



AUSTIN WALMSLEY

15th October 1938 – 10th June 2021

St Mary and St Michael's RC Church, Garstang
Friday 2nd July 2021 at 11.00 am

Burial Liturgy

William Austin, a true Garstonian, the eldest son of Joseph Austin and Mary Walmsley. They lived at Seed House on Croston Weind, where his mum ran a grocer's shop and Dad was the local blacksmith. He was followed by his sister Frances and brother Edward. He attended SS Mary & Michael Catholic Primary School and won a scholarship to St. Joseph's Catholic College, Blackpool.

He told of many adventures he had with his brother and sister and with the local Garstang lads. Austin was actively involved in church life, from altar server, to shovelling the Church's coal and stoking the boiler to heat the church, weeding the nun's garden and then taking over from his Dad to ring the bells for the 8 o'clock Mass. He enjoyed sport and was an active member of Garstang Cricket Club in his teens and early 20s but as a result of the start of Rheumatoid Arthritis at the age of 17, he changed his game to Crown Green Bowls, and was president of the club in the late 70s.

He met Margaret at a dance at St. Michael's and they married in 1962 at SS Mary and James, Scorton. They had 3 children – Ann, David Austin and Angela. They lived at Scorton and Bonds before buying their family home at Beech Mount in 1965, where we have so many memories.

Austin went into the family business (estab. 1902) working with his father and preferring to become a blacksmith as opposed to a farrier (as horses were being replaced by the more widely used tractors). At this time the "smithy" was on the site of the old railway station yard (now Station Way) until the expanding business moved to Leachfield Ind. Estate in 1981 where Austin continued to work, until reluctantly retiring at the age of 78, doing a job he loved.

Austin was a keen gardener, growing fruit and vegetables in the early years and later growing bedding plants and tomatoes for all the family. He imparted his wisdom not to plant the bedding plants until after the last frost (after Whit Monday) and that house plants don't like wet feet.

The family had some wonderful day trips and many happy holidays. He enjoyed fishing with the children at Arnside and as the family grew up Dad and Mum enjoyed holidays abroad – Cyprus being their favourite.

Austin was a "gentleman" personified – well respected, admired, humorous (always a funny anecdote to share), genuine, honest and hard working, never one to complain, and was a fair, patient and true family man. He was a kind and loving husband to his wonderful wife Margaret and father to Ann, Austin and Angela, father-in-law to Graham, Ann and Tim and a special grandad to Hannah, Gemma, Ian, Lucy, Abigail, Amelia, Joseph Austin and Alexandria and a great grandad to 7.

Although our hearts are broken and the sorrow and pain is still too great, you filled our hearts completely – your family legacy and memory, forever shall remain.

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
Austin died with Christ and rose with him to new life.
May he 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 Austin,
who was united in love with his wife, Margaret.
May the care and devotion of his life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.

Look kindly on their 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:

Matthew 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 Austin may sleep here in peace
until you awaken him to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.

Then he 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 Austin to Almighty God,
and we commit his body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him,
and be gracious to him,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him
and grant him 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 Austin and Margaret, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Just a thought...
He never looked for praises
He was never one to boast
He just went quietly welding
For the ones he loved the most.

His dreams were seldom spoken
His wants were very few
And most of the time
His worries went unspoken too.

He was there... A firm foundation
Through all our storms of life
A sturdy hand to hold on to
In times of stress and strife.

A true friend we could turn to
When times were good or bad
One of our greatest blessings
The man that we called dad.



The family would like to thank you for coming today and being a part of the service for Austin's life. Special thanks too for the kind messages of sympathy and cards of condolence received at this time.

Should you wish to make a charitable donation in memory of Austin, they would be gratefully accepted for St Mary and St Michael's Church or Versus Arthritis c/o Greg Hodgkinson Independent Funeral Director at the address below.



Greg Hodgkinson Independent Funeral Director
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