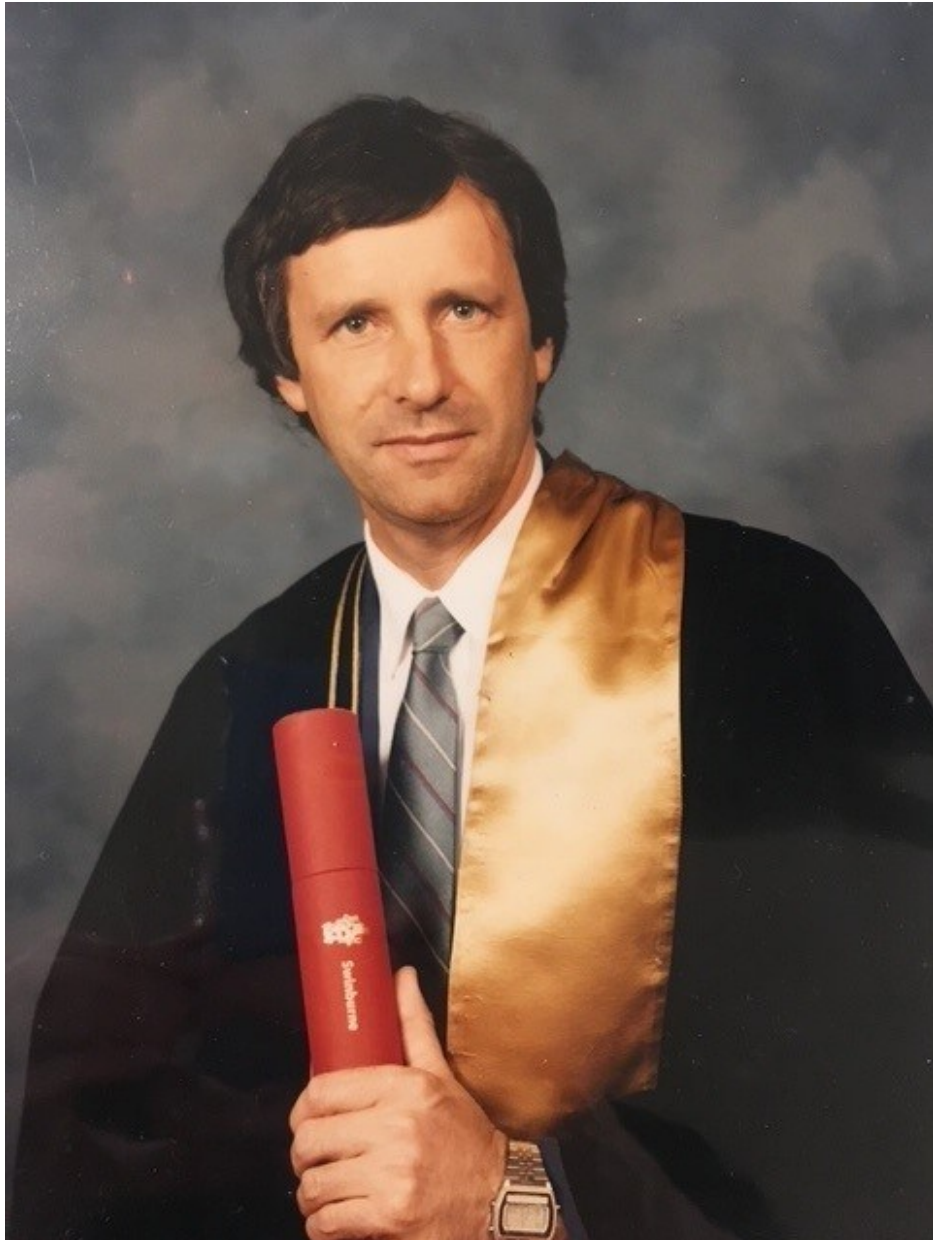
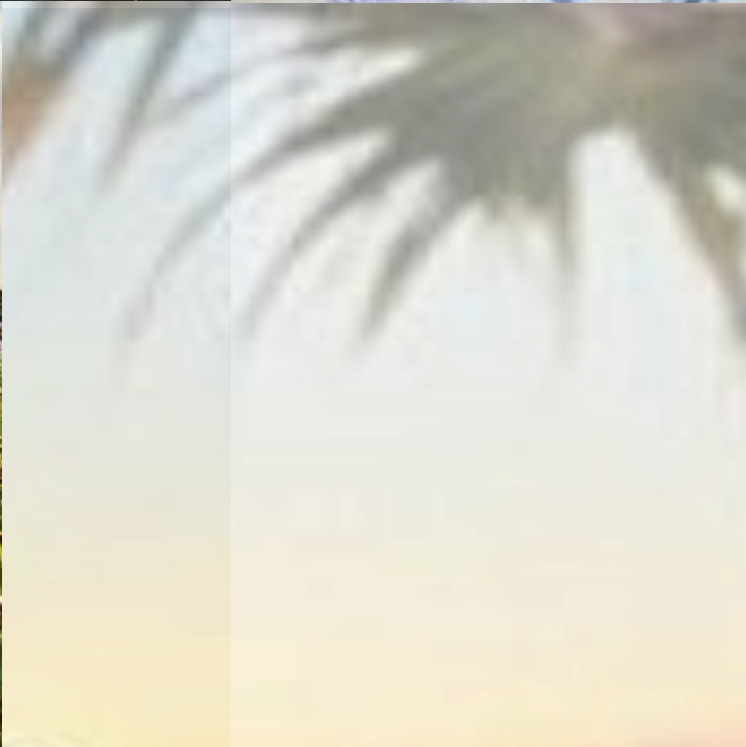
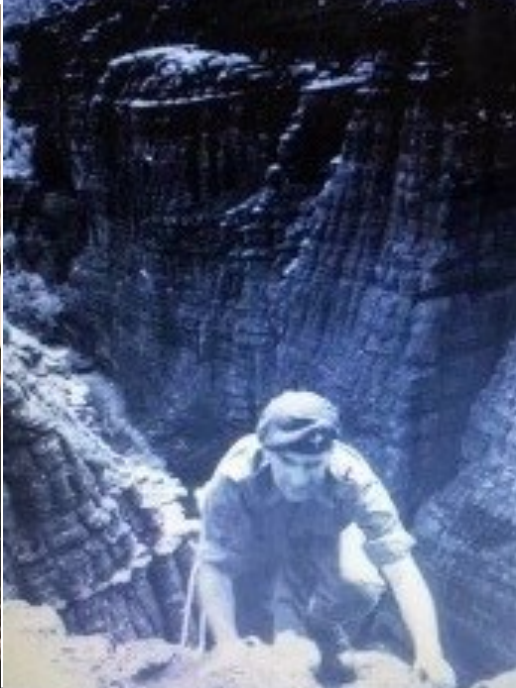


