

*A Service to Celebrate the Life  
- of -*

***Geraldine (Gerry) Walsh***

*13th July 1938 - 7th April 2025*



***Funeral Mass***

*Church of St. Peter and Paul*

*Dunboyne, Co Meath*

*Friday: 11th April 2025*

*Celebrants: Fr. Patrick O'Connor &*

*Fr. Joe O'Mahoney OFM CAP*

*Musicians: Mary O'Donnell (Organist)*

*Andreja Malír (Harp), Lynda Lee (Soprano)*

***Entrance: Queen of the May***

***First Reading: Reader Kathy Walsh***

***A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes***

*There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for everything under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and time to gather them; A time to embrace, and a time to be free from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; A time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sow; A time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; A time of war, and a time of peace.*

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

***Responsorial Psalm***

***The Lord is My Shepherd***

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.*

*He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.*

*You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.*

*Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.*

**Second Reading:** Reader Mary B. Walsh

***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians***

*We want you to be quite certain, friends, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever.*

*With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.*

*This is the Word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God.*

***Gospel Acclamation***

***Prayers of the Faithful:***

**Reader:** Maddy Walsh

*We pray for Gerry who has died. May God welcome her into the heavenly home of eternal happiness and peace.*

*Lord, hear us*

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

**Reader:** Justin Walsh

*We pray for Eamonn that he may be consoled in this time of grief and loss.*

*We give thanks for his steadfast love and exceptional care for Gerry for more than 60 years*

*Lord, hear us*

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

**Reader:** Catherine Walsh

*We pray in thanksgiving for all those who helped care for Gerry in recent years in Court Hill and elsewhere. We give thanks for all the kindness and love she received from all the staff in Dunboyne Nursing Home. We give thanks for the friendship of her fellow residents Brigid and Phyliss.*

*Lord, hear us*

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

**Reader:** *Lucas Walsh*

*We pray in thanksgiving for all of Gerry's many friends and great Neighbours who have always been so kind and supportive but particularly So at this sad time.*

*Lord, hear us*

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

**Reader:** *Ben Walsh*

*We pray for all who have died, especially the relatives and friends of Gerry who have gone before her. We remember her beloved brother Ned and her loving parents Eddie and Biddy. May God unite them all in the happiness and peace of his heavenly home.*

*Lord, hear us*

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

**Reader:** *Peter Durnin, KGCHS*

*We pray for all who are ill at this time: - may God lay his healing hand on them and give them courage and hope*

*Lord, hear us*

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

*Offertory Procession Ed Walsh and Siovan Johnston*

**Hymn:** *Ave Maria (Schubert)*

**Acclamation of Faith:** *He is lord*

*Sign of Peace:*

**Communion**

**Solo:** *Lascia ch'io pianga (Handel)*

**Instrumental:** *Clair de Lune (Debussy)*

**Reflection:** *Fr Dan Joe O'Mahoney OFM CAP*

**Recessional:** *Jerusalem, lift up thy voice*



## **Geraldine Walsh**

*Depending on who you were, she had different names – Geraldine, Ger, Gerry, Mum, Granny.*

*She was Ger to her parents Eddie and Biddy and her two siblings, Helen and Ned. Throughout those early years in Clare castle and then moving around to Ballymun and Dundrum with Eddie's job as a Bank Manager, finally spending many years "over the shop" in the AIB Bank on George's Street in Dun Laoghaire.*

*To her lifelong friends that she met during her training as a physio, she was a mixture of Ger and Gerry – for Siovan, Nuala, Eithne, Anna the Annes, training in the Mater and then a year in London before coming back to Ireland, initially in Baldoyle, then St. Michael's and then back to the Mater.*

*It was in the Mater that she first met Eamonn, her lifelong teammate when Eamonn's Auntie Kathy was getting treated there. Famously they first stepped out when Gerry asked Eamonn for a tip on the horses at Baldoyle Racecourse in 1963.*

*They married in 1966 and the next few years were a whirlwind –the honeymoon cut short when Eamonn's beloved aunt died, the move into Court Hill and as Eamonn says "Gerry returning life to the dark, old house", campaigning on Eamonn's behalf during the Farmers' Rights Campaign in 1967, six children over the next decade or so, a car crash in 1973 in which Gerry was seriously injured, the death of her father Eddie still young and so soon after his retirement.*

*There were also many joys - Eamonn, her children, of course, her mother Biddy taking up residence down the avenue - but also the strong friendships with neighbours and friends throughout Dunboyne and beyond.*

*The door was invariably always open at Court Hill and anybody who appeared up the steps was welcome. Gerry was a uniquely caring composite version of an independently minded woman, and probably one of the most unlikely farmer's wives you'll ever meet.*

*The happinesses continued with six grandchildren and Gerry and Eamonn indulging their love of travel – to Finnavarra in the Burren when they could but also further afield including boat rides in Turkey, hot-air ballooning in Egypt and touring to the Table Mountain in South Africa particular highlights. In 1998, Gerry and Eamonn made their first trip of ten to Israel and it affected them both deeply. Through their work and friendships with the Knights of the*

*Holy Sepulchre they saw at first hand inequities and situations that they always said deeply altered their world view.*

*In 2016, probably having kept things to herself prior to their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Gerry got ill and since then, while her lights may have been dimming, she continued on her chosen lifepath, caring for and loving deeply those around her with Eamonn never far from her and her thoughts.*

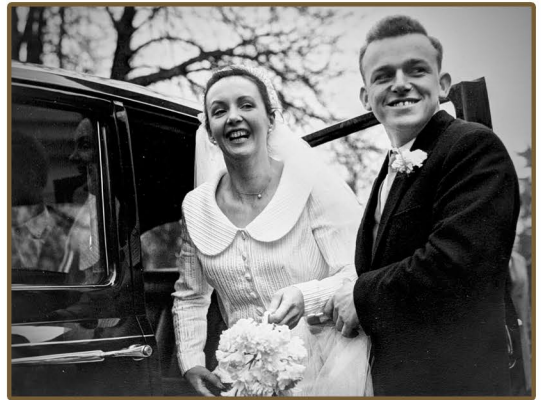
*Two years ago, when she moved to the Nursing Home and the care and love of the staff and residents, it seemed somehow appropriate that she became known through her original name of Geraldine. On Monday, on her own terms, as ever, and wanting a minimum of fuss, she decided it was time to go, slipping away in the quiet pre-dawn hush of the nursing home.*

*Geraldine – Gerry – Ger – Mum – Granny.*

*Safe home and thank you.*

*We love you and we miss you.*







*Geraldine Walsh*

All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.. for there is a force of love moving through the universes that holds us fast and will never let us go.

Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love



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