



New South Wales

State Funeral

Catholic Funeral Liturgy for the Repose of the Soul of

Robert Fulton AM

1 December 1946 — 23 May 2021

Friday, 4 June 2021 at 10:30am
St Mary's Cathedral



To maintain a spirit of reverence and solemnity, please turn off and refrain from using all mobile telephones and other electronic devices.

The Rite is celebrated by The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney.

The service is sung by the Special Service Choir of St Mary's Cathedral, directed by Thomas Wilson, Director of Music.

The organs of St Mary's Cathedral are played by Simon Niemiński, Assistant Director of Music.

Music before the service:

Chorale Prelude on 'Eventide' *Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918)*

Prelude on a Folk Hymn *Francis Jackson (b. 1917)*

Adagio in G minor *Remo Giazotto (1910-1998)*
after Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)
arr. Maurizio Machella (b. 1960)

Dolcezza *Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)*

Improvisation on 'Crimond' *Eric Thiman (1900-1975)*

PALLBEARERS

*Scott Fulton, Brett Fulton, Zac Fulton,
Kobe Fulton, Jake Fulton, Ethan Fulton*

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand and sing

THE HYMN

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Thaxted
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

All remain standing.

The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney, says

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

All respond

Amen.

Peace be with you.

And with your spirit.

The Archbishop welcomes the congregation.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

The Archbishop says

In the waters of baptism Robert Fulton died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he now share with him eternal glory.

As the Archbishop sprinkles the Coffin with holy water, the choir sings

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Missa pro defunctis à 6
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611)*

The Archbishop says

THE INVITATION TO PRAYER

My brothers and sisters, we have come together to renew our trust in Christ who, by dying on the Cross, has freed us from eternal death, and, by rising, has opened for us the gates of heaven. Let us pray for our brother, that he may share in Christ's victory, and let us pray for ourselves, that the Lord may grant us the gift of his loving consolation.

All pray silently.

The Archbishop says

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, in whom sinners find mercy and the saints find joy, we pray to you for our brother Bob, whose body we honour with Christian burial, that he may be delivered from the bonds of death. Admit him to the joyful company of your saints and raise him on the last day to rejoice in your presence forever. 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.

All sit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Honourable Justice Geoffrey Bellew reads

THE FIRST READING

Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age. He has sought to please God, so God has loved him; as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up. He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or treachery seduce his soul; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart. Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life; his soul being pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him. Yet people look on, uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord, and protection, his holy ones.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All remain seated.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22(23)

All sing the Antiphon after it has been sung by the choir, and after each verse.



My shep - herd is the Lord, no-thing in-deed shall I want.

The choir sings the verses.

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.

All remain seated.

Mr Ian Schubert reads

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

We know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens. We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The choir sings

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

It is the will of my Father
that everyone who believes in me should have eternal life,
and I will raise him up at the last day.

Alleluia.

The Deacon reads

THE GOSPEL

John 12:23-26

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

THE HOMILY

is given by

The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

Archbishop of Sydney

All remain seated.

The choir sings

ON EAGLES' WINGS

Like an eagle that hovers o'er its young,
That spreads its wings to catch them,
And bears them on its outstretched span.

The angel of his presence saved me,
In his love and mercy he redeemed me.
He lifted me up and bore me all the days of old.

I will soar on wings like eagles' wings,
I will run and not grow weary,
I will walk and not be faint
I will soar on eagles' wings.

He has lifted me up out of the mirey clay,
He has put a new song in my mouth,
A hymn of praise to our God.

I will soar on wings like eagles' wings,
I will run and not grow weary,
I will walk and not be faint
I will soar on eagles' wings.

Alexander L'Estrange (b. 1974)

*Deuteronomy, Isaiah & Psalm 40
compiled by Andrew Speedy*

All stand.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The Archbishop says

Let us pray with confidence in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We offer these petitions knowing that Jesus delivers unending peace through his victory over death.

Mr Ian Barkley reads the intercessions.

For Bob, who in Baptism received the light of Christ, that the Lord Jesus would scatter the darkness and lead him over the waters of death and into the light of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Bob's dear wife Ann and for all his beloved children and grandchildren, that in times of sorrow and sadness they will be comforted by the unfailing strength of divine love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of Bob's close friends, that they will extend love and loyalty to others and seek always to be a source of support and joy to those especially in need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Rugby League community and for the many others who have known Bob during his lifetime, that they will strive for the virtues of courage in trials and humility in perseverance, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Youth, who Bob and his family care deeply about, that they will receive the assistance they need to know their dignity, utilise their gifts and discover their God-given potential, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For doctors and nurses and for all those who care for the sick and suffering, that they will be instruments of healing and champions for life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here at St Mary's Cathedral, that as we pray for Bob we will welcome the Hope that is opened up to us by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who offers eternal life to all who believe in Him, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Archbishop says

O God, Creator and Redeemer of your people, grant to the souls of your departed servants release from all their sins. Hear our prayers for Bob and for all those we love, and give them the pardon and freedom that they desire. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All remain standing.

The Archbishop says

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father:

All say

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.

All sit.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

are spoken by

Mr Alan Jones AO

Mr Ray Hadley OAM and Mr Peter Peters

Mr Brett Fulton

All remain seated.

The choir sings

AVE MARIA

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum; benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

*Ellens dritter Gesang, Op. 52, No. 6
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*

cf. Luke 1:28, 42

All stand.

FINAL COMMENDATION

The Archbishop says

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Bob and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see Bob again and enjoy his friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

All pray in silence.

*As the Archbishop sprinkles the Coffin with holy water and incenses it,
the choir sings*

THE SONG OF FAREWELL

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.