A Service of Thanksgiving  
to Celebrate the Life of  
*Robert Leonard Costello*  
28 April 1945—31 July 2025



St Stephen's Anglican Church, Richmond  
Thursday, 14th August 2025  
Priest: The Reverend Dr Nick White



## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### Entrance Song

Amazing Grace – The Scottish Bagpipe Players

*The priest Nick White greets the congregation.*

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

We have come together  
to remember before God the life of Robert Leonard Costello,  
to commend him to God's keeping,  
to commit his body to be cremated,  
to comfort those who mourn  
with our sympathy and with our love;  
in the hope we share  
through the death and resurrection  
of Jesus Christ.

I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

*The people join with the priest Nick White in saying,*

Let us pray  
Loving God, you alone are the source of life.  
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,  
and fill us with compassion, one for another.  
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.  
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Words of Remembrance

*Tony Beard & Neil Fergus*

### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

#### A reading from Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

*Psalm 121:1-8*

For the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

#### A reading from the Gospel according to John

‘Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places.

If it were not so, would I have told you

that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again and will take you to myself,

so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

*John 14:1-4, 6.*

For the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

### THE PRAYERS

*The priest Nick White says;*

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father.

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer:*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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.

Photo Montage of the life of Robert Leonard Costello

You Raise me up – Celtic Woman

Hallelujah – Jeff Buckley

### THE COMMENDATION AND COMMITTAL

Holding our love firmly, laying aside all regret gently,  
we release Robert into the hands of God.  
Let us commend Robert to the mercy of God,  
our maker and redeemer.

God alone is holy and just and good.  
In that confidence, therefore, we commend you, Robert  
to God's mercy,

to God's forgiveness and love.

Blessed be God the Father,  
who has caused the light of Christ to shine upon you.

*A sentence of Scripture is read:*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great goodness.  
As a father is tender towards his children,  
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.

For he knows of what we are made;  
he remembers that we are but dust.  
Our days are like the grass;  
we flourish like a flower of the field;  
when the wind goes over it, it is gone  
and its place will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures  
for ever and ever toward those that fear him  
and his righteousness upon their children's children.

*Psalm 103:8, 13-17*

*Facing the coffin, the priest says,*

The earthly life of Robert has come to an end,  
we commit his body to be cremated  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;  
in the sure and certain hope  
of the resurrection to eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.   **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant unto Robert, O Lord.

**And let light perpetual shine upon him.**



Go forth upon your journey from this world:  
in the love of God the Father  
who created you,  
in the mercy of Jesus Christ  
who redeemed you,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit  
who strengthened you.  
In communion with all the faithful,  
may you dwell this day in peace.   **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*The priest says,*

Dear friends,  
let us leave this place in quietness of spirit,  
as we return to the living of our lives;  
glad that we have loved,  
free to weep in grief,  
free to hold each other in our human frailty,  
encouraged to live well.  
Let us affirm the power of hope  
that lives in God at the heart of our existence.

*The priest pronounces the Blessing*

The Lord bless us and keep us  
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us  
and give us peace.   **Amen.**

Go in peace in the name of Christ.   **Amen.**

## Recessional Song

What a wonderful world – Louis Armstrong



*Lorraine Lillian Costello & Robert Leonard Costello 29 February 1968*

*With Love and Gratitude*

We thank you for being here to celebrate Robert's life.  
Your love and support are a wonderful comfort  
and deeply appreciated.



Please join us after the service for refreshments  
within the church.

