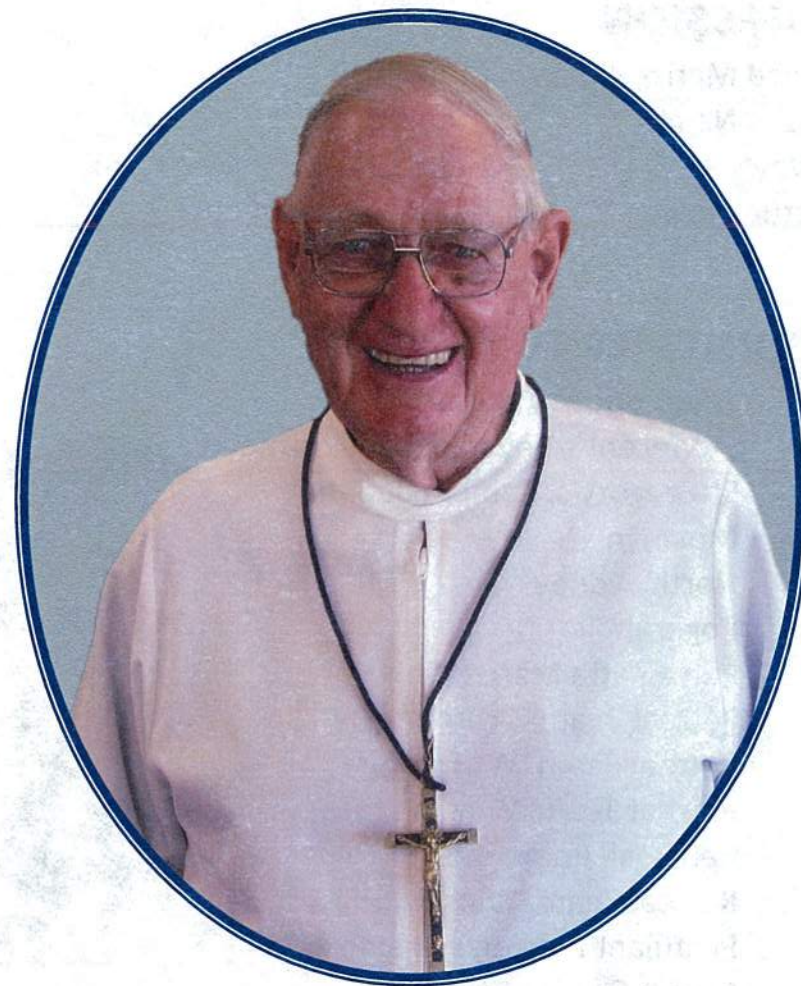




Sykes Family Crest



Brother Coman
Geoffrey Patrick Sykes
1928-2013

Chapel of the Annunciation
St Gregory's College

PROFESSION

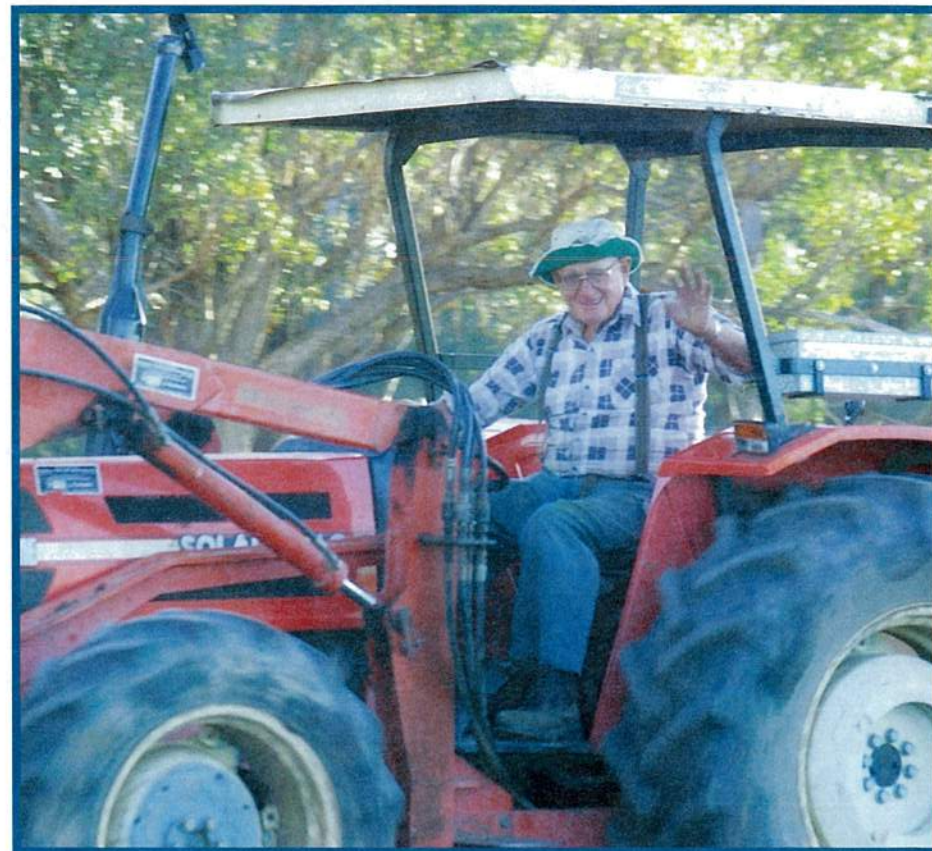
Received Marist Habit	2 July 1947
Religious Name	Br Coman
First Vows	2 July 1948
Perpetual Vows	23 January 1954

APPOINTMENTS

1948	Scholasticate, Camberwell
1949	St Vincent's Boys Home, Westmead
1957	St Gregory's, Campbelltown
1963	Mosman
1964	North Sydney
1969	Kogarah
1973	Parramatta Marist High
1974	Retreat Team, Drummoyne
1975	Retreat Team, Wahroonga
1976	Retreat Team, Winston Hills
1977	Renewal, Rome
1978	Retreat Team, Winston Hills
1979	Postulant Master, Winston Hills
1982	Marist College Canberra
1984	Parramatta Marist High
1996	Marist Centre, Mittagong
2003	St Gregory's, Campbelltown



Co with his father Charles 1947.



The Marist Brothers' St Gregory's College Community together with Brother Coman's family, thank you most sincerely for your friendship, prayerful support and presence here today.

Following the Mass you are invited to light refreshments in the Donovan Centre. At 1:00pm the cortege will proceed to the Marist Brothers' Cemetery, Diamond Fields Road, Mittagong for the Committal.

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE 20 SEPTEMBER 2013

A DECADE OF THE ROSARY

The First Glorious Mystery The Resurrection


SALVE REGINA [HAIL HOLY QUEEN]

CONCLUDING BLESSING

CELEBRANT: Eternal rest grant to Coman, O Lord
ALL: and let perpetual light shine upon him.

CELEBRANT: May he rest in peace.
ALL: Amen.

