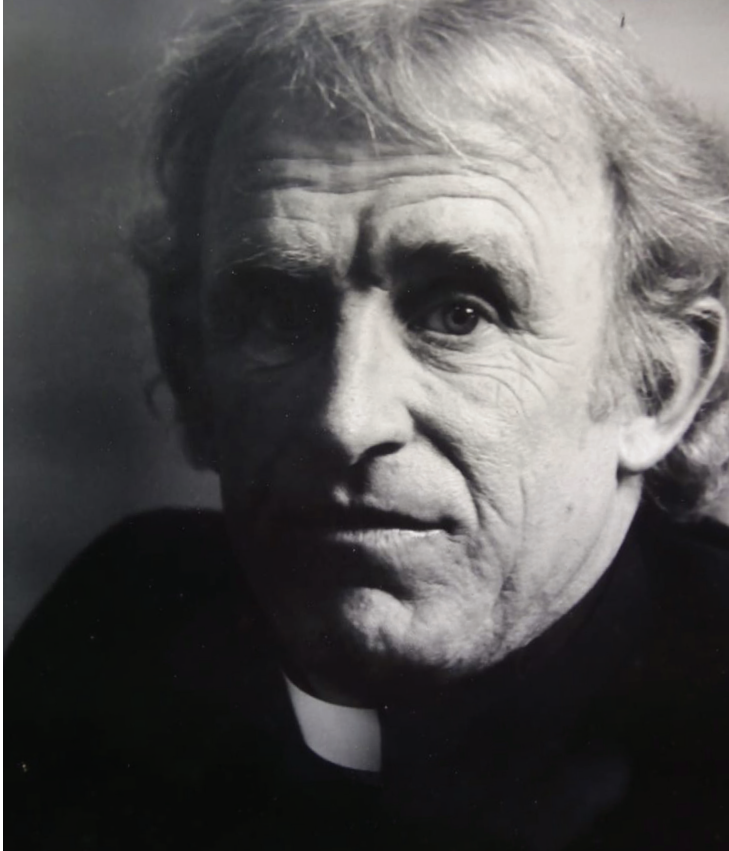


# Malcolm Francis Bell

## Man of God

### 1944-2022



*Photo by Michael Stephenson*

a Celebration of Ministry  
22nd November 2022 at 11am  
The Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Brisbane

*The service can be viewed at [stjohnscathedral.com.au](http://stjohnscathedral.com.au)*

## WELCOME

The Dean, the Very Revd Dr Peter Catt, welcomes us to the cathedral and acknowledges tribal owners.

*For thousands of years First Nations people have walked in this land, on their own country. Their relationship with the land has been at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge the tribal owners and custodians of the land on which we gather, the Yuggerapul and Turrbal people, and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

## NUNUKUL KUNJEIL

Fr Malcolm's Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island) clan will perform ceremony to honour him and strengthen him for his spiritual journey.

This ceremony honours fifty years of bonding and ministry between Fr Malcolm and his Nunukul family.

## THE ORATION

Mervyn Langford, a friend of Malcolm's since 1968, will deliver the oration. Mervyn's father, the Revd Bernard Langford, gave Malcolm a job with the Australian Council of Churches, after Malcolm was sacked from Toowoomba in 1969.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Flute Sonata in E Major – Siciliano *JS Bach*

Margaret Lee (keyboard) & Harold Luebke (flute) honour Malcolm's life as a musician, particularly his love for the piano.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Celebrant Archbishop Phillip Aspinall A.C.

*Everyone is invited to say the words in bold type*

## OPENING INVOCATION

**Everything that has breath  
Praise the Lord of Hosts for ever  
Praise the Lord!**

We gather, with the company of the faithful:  
**those who know the way to the kingdom  
and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.**

We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:  
**those who made compassion their day job,  
and those who have no day named after them.**

We gather, praising God for all who have shaped our faith:  
**those who showed us the dance steps of heaven,  
and those who taught us to play the instruments of joy.**

Blessed be God, Source of Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit,  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

As bearers of your image, we come to be reshaped.  
**Dependent on your mercy, we ask to be made anew.**

**For the right roads we didn't travel,  
and the kindly words we refused to share  
God, by your grace, forgive us.**

**For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly  
And the promises we never kept;  
God, by your grace, forgive us.**

**For all we should be, and all we can amend,  
God, in your love, renew us.**

God who is both power and love,  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by the Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ. **Amen**

## THE COLLECT

Almighty God,  
your saints are one with you in the mystical body of Christ:  
give us grace to follow them in all virtue and holiness  
until we come to those inexpressible joys  
which you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **Psalm 149**

**Praise the Lord. O sing to the Lord a new song:  
give praise in the assembly of the faithful.**

**Let the people of God rejoice in their maker:  
and let the servants of the Most High exult in their king.**

**Let them praise God's name in the dance:  
let them sing God's praise with timbrel and harp.**

**For you O Lord take delight in your people:  
and crown your humble folk with victory.**

**Let the faithful exult in their triumph:  
let them shout for joy as they feast.**

**Let the praises of God be on their lips:  
and a two-edged sword in their hand. O praise the Lord.**

**Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
As in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Read by the Revd Sister Gillian SSA

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 6, beginning at verse 20.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all that is.  
We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

God, we remember those Saints who have gone before us;  
**We lament their passing,**  
And honour their legacy.  
**We give thanks for all we have learned from them.**

Those who followed the Way of Christ faithfully,  
**We follow their example.**

Those who made mistakes along the way,  
We learn from their experience.

