

In Loving Memory of  
**Betty Olive Cavanagh**

9 Feb 1931 - 20 Jun 2018



St John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Woy Woy Peninsula  
Wednesday 27 Jun 2018





Thank you so much for your presence here today to honour the life of Betty, and for your love, support and prayers. Following the funeral, refreshments will be provided in the Leo Mahon Room of the church (use the doors closest to the organ console) At 1.15pm the family will leave to take Betty to her final resting place with Robert at Macquarie Park Cemetery, Vaughan Catholic Lawn, Row 59, Grave 0002

#### GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING COMMUNION

**For Catholics** ~ As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916).

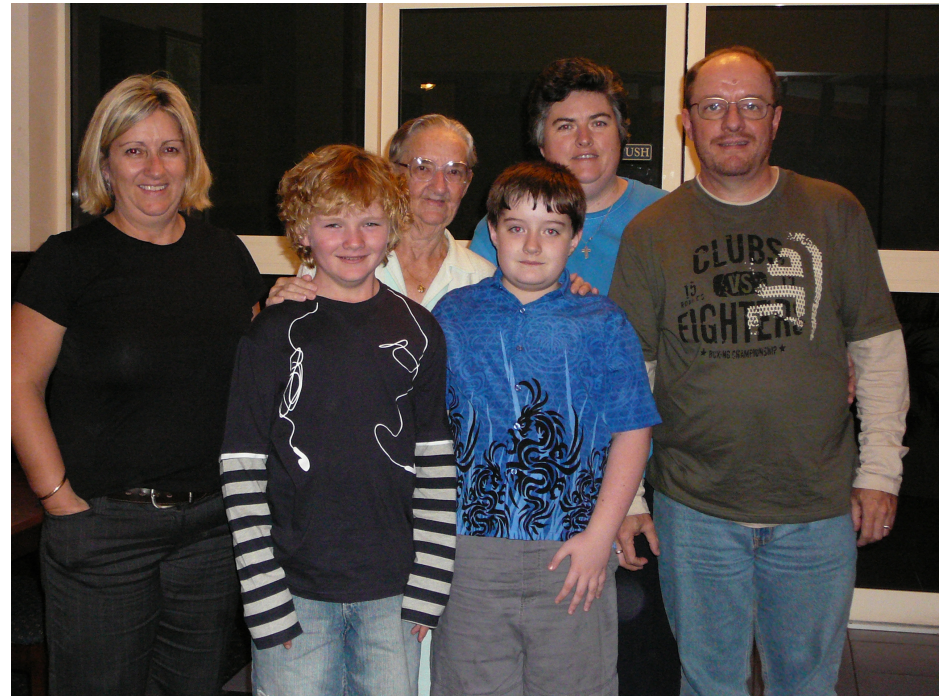
A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

**For Our Fellow Christians** ~ We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion—since this would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must pray.

Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

**For Those Not Receiving Holy Communion** ~ All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

**For Non-Christians** ~ We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.



deep in Thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,  
so shall I never, never part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign,  
in death's dread moments make me only Thine;  
call me and bid me come to Thee on high  
where I may praise Thee with Thy saints for aye.

### **Prayer after Communion**

### **Removal of Pall**

### **Sprinkling and Incensing**

### **Final Commendation and Farewell**

May the choirs of angels come to greet you  
May they speed you to Paradise  
May the Lord enfold you in His Mercy  
May you find eternal life.

Salve Regína mater misericórdiae:	Hail, holy Queen,
Vita dulcédo, et spes nostra salve.	Mother of Mercy, hail, our life,
Ad te clamámus,	our sweetness and our hope.
éxsules, filii Hevae.	To thee do we cry,
Ad te supsirámus,	poor banished children of Eve;
geméntes et flentes	to thee do we send up our sighs,
in hac lacrimárum valle.	mourning and weeping
Eia ergo, Advocáta nostra,	in this valley of tears.
illos tuos misericórdes óculos	Turn then,
ad nos convérte.	most gracious advocate,
Et Iesum, benedíctum fructum	thine eyes of mercy toward us:
ventris tui,	And after this our exile,
nobis post hoc exsílum osténde.	show unto us the blessed fruit
O clemens: O pia:	of thy womb, Jesus,
O dulcis	O clement, O loving,
Virgo María.	O sweet Virgin Mary.

**Betty Olive Cavanagh** 9 Feb 1931 – 20 Jun 2018

Betty entered our world as the eldest daughter of Joseph Bede Hunt and Enid Noble in 1931. Her father at the time of her birth was a shunter with the NSW Railways. Bede's father was a blacksmith at Moorilda near Bathurst and Enid's father was an engine driver at Cowra.