CELEBRANT: May his soul and the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
ALL: Amen.

CELEBRANT: May Almighty God bless us, the Father  and the
Son and the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen

CELEBRANT: Go in the peace of Christ.
ALL: Thanks be to God.



Ken Sutcliffe, Co and Jack Gibson

SYMBOLS OF THE LIFE OF BROTHER COMAN SYKES

(Prior to the commencement of Mass, please feel free to approach
Br Coman's coffin to pay your final respects.)

White Pall

This is a sign of Coman's Baptism and his identity with the People of God. Coman lived his Christian life with faith and dignity.

Paschal Candle

This symbolises the Light of Christ that shone through Coman's life. Christ's light has been shown to the world by Coman's teaching and coaching of young people and the spiritual example, support and guidance of so many. The Light of Christ has been a guide for him in the circumstances of his life.

Office Book and Rosary Beads

These symbolise Coman's personal and community prayer life and his relationship with God and his mother Mary.

Work Boots

Rolling up his sleeves, getting on with and doing what needed to be done, and honouring what was achieved by hard work defines Coman. Being able to work with his hands on very practical things was a tremendous joy in his life, right to the end. He literally 'died with his boots on' in the 'vineyard of the Lord'.

Family History

Coman loved his large and widely extended family. He connected often with them, rejoiced in their successes and travelled with them in their struggles. His work on the Sykes family history was a joy he could share with them.

