



# **RHONA RACHEL McKEON**

**8 JANUARY 1937**

**TO**

**17 JULY 2004**

## **SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER:**

In the waters of Baptism, Rhona died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May she now share with him eternal glory.

## **PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**

### **Book of the Gospels**

In life, Rhona was formed in the Gospel of Christ. May Christ now greet her with these works of eternal life: Come, blessed of my Father.

### **The Cross**

In Baptism, Rhona received the sign of the Cross. May she now share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

The Cross we have brought here today was carried by Jesus in the hour of his suffering. We place it now on this coffin as a sign of our hope for Rhona.

Lord Jesus Christ, you loved us unto death.

Let this cross be a sign of your love of Rhona and for the people you have gathered here today.

## **OPENING PRAYER** (priest)

God in whom we find compassion and love, we pray to you for Rhona whose body we honour with Christian burial, that she may be delivered from the bonds of death. Admit her to the joyful company of your saints and raise her on the last day to rejoice in your presence for ever.

We ask this through Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

**FIRST READING** (Sean McKeon)

A reading from the book of Revelations

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me,

‘Write down:

Happy are those who die in the Lord!

Happy indeed, the Spirit says;

Now they can rest for ever after their work,

Since their good deeds go with them.’

This is the word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** (Nicole McKeon)

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name’s sake

Yea, though I walk through the valley

Of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil;

My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**SECOND READING:** (Trish Plunkett)

A reading from 1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
By letting us be called God's children;  
And that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
Therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God  
But what we are to be in the future  
Has not yet been revealed;  
All we know is, that when it is revealed  
We shall be like him  
Because we shall see him as he really is.

This is the Word of the Lord.

℟ Thanks be to God.

**ALLELUIA**

Alleluia, Alleluia

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in Him should not die, but have eternal life.

Alleluia

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1 - 12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was  
joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught  
them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are the gentle;  
They shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn;  
They shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right;  
They shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful;  
They shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart;  
They shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers;  
They shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right;  
Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all  
kinds of calumny against you on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
For your reward will be great in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

✠ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Loretta Larsen, Marie Moran)

**OFFERTORY**

Gifts presented by: Paul McKeon, Janet McKeon and Colleen Briody

## **Requiem (Kiri Te Kanawa)** (translation from Requiem)

And ye now therefore have sorrow;  
But I will see you again,  
And your heart shall rejoice,  
And your joy no man taketh from you.  
As one whom his mother comforteth  
So will I comfort you.  
Behold with your eyes,  
How that I laboured  
But a little,  
And found for myself much rest.

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

**Priest:** Father, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ. We ask you to accept these gifts which we offer on behalf of Rhona and we ask you to receive her into the glory of your son, who is Lord for ever and ever.

Father, all powerful and everliving God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. In Him who rose from the dead, our hope of resurrection dawned. The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality. Lord, for your people life is changed not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven. And so, with all the choirs of angel in heaven, we proclaim our glory and join in their unending hymn:

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**Priest:** Lord, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness. Let your spirit come upon these gifts and make them holy, so that they may become the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT IT. THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples and said: TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU AND DRINK FROM IT; THIS IS THE CUP OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT. IT WILL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL MEN SO THAT SINS MAY BE FORGIVEN. DO THIS IN MEMEORY OF ME.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

LORD, BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION YOU HAVE SET US FREE. YOU ARE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Father, this life giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord, remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together with John Paul our Pope, Geoffrey our Bishop and all the clergy, and all who serve your people.

Remember Rhona whom you have called from this life. In baptism she died with Christ; may she also share in resurrection. Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence.

Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the virgin Mother of God, with the apostles, and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages.

May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Him, with Him, in Him. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is your, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **COMMUNION**

Eagles Wings

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God, your son Jesus Christ gave us the sacrament of his body and blood to guide us on our pilgrim way to your kingdom. May Rhona who shared in the Eucharist, come to the banquet of life Christ has prepared for us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **FINAL COMMENDATION**

We are gathered today around this body  
All that is left to us of Rhona McKeon  
To pay our last respects to her  
And to do justice to her life and death.  
Keeping our eyes fixed on the cross of Jesus Christ  
We say in groping faith that this is not the end  
That our God is a God of the living.

Rather than her body, we re left with her name – Rhona Rachel McKeon  
Which we speak now with reverence and affection, and we pray

Lord God, remember this name  
Which she was given by Horace and Ada  
And by which she is known  
Even though she has died,





## *Death Is Nothing At All*

*Death is nothing at all  
I have only slipped away  
Into the next room.  
I am I, and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other,  
That we still are.  
Call me by my old familiar name,  
Speak to me in the easy way  
Which you always use.  
Put no difference in your tone,  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed  
At the little jokes we enjoyed together.  
Let my name be ever in the household work,  
That it always was,  
Let it be spoken without effect,  
Without the trace of a shadow on it.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was;  
There is unbroken continuity.  
Why should I be out of mind  
Because I am out of sight?  
I am waiting for you, for an interval,  
Somewhere very near,  
Just around the corner.*

*All is well.*