

Steve Bohan
Homily at Funeral Mass of Fr Steve Bohan
By Fr Joe Taylor

"I thank my God each time I think of you."

"God dwells in two places: in heaven and in a grateful heart."

1. First, gratitude to Steve.

- One of 4 boys he heard the call to priesthood and answered and persevered in that call. The vocation was also nurtured by his parents and brothers.
- He ministered to thousands of people, unknown to us, but very known to God.
- He had a deep knowledge and love of scripture. CEO leaders say that his scriptural input at in-services and accreditation were the finest and best they had seen.
- At St Brendan's Shepparton, (where he spent eight months last year with his recovery and chemotherapy) when Jackson and I brought him communion in the lounge room he had always reflected deeply, deeply on the Gospel for the day.
- Anointing Steve in the GV hospital: *"When you're sick, Joe, you really learn to trust in God."*

2. Second, Gratitude to his parishioners.

- He had some difficult PPs, and in those times he relied heavily on his friendships with parishioners. Always very ecumenical.
- In his later days there was a role reversal with his parishioners, to care for a dying Parish Priest.
- Confer, *"If you look after someone who is dying, then your life is worth living."*
- He shared his life and death's journey with you in this Sacred Heart Church here in Yarrawonga, fortnight by fortnight. Called you to be deeply committed disciples.
- One of his dying wishes was *"To be buried in the cemetery with God's people, and with a big wink, not with the clergy."*

- We thank God for all the people who stepped up to the many roles, especially (Fr) Michael Morley
- We give special thanks to our diocesan nurses, especially Eileen Thorp, who was always there when needed. I can tell you, looking after sick clergy is never easy!!!!

3. Third, Gratitude to God.

- That's what Eucharist means. Giving thanks to the Father for the gift of Jesus.
- Give thanks to God who, as with Steve, has given each one of us a specific mission in life. Cf John Henry Newman: *"God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another."*
- At communion today, let our thanksgiving be to the Father for the gift of Steve and all of our faith communities.

(Bishop) Mark Coleridge, Facebook post, **"I've always thought of you as one of the best, rest in peace brother and rise in glory."**