Football

Coman's love of young people was never more evident than when he was coaching them. Football, swimming and many other sports gave him the avenue into their lives. They responded to his love by achieving and excelling. He helped them to bring out the best in themselves. Coman always followed and rejoiced in their continued successes.

Flowers

These represent St. Gregory's College. As an ex-student, a former headmaster and a community member, Coman invested so much of his life here. He loved the College and was delighted by its successes and achievements. He always loved and prayed for its students.

CELEBRANT: Father John Roberts OFM

WELCOME: Brother Jeffrey Barrington
Community Leader,
St Gregory's College Community



ENTRANCE HYMN: WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain: **We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God!**

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Refrain

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day, when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other,
As sisters and brothers, united in love.

Refrain

PRAYER OVER THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Lord Jesus Christ,
by your own three days in the tomb,
you hallowed the grave of all who believe in you,
and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection,
even as it claims our mortal bodies.
In a spirit of hope we earnestly ask you
to look upon this grave and bless it [Pause]

Grant that our brother, Coman, may sleep here in peace
until you awaken him to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.
May this become a sacred shrine, a place of pilgrimage
to remind us of what we already know:
that nothing dies, that life is transformed into new life;
and that all the holy dead shall rise in the splendour of your glory
to live with you for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

PRAYER OF COMMITTAL

Let us pray.
Faithful God, Lord of all creation,
you desire that nothing redeemed by your Son
will ever be lost and that the just
will be raised up on the last day.
Comfort us today with the word of your
promise as we bury our brother, Coman

[Pause]

Give him a place of rest and peace where the world of dust and
ashes has no dominion. Confirm us in our hope that he will be
created anew on the day when you will raise him up in glory to live
with you and all the saints for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

THE RITE OF COMMITTAL at the Brothers' Cemetery, Mittagong

INVITATION

We gather to farewell our brother, Coman. With his family and community we have celebrated his life and now we commit him to the Lord whom he served generously for over 66 years as a Marist Brother.

In Baptism Coman began his journey towards you. Take him now to yourself and give him the life promised to those born again of water and the Spirit.

Turn to us who have suffered this loss. Strengthen the bonds of this family and our community. Confirm us in faith, in hope and in love, so that we may bear your peace to one another and one day stand together with all the saints who praise you for your saving help. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus our Risen Lord.



A READING FROM THE CONSTITUTIONS

With Mary of the 'Fiat' [38]

Mary lived out her whole life in the spirit of her 'Fiat'. By her obedience, she became the Mother of God and cooperated in her Son's redeeming mission. She is blessed because she listened to the Word of God and carried it out.

As Marist Brothers, we come to Mary, the Handmaid of the Lord, to be schooled by her, and we respond to her call: "Do whatever He tells you." It is from Mary that we learn responsiveness to the Spirit and an obedience that is courageous and clear sighted.

GREETING:

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

ALL: Amen

CELEBRANT: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And with your spirit

*Fr John will bless Brother Coman's coffin with holy water,
then pray:*

CELEBRANT: In the waters of Baptism Coman died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he now share with him eternal glory.



Stephen, Kath, Maureen, Geoff and Mary Sykes

OPENING PRAYER

CELEBRANT: All loving God, we pray for our brother, Coman, who responded to your call to give of himself to others by following Jesus in the way of Mary and Champagnat as a Marist Brother. May those whose lives have been touched by his, be able to respond as generously as he did in all circumstances of life. We pray that you will welcome Coman home and take him into your loving care forever. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

FIRST READING: *(Please sit)*

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians

This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: **PRESENCE** - by BR XAVIER KELLY

*Presence, this is Your everlasting message -
we all share life in one great spirit
that stretches over space and time
rich and flawless as a sunlit sea.*

*Yet, our deeds disturb this picture
dredging memories; refloating ambitions,
minds wrecked on trite ideas,
self-inflated, and adrift from friends.*

*But, you gaze on with caring patience
guiding us through hidden shoals
and as darkness claims the waters,
You are there with lamp on high.*

FINAL HYMN I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

I am the Bread of life,
You who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons.

Chorus: *And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day*

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live for ever,
you shall live for ever.

