

In Loving Memory of  
*Margaret Walmsley*

1st May 1941 - 13th February 2021



Burial Liturgy



St Mary and St Michael's Church, Garstang  
Monday 1st March 2021 at 11.00 am

Margaret was born on 1st May 1941 to Henry and Annie Allen in Fulwood, Preston. The youngest of eight, she had a happy childhood with older siblings to dote on her, nieces and nephews to have fun with, and playing with her best lifetime friends Valerie and Susan. She attended Fulwood and Cadley Primary School and was one of the first pupils at Fulwood High School.

After leaving school she went to work for her brother Joe in his shops at Bonds and Scorton, and in later years worked at Singleton's Bakery and Farm Fare Cake Shop. She met Austin her future husband at a dance at St Michael's when she was 17 and he was 20. They married on 3rd March 1962 at St Mary and St James' Catholic Church, Scorton. Their daughter Ann was born in 1963 quickly followed by son Austin in 1964 and daughter Angela in 1965.

They bought Beech Mount in October 1965 and this became the family home which everyone will remember being filled with laughter, love and many special memories, especially of the whole family congregating at Christmas and Whit Monday. As well as looking after her three children, she also cared for her mother for four years. Margaret and Austin had many day trips to the Lakes and holidays in the British Isles, Europe and Egypt before finding a special place in Cyprus. Margaret was a familiar face in Garstang, always chatting with someone and had a listening ear for anyone.

Following the marriages of her children she became mother-in-law to Graham, Ann and Tim. After this eight grandchildren appeared, Hannah, Gemma, Ian, Lucy, Abby, Amelia, Austin and Alex who she helped to care for and each will have their own special memories. Margaret and Austin now have seven great-grandchildren, a wonderful lasting legacy. She has shown us the importance of the family and this is clear from how often the different generations visited Margaret and Austin.

She will be sorely missed but special moments will be held in our hearts forever. Margaret, Mum, Nanna, Great-Nanna you will never be forgotten.

## Introductory Rites

After the sign of the cross, Fr Geoffrey greets all who have gathered.

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

**And with your spirit.**

Fr Geoffrey sprinkles the coffin with water, saying:

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

After words of introduction, Fr Geoffrey invites all to pray in silence  
and then leads the opening prayer.

Eternal God,  
you made the love of man and woman  
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.

Grant mercy and peace to Margaret,  
who was united in love with her husband, Austin.  
May the care and devotion of her life on earth  
find a lasting reward in heaven.

Look kindly on her husband and family  
as now they turn to your compassion and love.  
Strengthen their faith, and lighten their loss.

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

**Amen.**

## Scripture Verse

We read in sacred Scripture:

Mtt 25:34

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord;  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you  
since the foundation of the world.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

Fr Geoffrey may speak briefly on the scripture, and on Christian death as a sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Prayer over the Place of Committal

Fr Geoffrey blesses the grave.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your own three days in the tomb,  
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you  
and so made the grave a sign of hope  
that promises resurrection  
even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that your servant Margaret may sleep here in peace  
until you awaken her to glory,  
for you are the resurrection and the life.

Then she will see you face to face  
and in your light will see light  
and know the splendour of God,  
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Committal

During the committal the coffin is lowered.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we commend Margaret to Almighty God,  
and we commit her body to the ground:  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless her and keep her,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon her,  
and be gracious to her,  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon her  
and grant her peace.

## Intercessions

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayers of intercession.

In reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies.

Gracious Lord, forgive the sins of those who have died in Christ.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Remember all the good they have done.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Welcome them into eternal life.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who mourn:  
Lord, comfort them in their grief.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lighten their sense of loss with your presence.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Increase their faith, and strengthen their hope.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray also for ourselves, on our own pilgrimage through life.  
Lord, keep us faithful in your service.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Fr Geoffrey introduces the Lord's Prayer, which all recite together.

**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.**

## Concluding Prayer

Fr Geoffrey leads the concluding prayer of the liturgy.

Lord God,  
whose days are without end  
and whose mercies beyond counting,  
keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.  
Let your spirit guide our days on earth  
in the ways of holiness and justice,  
that we may serve you in union with the whole Church,  
secure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.  
And when our earthly journey is ended,  
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,  
where you live for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer over the People

Fr Geoffrey, with hand outstretched over the people, says:

Merciful Lord,  
you know the anguish of the sorrowful,  
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.  
Hear your people who cry out to you in their need,  
and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Eternal rest grant unto Margaret, O Lord.

**And let perpetual light shine upon her.**

May she rest in peace.

**Amen.**

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Amen.**

# Poem

## Remember Me

To the living, I am gone,  
To the sorrowful, I will never return,  
To the angry, I was cheated,  
But to the happy, I am at peace,  
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen.  
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.  
So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,  
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,  
Remember me.

Remember me in your heart:  
Your thoughts, and your memories,  
Of the times we loved,  
The times we cried,  
The times we fought,  
The times we laughed.  
For if you always think of me, I will never have gone.

*Margaret Mead*



Margaret's family would like to thank you for your attendance here today.  
Thanks also for the kind messages and cards of condolence  
received at this sad time.

Should you wish to make a charitable donation in memory of Margaret,  
they would be gratefully accepted to benefit the work of  
St John's Hospice, Lancaster  
care of the funeral director at the address below.



Greg Hodgkinson Independent Funeral Director  
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