

A Funeral Service for

Elisabeth Cornelia Mathews McLaren

31st March 1948 — 13th April 2024



11:00am

Friday 26th April 2024

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Jindera
Reverend Emily Payne

Music before the service: Mustang Sally, written by Mack Rice.

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

We have come together
to thank God for the life of Elisabeth Mathews McLaren,
to mourn and honour her,
and to support one another in our grief.
We face the certainty of our own death and judgement.
Yet Christians believe that those who die in Christ
share eternal life with him.
Therefore in faith and hope we turn to God,
who created and sustains us all.

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live.’

Let us pray:

**Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,
and fill us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The eulogies are given by Brownyn Duffy, Lindsay Mathews,
Elisabeth Russell, Peter McLaren, Scott McLaren, Glenn McLaren and
Dean McLaren.*

*Music following the eulogies: I Just Want to Dance With You,
written by John Prine and Roger Frederick Cook,
performed by George Strait and Kacey Musgraves.*

*Reading: The Train of Life, by Jean D'Ormesson
read by Brooke Duffy.*

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone.

As time goes by, some significant people will board the train: siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realize that they vacated their seats!

This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down.

Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way, loving, forgiving, giving, and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty - we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel on the train of life.

Let's remember to thank our Creator for giving us life to participate in this journey.

I close by thanking you for being one of the passengers on my train!

*Reading: The Dash, by Linda Ellis
read by Ellie Mathews.*

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears but said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile... remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

*A reading from the book of Proverbs:
(Proverbs 3:13-18), read by Molly McLaren.*

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

A homily is preached.

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of all.

Prayers are offered, concluding with:

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our sister Elisabeth
by water and the Spirit.

Grant that her death may recall to us
your victory over death,
and be an occasion for us
to renew our trust in your Father's love.

Give us, we pray, the faith to follow
where you have led the way,
to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Let us entrust our sister Elisabeth to the mercy of God.

**Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.**

**We entrust Elisabeth to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
in glory for ever. Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. **Amen.**

Go in peace in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

*Music as the service ends: Lily Was Here, written by Dave Stewart,
featuring Dave Stewart and Candy Dulfer.*



Elisabeth's family thank you for your ongoing support during this time.

In memory of Elisabeth a gold coin donation to Border Cancer Hospital would be most welcome,

<https://awcancertrust.org.au/donate/>.

