The Eucharist heals because it joins us with Jesus, it makes us assimilate his way of living, his ability to be broken up and given to his brothers and sisters to respond to evil with good.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Maree: The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with his grace.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Dora: Jesus speaks in the silence of the mystery of the Eucharist and reminds us each time that following him means going out of ourselves and making our lives not something we “possess” but a gift to him and to others.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Maree: In the Eucharist Christ is present in the poor, he is walking with us. And this is closeness: the shepherd close to his flock, close to his sheep, whom he knows one by one.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Dora: It is precisely God's Love that gives meaning to our small daily tasks and helps us face great trials. This is the true treasure of humankind.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Maree: Let us pray that participation in the Eucharist may always be an incentive: to follow the Lord every day, to be instruments of communion and to share what we are with him and our neighbour. Our life will then be truly fruitful.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Dora: Perseverance is the reflection in the world of God's love, because God's love is faithful, it never changes.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: **Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Maree: In the reality of the Eucharist the Lord takes all our needs to heart, beginning with the most basic.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Dora: With the grace of Eucharistic communion I can become an instrument of God's mercy of the beautiful mercy of God.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Maree: Joy springs from a grateful heart.

Kathleen: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Assembly: Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Reverencing of Joan

(in keeping with social distancing, only two people to approach the coffin at a time)

Blessing Gemma Scott rsj

When visiting Joan at Margaret Hubery House she often asked us to pray this blessing with her. We now bless you Joan with that blessing. Let us now extend our hands in blessing towards Joan.

Gemma: May the Lord bless you and keep you

Assembly: Amen

Gemma: May he let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Assembly: Amen

Gemma: May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace

Assembly: Amen

May the Angels Lead You into Paradise

May the Angels lead you into paradise

May the martyrs receive you at your coming

And lead you into the holy city Jerusalem

And may Christ the Lord who has called you

receive you into his open arms

May the Angels lead you into paradise

And welcome you home

May the choirs of angels receive you

and with Lazarus who once was poor

may you be with God in heaven forever more

And may Christ the Lord who has called you

receive you into his open arms

May the Angels lead you into paradise

And welcome you home

And may Christ the Lord who has called you

receive you into his open arms

May the Angels lead you into paradise

And welcome you home.

