

A Mass of Thanksgiving  
for the Eternal Repose of the Soul of

# Belen Tomasa Mendoza

20 December 1952 - 31 October 2024



Monday, 11 November 2024

St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
Marayong

*Mass and Thanksgiving for the Life of  
Belen Tomasa Mendoza*

*St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
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*Monday, 11 November 2024*

*Celebrant  
Father Larry Tolentino*

*Commentator  
Donna Mendoza*



GATHERING HYMN & PROCESSION

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

(Carey Landry)

Singers: Joel Florido & Ding Rivera

GREETING

Father Larry

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

*All: Amen.*

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

*All: And with your spirit.*

LIGHTING OF PASCHAL CANDLE

Father Larry

The light of Christ has guided Belen on her journey through life.

*All: May she live forever in the radiance of God's presence.*

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Father Larry

In the waters of baptism Belen died with Christ and rose with Him to new life.

*All: May she now share with Him eternal life.*

PLACING OF PALL

Aljay, Richard, Jyrah & Joseph

Father Larry

May Christ who claimed Belen in baptism now enfold her in His love and bring her to eternal life.

*All: Amen.*

PLACING OF SYMBOLS

Father Larry

May I invite members of Belen's family to place symbols of her faith and life on her coffin.

Bible: Feliz, Crucifix: Czarina, Picture: Zara

PENITENTIAL RITE

Father Larry

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

*All: I confess to Almighty God,  
and to You, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done,  
and in what I have failed to do;  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and You, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.*

May the Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*All: Amen.*

Lord, have mercy.

*All: Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy.

*All: Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

*All: Lord, have mercy.*

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*All: Amen.*

## OPENING PRAYER

Father Larry

Holy Lord, Almighty and Eternal God, hear our prayers for your servant Belen, whom You have summoned out of this world. Forgive her sins and failings and grant her a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

Let her pass unharmed through the gates of death to dwell with the blessed in light, as You promised to Abraham and His children forever. Accept Belen into your safe-keeping and on the great day of judgment raise her up with all the saints to inherit Your eternal kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All: Amen.*

## FIRST READING

Tyler

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 3:1-9 (NRSV)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster and their going from us to be their destruction, but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in the furnace He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever.

Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His holy ones, and He watches over His elect.

The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God.*

The Response is: Though I walk in the valley of darkness,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me.

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. In green pastures, He gives me repose; Beside restful waters, He leads me, He refreshes my soul.

*Response*

He guides me on the right path for His name's sake. Even when I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for You are at my side; With Your rod and Your staff that give me courage.

*Response*

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*Response*

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life. I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

*Response*

## SECOND READING

Elizabeth

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
Romans 6:3-9 (NRSV)

Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All: Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*If we die with Christ*

*We shall live with him,*

*And if we are faithful to the end,*

*We shall reign with Him.*

*Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Father Larry

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
John 11:21-27 (NRSV)

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give You whatever You ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that He will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## HOMILY

Father Larry



GENERAL INTERCESSION

Father Larry

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for His Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to His.

Giselle

In Baptism, Belen received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Nathanael

Our sister Belen was nourished at the table of the Saviour. Welcome her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Chloe

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with Your Son. We pray to the Lord.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Genevieve

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show Your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against Your love and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. We pray to the Lord.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Moses

For the doctors, nurses and staff of Westmead and Auburn Hospitals dialysis units who have cared for Belen, that their works of service may be richly blessed. We pray to the Lord.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Elijah

The family and friends of Belen, seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord.

*All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Father Larry

Lord God, Giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of Your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ And grant them a place in the kingdom We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All: Amen.*

OFFERTORY

Zara, Jonah, Zoe, Mark

OFFERTORY SONG

Lord, I Offer My Life.  
(Claire Cloninger & Don Moen)

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Father Larry

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,  
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.*

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Father Larry

Lord be with you.

*All: And with your spirit.*

Lift up your hearts

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All: It is right and just.*

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.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

Father Larry

We proclaim Your Death, O Lord, and profess Your Resurrection until  
You come again.

## THE OUR FATHER

*All: 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.*

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*All: 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.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION SONG

Amazing Grace  
(John Newton)

## REFLECTION SONG

Thank You Lord  
(Dan Burgess)

## EULOGY

Bobby, Ashleigh, Gabbie & Ermi

Slide Presentation created by Gabbie

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father Larry

Grant, we pray Almighty God, that Your servant Belen, who has journeyed from this world, may by this sacrifice be cleansed and freed from sin and so receive the everlasting joys of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

*All: Amen.*

## REMOVING OF SYMBOLS

## FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Father Larry

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our sister. May our farewell express our affection for her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

SONG OF FAREWELL

Father Larry

Saints of God, come to Belen's aid! Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord!

*All: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.*

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself; may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

*All: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.*

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

*All: Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.*

The Coffin is Sprinkled and Incensed

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Father Larry

Into Your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister Belen in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, she will rise with Him on the last day. We give You thanks for the blessings which You bestowed upon Belen in this life: they are signs to us of Your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ. 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 sister forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All: Amen.*

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Father Larry

In peace let us take our sister to her place of rest.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Be Not Afraid  
*(Bob Dufford)*

## Belen's Favourite Song

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### TIMES OF YOUR LIFE

By Paul Anka

Good morning, yesterday  
You wake up and time has slipped away  
And suddenly it's hard to find  
The memories you left behind  
Remember, do you remember?

The laughter and the tears  
The shadows of misty yesteryears  
The good times and the bad you've seen  
And all the others in between  
Remember, do you remember  
The times of your life? (Do you remember?)

Reach out for the joy and the sorrow  
Put them away in your mind  
The memories are time that you borrow  
To spend when you get to tomorrow

Here comes the setting sun (comes the setting sun)

The seasons are passing one by one

So gather moments while you may

Collect the dreams you dream today

Remember, will you remember

The times of your life?

Gather moments while you may

Collect the dreams you dream today

Remember, will you remember

The times of your life?

Of your life

Of your life

Do you remember, baby

Do you remember the times of your life?

Do you remember, baby

Do you remember the times of your life?



Celebrating the  
greatest times of your life

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LOVE ALWAYS,

Bobby  
Czarina  
Donna  
Ermi  
Feliz  
Zara

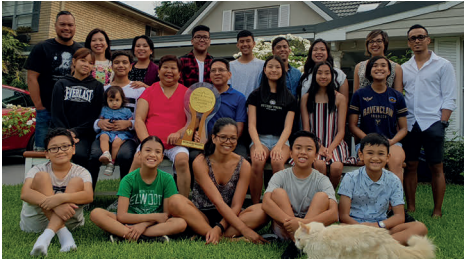












## SINCERE THANKS

Belen's family would like to thank you for your love and support during this difficult time.

The Cortege will now proceed to Pinegrove Memorial Park - Kington Street, Minchinbury for Belen's Committal Service.



Following the service, we invite you to join us for a  
Celebration of Belen at  
Lone Pine Tavern,  
15 Rooty Hill Road South, Rooty Hill.  
At 2.00pm



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