When Betty was born, her parents were living at Enfield near the railway marshalling yards, very close to Enid's parents who were also by that stage living at Enfield. Bede then got a move to Bathurst, and for some reason Betty remained in the care of her maternal grandparents and maternal aunts and uncles. Perhaps the reason was that they didn't want to be parted from her, and all of us can relate to that! Perhaps there were concerns about the rates of tuberculosis in Bathurst.

Siblings Elaine and Bill followed, but they always lived with their parents. Bede received moves to Cootamundra, Narrandera and Belmont, and eventually back to Enfield, where the family made their home at Lidcombe.

At school with the nuns Betty was happy. With the Children of Mary sodality she received good spiritual formation and a devotion to St Maria Goretti.

Betty left school at age 15 and began work as a mail delivery person at Hodgson & Co. at Ashfield. From there she moved into admin, working firstly on a half-ledger and later on a full ledger, being promoted regularly until she was looking after the ledger accounts for a single commercial traveller and entrusted with face to face over the counter interactions with customers.

It was in this 'front of house' role that she was noticed by Robert Cavanagh (a.k.a. Toby) as he came in to deliver the mail. She was not interested, but he had seen how special she was and he was persistent. Upon discovering that she liked to go swimming, he made sure that he tagged along the next time she went to the pool with her relatives. Their first official date was soon after 'chicken in a basket' was a menu option and they had that and went to a movie, had a memorable day together and from then on the relationship blossomed. Toby won over Betty's siblings and her Noble relatives, but her mother was a different story. Enid wanted someone with more prospects for her daughter.

Love found a way, and they were married on 2 Jun 1956, and after their honeymoon they lived with Toby's Mum and siblings at Summer Hill. Their son Paul arrived around 9 months later, and their daughter Maria around 5 years after that.

It was in 1961 that Toby and Betty came to live in Umina Beach, and Toby began operating the first Woolworths store in the area. 50 years later Betty was given the honour of cutting the ribbon to open the new Woolworths store at Umina Beach.

Back in 1961 they attended Sunday Mass at the cinema at Ettalong until the Sacred Heart Church at Umina was opened in 1964.

In the mid-late 1960s Toby was working at the (then new) shopping centre at Grace Bros, Top Ryde until he was head-hunted by Jim Dickson to run and hopefully eventually own the mixed business in West Street, Umina. Such were the desires of this young family until ill health and the discovery of digestive tract cancer reduced his life span, coming to a close on St Valentine's Day 1969 after multiple surgeries and an extended stay in Hornsby hospital. This left Betty a widow with 2 growing children dependent on her, and the loss of their dream of building their own home.

She did not know how she was going to cope with the responsibilities that now rested solely on her shoulders. Benefactors like Dr Frank O'Brien assisted with the expenses of school fees, and the family stayed in rented accommodation until the owners wanted to sell the property, and then they moved into a holiday cottage at Umina Beach owned by Bede and Enid, where Enid's sister Madge was living at the time. Enid expected and received regular rent payments.

Somehow she survived the acquisition by her children of all sorts of pets including Labradors and guinea pigs, but never cats – felines and Betty shared a mutual dislike. She survived the challenges of children with broken bones, appendicitis and eye operations. She survived their teenage years with associated romantic heartaches and watching a business venture crumble as the great recession of mid-late 1980s hit. How? By lots of prayer, the support of extended family, and offering up of each new difficulty as an act of mortification for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Sometime between 1968 and 1969, when Fr Michael McCarthy was around, she got roped into becoming the sacristan at Sacred Heart Umina, setting up vestments and vessels for regular Masses and funerals and doing copious amounts of ironing of sacred linens. He bailed her up against one of the walls of the school and said that the couple who had been setting up for Mass (presumably at the cinema) were getting on in years, and she was much younger. Even after the Sacred Heart Umina property was sold in 2007, she continued to assist in the preparations for Saturday morning and Saturday vigil Mass, and to take home linen corporals and purifiers to wash and iron right up to the weekend before her palliative radiation treatment started. This meant that she served at Sacred Heart, Umina Beach from soon after it opened until it closed.

She narrowly survived the calcification of a stent intended to temporarily fix an issue with the bladder back in 1993, losing one kidney in the process that was probably malfunctioning all through her life. Maybe it was this scare that made her

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **Communion**

Panis angelicus  
fit panis hominum;  
dat panis caelicus  
figuris terminum;  
O res mirabilis:  
manducat Dominum  
pauper, servus et humilis.

Thus Angels' Bread is made  
the Bread of man today:  
the Living Bread from heaven  
with figures dost away:  
O wondrous gift indeed!  
the poor and lowly may  
upon their Lord and Master feed.

