

With Love We Remember



Priscilla Jane Williams

17 June 1940 - 17 June 2024

St Peter's on Willis
Monday 24 June, 11:00am

Officiating: Rev Charles Waldegrave and Rev Jean Malcolm

Organist: Thomas Nikora



Welcome

Hymn | The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill,
for thou art with me and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.

Greeting and Remembrance

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I look for help?

My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.

The Lord will not let your foot stumble:
the one who guards you will not sleep.

The one who keeps watch over this people:
shall neither doze nor sleep.

The Lord is the one who will guard you:
the Lord at your right hand will be your defence,

so that the sun shall not strike you by day:
nor yet the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil:
Yes, it is the Lord who will keep you safe.

The Lord shall take care of your going out, and your coming in:
from this time forth and for ever.

Gloria

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Speakers

John McKinnon, Felicity Wong and John Andrews

Photo Memories

“Indestructible Priscilla versus the Powers That Be”
by David Pine

She had the Russian drinking champagne from her shoe
The war was cold, the Porsche was red
She turned Manhattan on its head

The boss called her in for a friendly chat
“It can’t go on this way.”
He couldn’t seem to manage her
So he banished her
To Wellington

But they couldn’t keep Priscilla down for long
She packed her bags, stashed the sofa
Delhi, Canberra, Nuku’alofa

Fights with Kings and ‘other things’
“It can’t go on this way.”
They brought her home to Stafford House
“Fix the ozone, PCBs
Stop the blessed seas from rising
... and put a lid on Greenpeace.”

(But when she tried to halt the tide they banished her to King’s Cross)

I guess you know the way the story ends
Priscilla finally right at home surrounded by flamboyant friends
What honour and what glory did old Sydney then bestow
Something bound to really thrill her
A thousand rather gay Priscillas
Marching in the Mardi Gras

Any place you are, Priscilla – you’re a star!

Reading | Luke 24 : 1 – 12

Rachel Underwood

Homily

The Reverend Charles Waldegrave

The Prayers

The Reverend Jean Malcolm

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn | Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Commendation and Recessional

"Nimrod" - Edward Elgar

Priscilla's Life Story

Priscilla was born in Wanganui, the daughter of Canon Nigel and Nora Williams. She was educated at St Stephen's School, Marton; Nga Tawa School, Marton and Victoria University of Wellington and gained an MA in History in 1963.

Her remarkable career as one of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's first and foremost female diplomats began in 1961. She held the positions of 3rd/2nd Secretary at the New High Commission

in Malaysia (1964-66); 1st Secretary at the New Zealand Permanent Mission in New York (1969-74); Counsellor at the New Zealand Embassy to Thailand (1977-80); Head of Information Division, Wellington (1980-83); New Zealand High Commissioner to Tonga (1983-1985) and Deputy High Commissioner, Australia



(1986-89). From August 1989 until December 1992 she was New Zealand's High Commissioner to India with cross-accreditation as Ambassador to Nepal, High Commissioner to Bangladesh, also with responsibility for the relationship with Bhutan. On her return to New Zealand, she was Director of the Environmental Division 1993 to 1995 and Director of the United Nations and Commonwealth Division 1996 to 1998. During 1998 - 2001 she held the position of New Zealand Consul-General for New South Wales and Queensland, resident in Sydney, Australia.

Priscilla was a direct descendant of New Zealand's first Bishop of Waiapu, William Williams, and had a long involvement with the Henry and William Williams Museum Trust, notably through her commitment to the purchase, upkeep, and restoration of the 'The Retreat', in the Bay of Islands, home of Henry and Marianne Williams from 1853 to 1867/79 respectively. She was a member of the committee that organised the Williams Family 2023 Bicentennial Reunion. She was a major contributor to the booklet for the occasion, *The Williams family in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1823-2023*, and a tour guide of the Williams' houses in the Bay of Islands.



She was also a passionate advocate for history. She was President of the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery for many years and a fierce champion (and guardian) of the cemetery. In recent years she became an expert on wooden



grave headboards. She was also closely involved with Historic Places Wellington and other local and national groups as a protector for heritage properties.

During her busy retirement she maintained her close personal connections with relatives, friends, family and colleagues far and wide within New Zealand, Australia and beyond.

She led a life well lived.



Thank You

Thank you for joining us to celebrate Priscilla's life. After the service you are warmly invited to join the family for refreshments in the Garden Room (behind the church). There will be a private cremation later this afternoon. Donations to the Henry and William Williams Memorial Museum Trust, account number: 03 0518 0168756 00