Those who made progress for peace,  
**We continue their work.**

Those who lived simply and quietly,  
**We are enlightened by them.**

Those who gained honour and distinction without pride,  
**We are humbled by them.**

Those who were martyred for their faith,  
**We commend them to your care.**

They have finished their work on earth,  
And it lives on,

**Reverberating into our lives now  
As the work of Christ lives on.**

May the peace of Christ continue to inspire us

**To good works, humility, simplicity and peacemaking,**  
As those foremothers and forefathers were inspired by him  
**To live in grace and love. Amen**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.**

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

HYMN *Tune: Aberystwyth*

1. Jesu, Lover of my soul,  
Let me to thy bosom fly,  
While the nearer waters roll,  
While the tempest still is high:  
Hide me, O my Saviour hide,  
Till the storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none;  
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone,  
Still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
All my help from thee I bring;  
Cover my defenceless head  
With the shadow of thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
More than all in thee I find:  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is thy name;  
I am all unrighteousness;  
False and full of sin I am,  
Thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with thee is  
found,  
Grace to cover all my sin;  
Let the healing streams abound;  
Make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art;  
Freely let me take of thee;  
Spring thou up within my heart,  
Rise to all eternity.

*Words: C Wesley, 1707-88*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Is it right to give our thanks and praise.**

Praise is yours, Holy God,

praise beyond all telling.

All that we are, all that we have,

all that we know and all that is yet to be

comes from your care.

Water and wisdom, light and longing,

the stones in the earth and the hope in our hearts

are grounded in your graciousness.

The life of the world and all its people,

nature and human skill celebrate you

as first mover and final destiny.

Therefore to the unending song of earth,

sea and sky we join our praise.

To the anthems of the company of heaven –

the angels and archangels, and the saints of every age

we join our praise, singing the song of your eternal greatness.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**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.**

Because you, gracious God, have been faithful to us, we will be faithful to Jesus. He promised to be with those who met in his name:

**This we believe.**

He promised to hear the prayers of faithful people:

**This we believe.**

He said that in the communion of bread and wine he would be present to us as we remembered him:

**This we celebrate.**

Send now your Spirit among us and upon this bread and wine, that we may taste and see your goodness, be embraced by your love, and be engaged in your service.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**As Jesus did, so we do.**

**We break this bread, we share this wine.**

**We believe that he who lived died and rose again for us will meet us here.**

Graciously nourish us, O Christ,  
so that we who try to follow you  
may receive food for the journey  
and be bound in love with all who walk in your way. **Amen**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Take this bread, share this wine.  
In these Christ comes to us with love from God.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

## THE COMMUNION

*You are invited to come to the sanctuary for Communion or to receive a blessing.*

During this time we will hear *Parce Mihi Domine* (Spare me Lord), a medieval oratorio, performed by The Hilliard Ensemble with Jan Garbarek on Tenor Saxophone.

This piece is dedicated to Quandamooka (Moreton Bay), where Malcolm spent countless sacred nights out in his boat.



## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*“What is to give light must endure burning.”* Viktor Frankl  
*Please take care to hold your candle upright so that it doesn't drip.*  
Shybi Thomas M.Sc and Murali Krishnan M.E will light our candles from Malcolm's 2022 Paschal Candle, which he made each year from left-over candle wax.

Shybi and Murali are from Kerala, and have cared for Malcolm's hermitage since 2019.

## THE READING

*“BUT I MIGHT DIE TONIGHT”* Anon, read by Peter Wertheim, friend and Lecturer in Philosophy.

This prose poem was found amongst Malcolm's personal papers, typed on a dog-eared sheet of foolscap paper.

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

It is God who has formed us as a community of faith  
**Now, we will go to find and serve our sisters and brothers**  
It is Jesus who has knit us together as partners in grace  
**Now, we will go to bear the burdens of those around us**  
It is the Spirit who gives us the words we need  
**Now, we will go to speak for justice and hope for all**

## THE BLESSING

Go on your way rejoicing;  
Surrounded as you are by such a great cloud of witnesses,  
take courage as you face each new challenge,  
and comfort when you pick yourself up from a fall,  
In whatever good you choose to do,  
precede it with hope, accompany it with prayer,  
and follow it with thanksgiving;  
And the blessing of God Most Wonderful,  
whom the saints have trusted as  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
will be with you now and ever more. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**Thanks be to God. Amen**

## RECESSIONAL

Organist the Revd Dr Howard Munro will play a rendition of We Shall Overcome, in memory of Fr Malcolm's guitar accompaniment at the Labour Day Marches in Brisbane.

## FAREWELL SONG & DANCE

Nunukul Kunjeil

## RETIRING COLLECTION

You are invited to make an offering for the community centre at the former church of St Mary Magdalene, Bardonia, now Magda Productions Pty Ltd, a project actively supported by Fr Malcolm since 2017.

## HOSPITALITY

A hot and cold collation will be served in the west end of the cathedral, hosted by Gailene Harrison.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Meeter & Greeter, Christine Venner-Westaway.

Margaret Lee and Harold Luebke of 'Alone Together' [mhlmusic.com](http://mhlmusic.com)

Achan Yom Kot, Ajok and Awen, Fr Malcolm's Sudanese family.

Diana James, neighbour and friend of the hermitage.

Bishop Godfrey Ashby, Episcopal Visitor to the hermitage, for arranging Malcolm's funeral.

Adrian Spencer for the website My friend and "Man of Clothe" Fr M Bell  
<http://yoweeenterprises.com/fr-malcomb-bell.html>

## **Acknowledgements**

Opening Litany © Thom Shuman

Confession adapted from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 onwards.

Litany of All Saints written by Fran Pratt.

Bible readings from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

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*Since 2017 Fr Malcolm has been working on this building at Moongalba on Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island) to house the work of Oodgeroo and Bejam Nunukul. Bricks and other building materials were donated by friends and associates.*

***“I have laid the wood,  
God will send the fire.”***