Te, trina Deitas  
unaque, poscimus:  
sic nos tu visita,  
sicut te colimus;  
per tuas semitas  
duc nos quo tendimus,  
ad lucem quam inhabitas.  
Amen.

Thee, therefore, we implore,  
O Godhead, One in Three,  
so may Thou visit us  
as we now worship Thee;  
and lead us on Thy way,  
That we at last may see  
the light wherein  
Thou dwellest aye.  
Amen.

Soul of my Saviour sanctify my breast,  
Body of Christ, be Thou my saving guest,  
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in Thy tide,  
wash me with water flowing from Thy side.

Strength and protection may Thy Passion be,  
O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;

For all the medical people who took exceptional care of Betty during her life, especially Dr Doug Barrow, Dr Stephen Ruthven, Dr Simon Roger, Dr John Caska and Dr Amy Teh, may God bless and reward them. *Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Closing:** We ask all these wonderful things of You, dear Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Presentation of the Gifts** (instrumental music)

**Prayer over the Gifts**

**Preface**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**Eucharistic Prayer**

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.

**Sign of Peace**

so obedient to following her doctors' instructions, or maybe she just loved to imitate the obedience of Jesus.

Truthfulness was another virtue – but only supplied when the answer to the questions people asked her required it. Working out the right question to ask, now that was the hard part.

The evidence of the power of her prayers with God is impressive. God decided to answer the lengthy prayers of a mother concerned about the happiness of her son at the same time as He decided to answer the lengthy prayers of a lassie seeking a good and holy husband in a way that a sequel to the Book of Tobit could be written. Then when the family wanted to put on a special celebration for her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, she didn't want that at all, she prayed, and lo and behold a spot opened up for her to have a gall bladder operation requiring that her birthday be spent in hospital – a story to rival St Scholastica's. You noticed that stubborn streak did you? Good.

Her happiest days in later life came with the arrival of her two grandsons, and the affection between them was profound and mutual. Going on pilgrimage to Rome, the Holy Land and Medjugorje with them during the Holy Year of 2000 was another highlight. Further joys came with regular get-togethers with her siblings and their spouses, and when her brother Bill and his wife Cecilia moved to Ettalong around 2009.

Betty supported her children Paul and Maria with her prayers, presence and practical help when they both went through surgery and further treatment to remove cancer – thankfully not at the same time, but a few years apart.

Because she knew the One in whom she trusted, her first recourse when any need presented itself to her was to take it to prayer. If there was a situation she wasn't happy with, she didn't add her opinions to the mix, instead she took them all in prayer to the One she knew could fix any situation. This made her an unparalleled mother-in-law. This same quality made her the confidante of many, even of complete strangers who would sit next to her on the bench while she waited for the rest of the family to complete their grocery shopping.

Her other special ministry was liturgical in nature. Daily missal in hand and with clear voice she would take her part in saying the Entrance and Communion antiphons at Mass and in making sure the Lamb of God prayers were begun at the right time. She was the go-to-gal for anyone unsure of which set of Proper prayers or set of readings was the correct one for that day's Mass. With unfailing patience she got everyone who turned to her for help onto the right page. Each morning she

took part in the Morning Prayer of the Church, and frequently joined in the communal recitation of the Rosary after daily Mass.

We thought she would be with us for much longer since her father lived till 94 and her mother to 101, but after 49 years of widowhood God decided that it was time to prepare her for the longed for reunion with her dear ones in heaven. This took the form of an aggressively growing oral cancer, paired with the double whammy of advanced age and lone kidney.

It took these difficult final weeks when her strength was fading to uncover just how good and patient a listener she must have been for her many friends over the years because a pattern became apparent that most of them had the 'gift of the gab'.

Her lifetime of 'offering it up for the holy souls' and understanding of the value of 'acts of mortification' bore fruit in the way she gently accepted the increasing bad news about her health and squarely faced all the medical tests and treatments recommended, as well as her increasingly larger dependence on nursing assistance.

Keeping records neatly was something she excelled at. In her diary she would note down the time of day and priest for each Mass she attended – even the 'Mass For You At Home' broadcasts early on Sunday mornings, and times of phone calls and medical appointments, all in her trademark capital letters. Cousins and nieces and nephews were never forgotten, she kept in contact with them and never missed sending a birthday card. She enjoyed reading, especially about the lives of holy people, and doing puzzles, always solving the ones at the back of her TV Week magazine.

Up until 31 May 2018, the diocesan patronal feast day of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, she was at morning Mass every day, but from then on the decline in her health began in earnest.

