



MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

for the life of

Rev Fr Peter Caruana

20 JUNE 1945 — 3 AUGUST 2021



WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST 2021

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL • WOLLONGONG

A celebration of God's Love

Rev Fr Peter Caruana



Born in Birkirkara, Malta in 1945, Fr Peter was the eldest of 14 children to Abraham and Mary Caruana.

His father came to Australia in 1949 with the promise of a better life for his growing family. In December 1950, his mother, Fr Peter and four brothers farewelled Malta and boarded a ship bound for Australia. They arrived in Sydney Harbour on 26 January 1951. He was five and half years old.

Fr Peter attended St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Port Kembla and the Christian Brothers College High School at the Wollongong and West Wollongong sites.

From the age of seven or eight, he knew he wanted to be a priest. At 18, he began his studies for priesthood at the Springwood Seminary and then at St Patrick's College, Manly. During the seminary holiday breaks, he worked at The Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Company (ER&S) in Port Kembla to contribute towards his studies. On 15 August 1970, at the

age of 25, Fr Peter was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Wollongong by Bishop Thomas McCabe at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

Fr Peter was a committed parish priest of Ingleburn and Minto for over 36 of his 51 years in the priesthood. He was resolute in the construction of the new Holy Family Church at Ingleburn. In February 2017, the church was joyfully dedicated to the honour and glory of God.

On 17 August 2020, at the age of 75, Fr Peter reluctantly retired and moved to the neighbouring suburb of Campbelltown.

Appointments

1971–1972	West Wollongong <i>Assistant Priest</i>
1972–1976	Dapto <i>Assistant Priest</i>
1976–1980	Campbelltown <i>Assistant Priest</i> Camden <i>Locum Tenens</i>
1980–1982	Port Kembla <i>Assistant Priest</i>
1982–1984	Nowra <i>Assistant Priest</i>
1984–16/08/2020	Ingleburn <i>Parish Priest</i>

REFLECTION HYMNS BEFORE MASS

Be Thou My Vision

M.E. Byrne & E. H. Hull

Open My Eyes

J. Manibusan

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, Come

R. Maurus

Ave Maria

F. Schubert

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING

Please stand.

Bishop Brian In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

Bishop Brian May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

All And with your spirit.

RECEPTION OF THE BODY INTO THE CHURCH

Alfred, Bill, Emmanuel,
Charles, Edward and Dennis

Fr Peter's coffin is brought into the church by six of his brothers.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Bishop Brian In the waters of Baptism, Peter was claimed for God. He lived a long life of fidelity and faithful service to his God. In our faith, we rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings Peter received in this life and, through him, the many graces given to others.

All May he now share with Him eternal glory.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

D. Schutte

PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Josephine, Frances, Evelyn,
Rosemary, Fr Mark and Fr George

Please be seated.

Placing of the Pall

Bishop Brian On the day of his Baptism, Peter was clothed in Christ.
By his word and example he lived with Christian dignity.

All **May Christ now enfold him in His love
and bring him to eternal life.**

Placing of the Family Bible

Bishop Brian In life, Peter cherished the Gospel of Christ.

All **May Christ now welcome him with words of
eternal life.**

Placing of the Crucifix

Bishop Brian In Baptism, Peter was signed with the Cross. May it be
a reminder to us that the Cross is our glory.

All **May Christ now lead him through death to new life.**

Placing of the Rosary Beads

Bishop Brian: With Mary, Peter journeyed with Christ through the
joys and sorrows and the glory of the Paschal Mystery.

All: **May Mary, the Mother of God, now present him
as a faithful son to Christ to whom she witnessed
through all her life.**

Placing of the Symbols of Priestly Ministry

Bishop Brian At ordination Peter received the stole, the chalice and paten, the symbols of his priestly office.

All **May Christ the High Priest receive him into the everlasting worship of heaven.**

Placing of the Breviary

Bishop Brian At ordination Peter promised to be faithful in prayer, both personal and in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours.

All **May he now rejoice in praising God and join with the saints in praying for the Church still on its pilgrim way.**

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Dennis and Fr Mark

COLLECT

Please stand.

Bishop Brian: Let us pray

Hear with favour our prayers, which we humbly offer, O Lord, for the salvation of the soul of Peter, your servant and priest, that he, who devoted a faithful ministry to your name, may rejoice in the perpetual company of your saints.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Irena

Job 19:1, 23–27a

We trust that our Redeemer lives.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

P. Mason

Psalm 24: 1–2. 3–4ab. 5–6 (R: cf. 6)

**R. Lord, this is the people who long to see your face,
see your face.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is He who set it on the seas;
on the rivers He made it firm. *R.*

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in His holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. *R.*

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek Him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R.*

SECOND READING

Irena

1 Corinthians 2:6–9

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
what God has ready for those who love him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Irena

Matthew cf. 11:28–29

Please stand.

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest”, says the Lord.
“Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

Fr George

Matthew 5:1–12

The Beatitudes.

HOMILY

Bishop Brian

Please be seated.



UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Irena

Please stand.

Bishop Brian: As God's faithful people, let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

Reader: Lord, in Baptism Peter was given the pledge of eternal life and his faith in you was boundless. May he now rest in peace forever with you and the communion of saints. We pray to our merciful God.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We thank you Lord for the gift of Peter's precious years of life and what he has been to so many of us. We humbly ask for a quiet heart knowing that neither life nor death can separate us from your love. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who are present today to join us in prayer and bid Peter farewell; that the Lord will abundantly bless you with His graces. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Lord, give eternal rest to all the faithful departed. Unite Peter in endless joy with his beloved parents, Abraham and Mary, his cherished brother, George, and all his deceased relatives and friends. Grant them, and all who have died, the fullness of redemption, gathered with the saints before the throne of God. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray in thanksgiving for all medical and aged care staff who support and care for the weak and weary. We ask you Lord to bless and sustain them in the work they are doing. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are poor in body or spirit; that they will receive God's blessing in renewed hope. And may those who work for cures or spiritual healing be strengthened and given wisdom. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For a humble and merciful Church throughout the world; that the Lord may confirm it in faith, sustain it in hope and deepen its life of charity. And that we may renew our commitment to, and conscious awareness of, the need for God. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Bishop Brian: Lord God, you inspired Peter to undertake the apostolic mission of preaching the Gospel of your Son to all people. Aided by his prayers and taught by the Virgin Mary, grant that we may be open to the inspiration of your Spirit, attentive to the cries of the poor and weak, and so become untiring messengers of your reign. We pray through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Please be seated.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Our Supper Invitation

K. Bates

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Please stand.

Bishop Brian: Grant, we pray, Almighty God,
that through these holy mysteries
Peter your servant and priest,
may behold with clarity forever,
what he faithfully ministered here.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Preface (Eucharistic Prayer III—Preface I for the Dead)

Holy, Holy, Holy

All: 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.

Please kneel.

Memorial Acclamation

All: We proclaim your death, O Lord,
 and profess your resurrection
 until you come again.

Great Amen

All: Amen.

Please stand.

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

All: 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.

Please kneel.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Prayer of St Francis

S. Temple

REFLECTION HYMN

Like A Shepherd

R. Dufford

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Bishop Brian: Let us pray

Renewed by food from your heavenly table,
We humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that by the power of this sacrifice
the soul of Peter, your servant and priest,
who faithfully ministered in your church,
may exult forever in your sight.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION

INVITATION TO PRAYER

SILENCE

The symbols of Christian life are removed from the coffin by Fr Peter's sisters.

SIGNS OF FAREWELL

Bishop Brian will incense the coffin.

SONG OF FAREWELL

Bishop Brian: Saints of God, come to his aid!
"Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!"

All: Receive his soul and present him
to God the Most High.

Bishop Brian: May Christ, who called you, take you to
Himself; may angels lead you to the bosom of
Abraham.

All: Receive his soul and present him
to God the Most High.

Bishop Brian: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

All: Receive his soul and present him
to God the Most High.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Bishop Brian: Into your hands, Father of mercies,
 we commend our brother, Peter,
 in the sure and certain hope
 that, together with all who have died in Christ,
 he will rise with Him on the last day.

 We give you thanks for the blessings
 which you have bestowed upon Peter in this life:
 they are signs to us of your goodness
 and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

 Merciful Lord,
 turn toward us and listen to our prayers:
 open the gates of paradise to Peter
 and help us who remain
 to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
 until we all meet in Christ
 and are with you and with our brother for ever.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

INVITATION

Bishop Brian In peace let us take our brother Peter
to his place of rest.

RECESSIONAL HYMNS

In Paradisum

B. Robbins

Salve, Regina

John C. Selner SS

Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day,
unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, still missed and very dear.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Principal Celebrant

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD,
Bishop of Wollongong

Concelebrants

Rev George Condookala
Rev Mark De Battista

Pall Bearers

Alfred Caruana, Bill Caruana,
Emmanuel Caruana, Charles
Caruana, Edward Caruana and
Dennis Caruana

Placing of the Symbols

Josephine Testa, Frances Cachia,
Evelyn Blunden and Rosemary Lord

Fr Peter’s brothers unable to attend

John Caruana and Richard Caruana

Reader and Universal Prayer

Irena Caruana

Music

Seth Harsh
Fiesita Mataele
Paul Mason

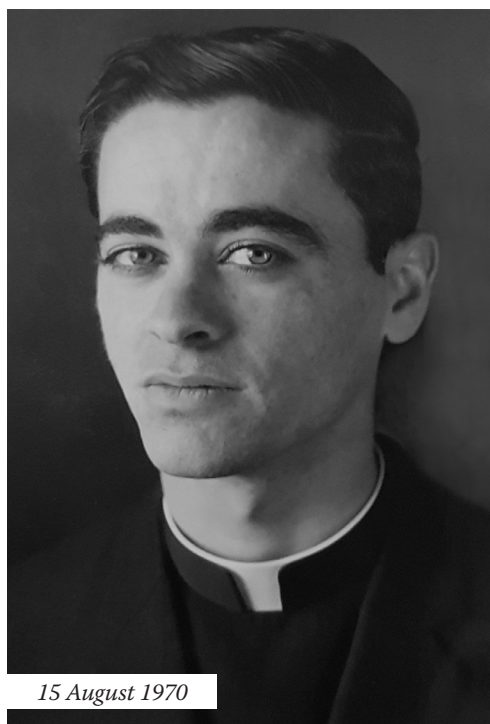


CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
WOLLONGONG

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November 2005



15 August 1970



November 2013



The Beautiful, Holy Hands of a Priest

Author unknown

We need them in life's early morning,
We need them again at its close;
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,
We seek them when tasting life's woes.

At the altar each day we behold them,
And the hands of a king on his throne
are not equal to them in their greatness;
Their dignity stands all alone;

And when we are tempted and wander,
To pathways of shame and of sin,
It's the hand of a priest that will absolve us -
Not once, but again and again.

And when we are taking life's partner,
Other hands may prepare us a feast,
But the hand that will bless and unite us -
Is the beautiful, holy hand of a priest.

God bless them and keep them all holy,
For the Host which their fingers caress;
When can a poor sinner do better,
Than to ask Him to guide thee and bless?

When the hour of death comes upon us,
May our courage and strength be increased,
By seeing raised over us in blessing -
The beautiful, holy hands of a priest.



Thou Art a Priest Forever

Author unknown

To live in the midst of the world, without wishing its pleasures;
To be a member of each family, yet belonging to none;
To share all sufferings;
To penetrate all secrets;
To heal all wounds;
To go from men to God, and offer Him their homage and petitions;
To return from God to men, to bring them His pardon and hope;
To have a heart of fire for charity, and a heart of bronze for chastity;
To teach and to pardon, console and bless always -
What a glorious life, and it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ!



Sincere Thanks

Father Peter's family wish to thank you for your online attendance today, to be with us as we farewell our brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle. We are deeply appreciative of all your prayers, love, many gestures of support, and words of consolation and encouragement. Our request is that you continue to remember Fr Peter, and all the faithful departed, in your prayers.

Thank you to Bishop Brian, Fr George and Fr Mark for celebrating this Mass of Christian Burial with us, in commemoration of a life well lived and loved. Also, for your prayers and support.

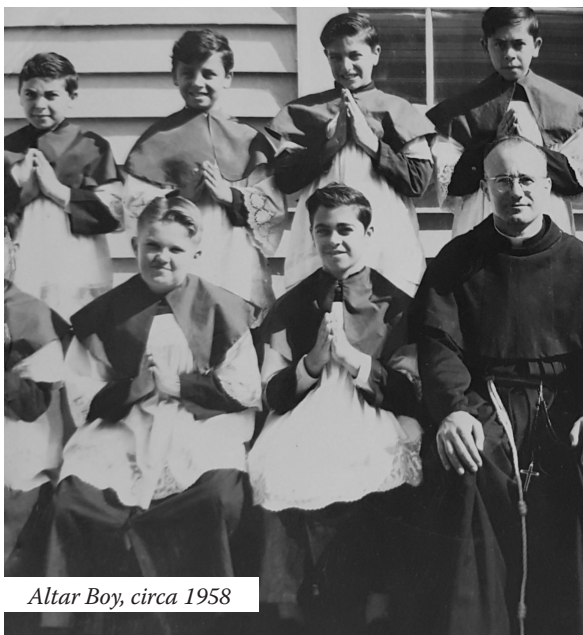
A word of thanks to all those who cared for Fr Peter in one form or another during his earthly life. Our brother Peter was especially cared for with love by the community of Holy Family Ingleburn, his extended family, close friends, Sue Daniels, Clergy Care Coordinator, and, during his time of illness, by nursing staff of Wollongong Hospital. Special thanks to all Fr Peter's priestly brothers in Christ who supported and loved him, including but not limited to Fr John Ho, Parish Priest of Campbelltown and Fr George Condookala, Hospital Chaplain.

May you all be blessed for your skill, kindness, and faithfulness.

A private burial will take place following this Service, wherein Fr Peter's body will be laid to rest in a position central to the Stations of the Cross.



First Holy Communion



Altar Boy, circa 1958



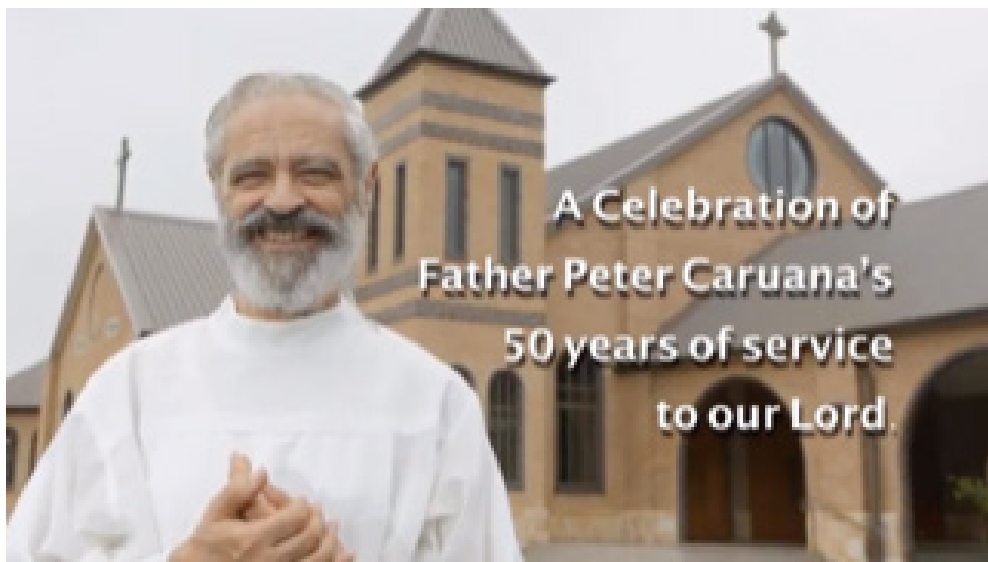
Caruana family, 1970



Newly ordained Fr Peter, with parents



15 August 1970



**A Celebration of
Father Peter Caruana's
50 years of service
to our Lord.**



25th Anniversary
of Ordination



16 August 2020