I am the Resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever.

Yes, Lord, I believe that
you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
Who have come
into the world.



Co with Parramatta Marist students.

PRAYERS OF FAREWELL

- CELEBRANT: Saints of God come to his aid! Hasten to meet him
angels of the Lord!
- ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.
- CELEBRANT: May Christ who called you, take you to himself, may
angels lead you to Abraham's side.
- ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.
- CELEBRANT: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon him.
- ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.
- CELEBRANT: Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our
brother Coman in the sure and certain hope that
together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise
with Him on the last day.
We give thanks for the blessings which you gave to
Coman in his life; they are signs to us of your goodness
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.
Merciful Lord, listen to our prayers; open the gates of
paradise to your servant Coman and help us who
remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith
until we meet in Christ and are one with you and our
brother Coman forever.
- CELEBRANT: In peace, let us take our brother Coman to his place of
rest.
- ALL: Coman, may the angels lead you into Paradise,
May the martyrs come to welcome you
And lead you into the Holy City
The new and eternal Jerusalem.
May the angel choir greet you,
And with Lazarus, who once was poor,
May you have eternal rest.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *(Please stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
You are the Christ everlasting,
born for us all of a Virgin,
you have conquered death,
opened heaven to all believers.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL:

- CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And with your spirit
- CELEBRANT: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
- 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.
- ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Co, David Dwyer and Warren Bain

HOMILY: *(Please sit)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *(Please stand)*

CELEBRANT: As we mourn the passing of our brother, Coman, let us ask God our Father to soften our sorrow, arouse our hope and renew our confidence through Jesus' victory over death.

READER: Lord grant eternal rest and peace to our brother, Coman. Forgive him his faults and grant him that peace that comes from at last being with you. With Mary and Champagnat we pray:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

READER: Coman touched the lives of so many people in the various spheres of life, as Brother, teacher, coach, formator, friend and companion. May we be inspired to live the values of the Gospel which he demonstrated in his life.

With Mary and Champagnat we pray:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for all Coman's family, especially his sisters Kath and Maureen, and for his extended family and friends. May we all be comforted in our sorrow by our God who brings consolation and peace through the life of his Son, Jesus.

With Mary and Champagnat we pray:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for the deceased members of Coman's family, especially his parents, Charles and Mona and his brother Stephen and sister Mary. May they welcome Coman into paradise.

With Mary and Champagnat we pray:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

READER: Lord, bless those who cared for Coman, particularly during these last months of his life. May they all be

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: Lord, you give us life in this sacrament. May our brother, Coman, who received life at your table, enter into the everlasting peace and joy of Christ your Son, who is Lord for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

EULOGY: Brother Peter Corr

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

CELEBRANT: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for our brother Coman and now we come to the last farewell.

There is sadness in parting but we take comfort in the hope that one day we will see Coman again.

Although this community 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 our faith in Jesus Christ.

As Brother Coman's body is blessed with holy water and incensed the following hymn is sung:

Sub tuum praesidium
Confugimus, confugimus,
Sancta Dei Genitrix, Sancta Dei Genitrix

Nostras deprecationes, ne despicias, ne despicias,
In necessitatibus nostris,
Sed a periculis cunctis, libera nos semper,
Virgo gloriosa et benedicta.

Sub tuum praesidium
Confugimus, confugimus,
Sancta Dei Genitrix, Sancta Dei Genitrix

COMMUNION HYMN POWER OF YOUR LOVE

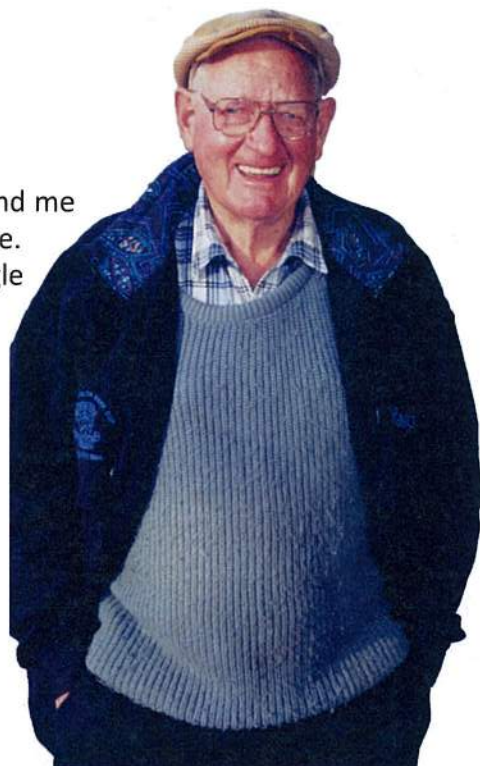
Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You.
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love.