She loved to pray the 'Stay with me' prayer of St Padre Pio, and this was answered in a wonderful way in her last days, as her last three Holy Communion were given with 1/4 of a host, the last 1/4 consumed by her son Paul a few hours after she very gently breathed her last, as she wished, at home in her sleep.

May God grant her a merciful judgment and an extraordinary reward. Amen.

to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Prayers of the Faithful

**Opening:** Trusting in the merciful love of God, we ask Him to welcome Betty into His eternal realms and to generously answer the prayers of her heart and our hearts.

For all the dying and for all the holy souls in Purgatory, particularly for all those many deceased relatives, friends and priests whom Betty remembered each year in the November Masses.

*Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For Pope Francis and all the bishops and priests of the Church, that they may receive all the graces necessary to lead the people of God to holiness. *Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all the benefactors who helped Betty in her life, especially the ones who came to her aid in the most difficult moments of her life, may God richly reward them. *Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all those who have asked our prayers, for all those we have promised to pray for, and for all those needs that have been made known to us, may God's providence be abundant towards them.

*Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all those God is calling to follow Him in priestly or religious life, or in the sacrament of marriage and anointed lay ministries, may they be given God's grace to live out those callings with fidelity, joy and perseverance. *Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all those who have yet to hear the good news of the kingdom, find the way of peace, or make a commitment to Jesus in their lives, may God's Holy Spirit draw them to the Heart of Jesus through the heart of Mary. *Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For family members and friends who brought joy to Betty's heart and smiles to her lips, may God's consolation fill them. *Lord hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

for the prize to which God calls us upwards  
to receive in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Our true home is in Heaven**

**and Jesus Christ whose return we long for**

**will come from Heaven to save us.**

**Alleluia**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke  
(Luke 2:27-32,36-38)

Prompted by the Spirit, Simeon came to the Temple;  
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus  
to do for Him what the Law required,  
he took Him into his arms and blessed God;  
and he said:

Now, Master, You are letting Your servant go in peace  
as You promised; for my eyes have seen the salvation  
which You have made ready in the sight of the nations;  
a light of revelation for the Gentiles  
and glory for Your people Israel.

There was a prophetess, too,

Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over,  
she had been married for seven years

before becoming a widow.

She was now eighty-four years old

and never left the Temple,

serving God night and day with fasting and prayer.

She came up just at that moment

and began to praise God;

and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward

Entrance Hymn – Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace,

the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women

and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now

and at the hour of death. Amen.

*Refrain:*

Gentle woman, quiet light,

morning star, so strong and bright.

Gentle mother, peaceful dove,

teach us wisdom, teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father,

you were chosen by the Son,

You were chosen from all women

and for woman, shining one.

*Refrain*

Blessed are you among women,

Blest in turn all women too.

Blessed they with peaceful spirits.

Blessed they with gentle hearts.

*Refrain*

**Greeting**

**Sprinkling with Holy Water**

**Placing of the Pall and objects of remembrance**

**Opening Prayer**

A Reading from the prophet Micah (Micah 6:6-8)

With what gift shall I come into the Lord's presence  
and bow down before God on high?  
Shall I come with holocausts,  
with calves one year old?  
Will He be pleased with rams by the thousand,  
and libations of oil in torrents?  
Must I give my first-born for what I have done wrong,  
the fruit of my body for my own sin?  
What is good has been explained to you, man;  
this is what the Lord God asks of you:  
only this,  
to act justly,  
to love tenderly  
and to walk humbly with your God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

**R. Let us listen for the voice of the Lord and enter into His peace.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the God who saves us.  
Let us come before Him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

A mighty God is the Lord,  
a great king above all gods.  
In His hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are His.  
To Him belongs the sea, for He made it,  
and the dry land shaped by His hands. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us

for He is our God and we  
the people who belong to His pasture  
the flock that is led by His hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to His voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put Me to the test;  
when they tried Me, though they saw My work. **R.**

A Reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians (Phil 3:8-14)

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh  
the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.  
For Him I have accepted the loss of everything,  
and I look on everything as so much rubbish  
if only I can have Christ and be given a place in Him.  
I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts,  
the perfection that comes from the Law,  
but I want only the perfection that comes  
through faith in Christ, and is from God,  
and based on faith.

All I want is to know Christ  
and the power of His resurrection,  
and to share His sufferings  
by reproducing the pattern of His death.  
That is the way I can hope to take my place  
in the resurrection of the dead.  
Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not won,  
but I am still running, trying to capture the prize  
for which Christ Jesus captured me.  
I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking  
that I have already won. All I can say is  
that I forget the past and I strain ahead  
for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish,