

CENTENARY CELEBRATION - MEMORIAL MASS

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF RICHARD VJR AGIUS 1896 - 1917

Celebrant: Dom Christopher Calascione OSB

Please do not take photographs during the Mass and turn off all mobile phones - thank you

OPENING RITE

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Oh God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

2. Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or each received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

5. Oh God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last
And our eternal home.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

In response to the greeting of the Priest:

All: And with your spirit.

Please sit

Welcome from Downside Abbey Monastic community.

The “Stunt Letter”: Last words home
by Richard Agius, 22nd October 1917.

Reader: Richard Agius

Please stand

PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge ... to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Priest: ... Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: ... Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy

Priest: ... Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us ... and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

FIRST READING

Wisdom 4:7-13

Reader: Nina Lightfoot

Reader: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32 (33)

Cantor: Eleanor Oliver

**Response: May your love be upon us O Lord
As we place all our hope in you**
Repeat after Cantor

Give thanks to the Lord upon the lyre
With a ten-stringed harp sing him songs.
Oh sing him a song that is new,
Play loudly, with all your skill.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
The people he has chosen as his own.
From the heavens the Lord looks forth,
He sees all the children of men.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
And all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
And fills the earth with his love.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Reader: Lara Smith-Bosanquet

Reader: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Apocalypse 14:13

Cantor: Eleanor Oliver

Repeat after Cantor and after verse sung by Cantor
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Happy are those who die in the Lord!
Now they can rest for ever after their work,
Since their good deeds go with them.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your Spirit.
Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
All: Glory to you, O lord.

GOSPEL

John 15:12-17

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit

HOMILY

From the memorial sermon given by
Dom Ambrose Agius OSB; 5th February 1923.

Reader: George Denaro

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Readers: Young members of the family

Reader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our Prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

The priest offers prayers of blessing over the gifts

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Please stand when the Priest says:

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, ... the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord

Priest: Let us give thanks to
the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

After the 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.

Please kneel or sit

After the Words of Consecration

Priest: The mystery of faith

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please stand

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven ...but deliver us from evil.**
Priest: Deliver us, Lord ... the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**
Priest: Lord Jesus Christ ... for ever and ever.
All: **Amen.**
Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**
Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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 or sit

COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God ... supper of the Lamb.
All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Everyone here today who is not in full communion with the Catholic Church is warmly invited to come forward and ask for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Abide With Me - Words: Henry F. Lyte, Music: Eleanor Oliver **Soloist:** Eleanor Oliver

FINAL READING

Letter of condolence from **Reader:** Mark Vassallo
Dom Leander Ramsay OSB, November 1917.

CONCLUDING RITES

Please Stand

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**
Priest: May almighty God bless you ... and the Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

After the words of dismissal

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Oh Valiant Hearts, who to your glory
came
Through dust of conflict and through battle
flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallow'd in the Land you
loved.

2. Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to
war
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
The save mankind, yourselves you scorned
to save.

3. Splendid you passed, the great surrender
made,
Into the light that never more shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

*The "Last Post" followed by **one minutes
silence***

4. These were His servants, in his steps they
trod
Following through death the martyr'd Son of
God
Victor He rose; Victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

5. O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our Dead
Whose Cross has brought them and whose
Staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing
Land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

Organist: David Bevan
Soloist: Matthew Oliver

*At the end of Mass will the family please proceed to the
Weld Café (via the Weld Cloister, to the right of the Sanctuary)*

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O God Our Help in Ages Past:
O Valiant Hearts:

Words by John Stanhope Arkwright (1872 - 1954)
Words by Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

WE GIVE THANKS

To the Prior and Community of Downside Abbey for their generous hospitality.

To Jane Vines and Sarah Kieck of the Downside Management team for all their help in organising and staging this Celebration.

For the talents, time, generosity and help freely given by: D. Christopher Calascione; Maggie & Arthur Denaro; Liz & John Dymond; Anne Greenway; Nina, Mark, and Olly Lightfoot; Eleanor & Matthew Oliver; Mark Vassallo; Marilyn & Peter Agius ... and all those who read, took photographs, guided tours and generally served on the day, and

"whose names and achievements were lost in the magnitude of the enterprise in which they were engaged". (D. Ambrose, 1923)