Hold me close let Your love surround me
Bring me near draw me to Your side.
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of Your love.

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me.
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day
by the power of Your love.

Hold me close let Your love surround me
Bring me near draw me to Your side.
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of Your love.

And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of Your love.



rewarded for their generosity, sensitivity, love and patience. With Mary and Champagnat we pray:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

READER: We pray for the Institute of the Marist Brothers especially the Province of Australia. May Mary, our *Good Mother and Ordinary Resource* and St Marcellin continue to guide the Brothers in their endeavours. With Mary and Champagnat we pray:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: God our comforter and strength, hear these prayers we offer for our brother Coman and grant him the fullness of redemption. Grant these prayers through Christ our risen Lord.

ALL: Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN: SHOUT TO THE LORD

My Jesus, My Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, My Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am
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At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS: (Please stand)

CELEBRANT: As our brother Coman offered so much to You in his life Lord, may You take and bless these offerings of each of our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen



Co with his sisters Mary Reardon and Sr Maureen

SANCTUS: (Said)

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Said)

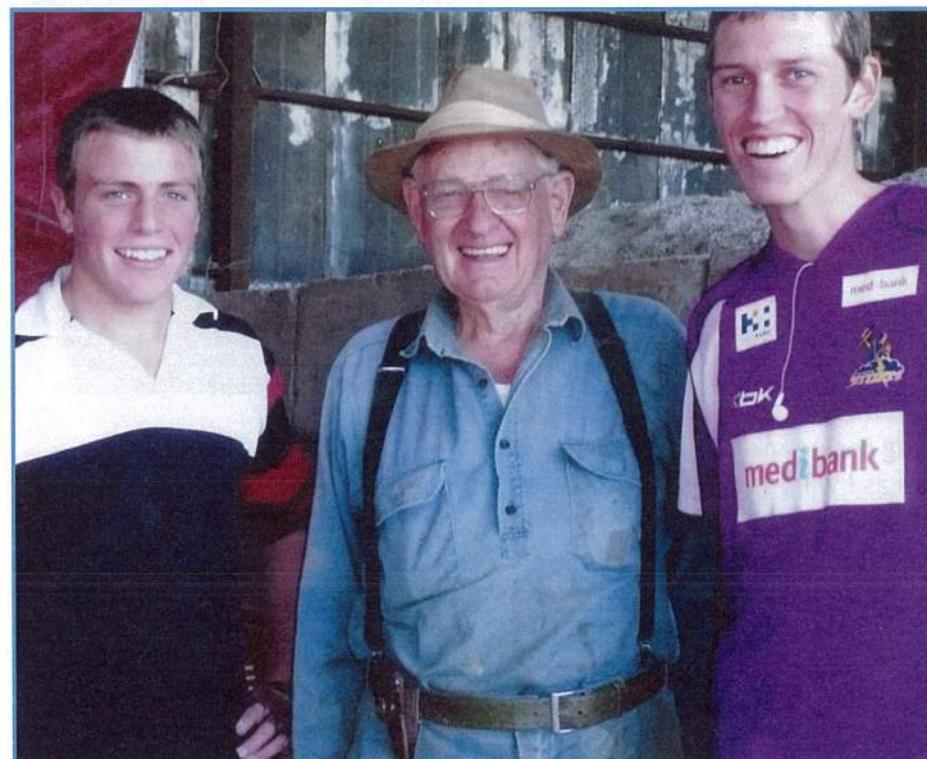
We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

GREAT AMEN (Said)

RITE OF COMMUNION

OUR FATHER (Said)

LAMB OF GOD (Said)



Co with St Greg's students Will Luff and Jack Raynolds