John Rutter (b. 1945)

The Archbishop says

THE PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother Bob in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise with him on the last day. Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant 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.

Amen.

The Deacon says

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

***Those members of the congregation who are to form a
guard of honour outside the Cathedral are requested
to make their way to the doors as directed by the ushers.***

MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Prelude in E flat (BWV 552i)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

LETTERS FROM THE FAMILY

Dear Dad,

What an absolute privilege it is for me to call you my father.

You were always by my side, from a little girl to now, I could always count on you to be there, encourage me and love me for me. You will forever remain the most influential person in my life. You're the best representation of what a man is and should strive to be.

Even before I was born we had a special bond. After a trip to the NSW country town, Warren, you came home and told mum you had the perfect name if I was a girl, "Kristie". From that moment on I was my father's daughter.

What an extraordinary, full and complete life you've lived. You fit everything in, from being a devoted and loving husband, to your wife Ann, to an inspirational father, grandfather, friend and mentor to so many.

You've given us all such a fun, fulfilling life. It was adventure central with you; never a dull moment. Always on the go from teaching us to surf, ride motorbikes, fish, drive, build and fix things, anything and everything we learnt from you.

Your love of the Australian bush was unparalleled; from your farms at Quambone and Scone, to your time spent in the Northern Territory – teaching us and your grandkids the love of the land. As a kid growing up in a tiny fibro house in Unanderra, you appreciated your adopted country and what it gave to you and your family more than most.

The Fultons come from strong stock. You bred us tough; we had to be. From a young age, people used to celebrate or berate us for being related to a well-known rugby league identity. It's the world we grew up in but it made us strong, resilient and immensely proud of you.

One of my earliest memories was coming home from school carrying hundreds of good luck cards for you that the school kids had made wishing you and the Manly team luck for the finals. I never understood the fuss. It was just you, my Dad. It used to annoy me a little (well a lot) when people would come up to you on the street asking for a photo or an autograph. This would happen all over the world, not just at home. You took it in your stride. You were so giving and generous with your time and would talk to anyone from all walks of life.

You were with me through the good times and more importantly the tough times. We thrived when confronted with challenge. It was exhilarating standing side by side with you going into life's

battles because I knew we were in it together. If there's one person you'd choose to be in the trenches with, it's you. Your loyalty and competitive spirit are second to none.

You set a fire in me and gave me a strength that can only come from the love of a father. I'm blessed to have a father that's given me the confidence to back myself no matter the circumstance, to stand up for what I believe in and to help others at every opportunity. You instilled in me a work ethic that carries me forward to this day. And much to the dismay of some, you taught me that mediocrity has no place in our lives and to always challenge the status quo!

I'll miss my conversations with you, my admired mentor, every chat we had was enjoyable. Our intelligent and invigorating conversations inspired me to aim higher. I cherished them but most of all I'll miss your love, your understanding of me, your presence in mine and my family's life and your special connection with all your grandkids. You always put family first.

Although you and Mum gave us the best of everything material, it was the life education that enabled us to be who we are today.

We will look after Mum, the love of your life. The woman who is just as strong, if not stronger, than you. What a love you two have, true soulmates. From the moment you met to forever – so fierce, so passionate, devoted and in-sync. An irreplaceable love that spanned 52 years and will continue for eternity.

A Rugby League Immortal is defined as being the "greatest ever". Dad, you're an Immortal not just in the sporting world but in the eyes of your family, your friends and those you supported and inspired for over 50 years. Your legacy will proudly live on in all of us and the game of rugby league for generations to come.

The measure of a man is not his individual accomplishments but how many lives he positively impacted. You changed the lives of so many, motivated only by your genuine desire to see people be the best they could be.

Dad, you finished on top, in every aspect of your life. You are truly a remarkable man.

I will love and miss you for the rest of my life. I will honour you the best way I know how by continuing to be the honest, loyal and strong woman you taught me to be. No fear.

Kristie xxx

Grandad,

You've been the most influential person in my life, not just with footy but everything overall. You have been a role model to me and our whole family. Whether it's been hunting at Quambone and Scone or fishing trips in Darwin or even just being at home, I've always looked up to you. I loved our little adventures we had, like fixing motorbikes, you teaching me how to drive manual and automatic cars, yabby trapping, picking up trailers or just walking through Aldi to see what we can find. Grandad, you will be heavily missed by everyone in our family, especially me.

I love you, Grandad. Ethan



Grandad,

As we mourn your death, we celebrate your incredible life. You'll never truly be gone, for your memory and your legacy will forever live on, even if you don't want credit for most things you did. You made the best of a bad deal and fought your hardest until the very end. You were fearless and extremely resilient, and I'll always admire you for that and aspire to be the same. I will miss your clever comebacks that undoubtedly influenced the rest of our family, and your love for condensed milk in your tea. Thank you for our chats about my soccer games and supporting me in everything I do. Now, I will score all of my goals for you. I will forever and always love and miss you, Grandad.

Love, Jorja xo

Dear Grandad,

Everything I enjoyed, you enjoyed too. Footy, cars, dirt biking, surfing, fishing, basketball, you name it, we enjoyed it all. Your everlasting focus on our family was a priority. Whether travelling to Quambone, Scone, Hawaii, Port Douglas or at home, I would learn a new thing every day, which would ultimately improve all of our lives. The way we bonded I will miss the most. Our conversations that would last ages, about anything, I will forever be grateful for. The way you taught me how to show respect not only to our family, but anyone in our lives, is something that I will keep and hold onto forever. As I aim to continue your everlasting legacy, thank you for your continuous love and support, as I will forever miss and love you. Thank you, Grandad.

Love Kobe





