

Mass of Christian Burial

Sister Pauline Mary Riley OP

(Sr M Callista OP)



20 September 1934 – 8 November 2025

Motto: *Maria*

We gather as a Christian community
to give thanks for the life of

Pauline Riley OP

a Dominican Sister for 70 years.

We pray for the repose of her soul and
for comfort and peace
for her Dominican Community, her family
and her many friends and colleagues
who mourn her loss.



Santa Sabina Chapel, Strathfield
Tuesday 18 November 2025

President: Fr Michael Goonan SSP

SISTER PAULINE MARY RILEY OP

Pauline Mary Riley was born at Eugowra on 20th September 1934. She was the eldest daughter of Daniel and Florence nee Payne and proud sister of Peter and Cecille (both deceased), Joan and Christine. Pauline grew up on the family property 'Glendore' and all her life was proud of her Central West origins, especially around Cowra.

After receiving her primary education at the local Primary School, and with the careful guidance of her mother, Pauline moved on to Santa Sabina College in Strathfield, Sydney to complete her education. Her love for the College, her school companions and all things Dominican strongly marked her life journey.

On 2nd February 1953 Pauline decided to become a Dominican and joined the community in Maitland. She was professed on 2nd February 1955 as M. Callista OP.

To enhance her teaching, Pauline obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Earth Sciences, her Diploma in Education and a Master of Education in Social Policy and Analysis. She was always eager to learn, completing a variety of new subjects, studying wherever she found herself.

Her ministry as a teacher of all aspects of Science and, Agriculture, University Lecturer, Educational Administrator and Researcher took her from Maitland to Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Tamworth, Hobart, Canberra, Darwin, the Central West and finally Bass Hill. As was stated at her Bass Hill farewell, 'for those who know Pauline, even though she has retired from teaching students, she will never stop working or contributing to a Committee.' She has listed involvement in 57 Committees and Policy-making bodies over the years.

Pauline was a life-long learner, particularly concerned with and committed to, documenting the history and legacy of the Dominican Sisters as educators through the achievements of their students. In her retirement years she felt welcomed, and her contribution appreciated, by the staff, students and ex-students of Santa Sabina College.

One of the joys of Pauline's life was to return to Cowra to look after her mother 'Floss' as she aged, until she died in 2001. She often spoke of their strong bond. Family was of the utmost importance to Pauline – she so loved Peter, Cecille, Joan and Christine, her nephews Bernard, Edward and Marcus Riley, William and Daniel Dwyer, their partners and their children, all of whom brought her a sense of connectedness while their welfare was of deep interest.

Pauline's presence, her questioning challenges and her passionate concern for the institutional welfare of her Sisters will be missed, as will the stories of her much-loved family members. We will remember her as a woman who was rooted strongly in her country past, determined to bring the best of her history to the present day and ensure its telling into the future. May she find peace and contentment with her God and be joyfully reunited with those she has loved, for all eternity.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

We stand to welcome Sr Pauline's body into our midst

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

This Day God Gives Me

1. This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
Sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
Flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
Deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.
2. This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
Might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are list'ning,
Your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.
3. God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, drive from me always
All that would harm me, stand by me still.

The coffin is brought to the Paschal candle and the font of flowing water

GREETING

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

All: **And with your spirit.**

Sprinkling with Water

Presider: The Easter candle is lit. Christ is among us!
In the waters of baptism, Pauline was given a share in the death and resurrection of Christ.

All: **May she now share with him eternal glory.**

HYMN *Procession of coffin to centre space. Priest moves to sanctuary to venerate the altar.*

4. Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,
King of creation, Giver of rest,
Firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

Text: 55 54 D; ascr. to St. Patrick, 372-466; adapt. by James Quinn, SJ, © 1969, James Quinn, SJ.
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PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Please be seated

The Pall Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP, Amanda Dwyer and Jessica Dwyer

Reader: On the day of her Baptism, Pauline was clothed in Christ.
By his word and example she lived with Christian dignity:

All: **May Christ now enfold her in his love forever.**

The Bible Carmel McCarthy

Reader: The Scriptures were the inspiration of Pauline's life and
ministry as educator and friend.

All: **May she now rejoice in praising God and join the saints in
celebrating this Jubilee Year of Hope.**

The Constitutions Sr Diana Woods OP

Reader: The charism of St Dominic claimed Pauline's heart, calling her
to entrust her life to God as a Dominican Sister.

All: **May she now delight in the company of the Dominican
Family in heaven.**

Family Symbols Christine Riley

Reader: Pauline was a proud Cowra girl, and a dedicated Dominican ex-
student.

All: **May she be fully alive to the mystery of God.**

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

William Dwyer and Sr Judith Lawson OP

OPENING PRAYER *All stand*

Presider: Compassionate God,
look kindly on your friend and our sister, Pauline, who has set
down the burden of her years.

You called her at baptism and religious profession to undying
union with Christ.

Remember her yearning for life and the zeal of her good
deeds. Do not disappoint her in her hope.

With loving confidence we make our prayer, through Jesus
Christ, the risen One,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Sr Veronica Rosier OP

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (11: 22-12:2)

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales,
like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.

Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things
and overlook people's sins so that they can repent.

Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made
in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.

And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist,
how be conserved if not called forth by you?

You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life,
you whose imperishable spirit is in all.

Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,
you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned,
so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23

Nephews: The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green: He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness
e'en for his own name's sake.

Students: Yes, tho I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill:
for thou are with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

Students My table thou has furnished
and in presence of my foes;
Nephews: My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

ALL: Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Text: Psalm 23, *Scottish Psalter*, 1650. Tune: Crimmond, CM; Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1836 – 1887) harm by David Grant, 1833-1893. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-640356.

SECOND READING

Marcus Riley

A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter (3: 13-14)

The fulfillment of God's promise

We look forward to the fulfillment of God's promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice dwells. Therefore dear friends, while waiting for these things, be completely above reproach, eager to be found in peace.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Student: “Even if you have to die, close to my Word, keep faithful;
for your faithfulness I will give you the crown of life.”

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (12: 23-26)

If a grain of wheat falls upon the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest

Jesus told his disciples: ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves life loses it, and whoever hates life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Yvette Graniero and Elizabeth Pooley

Presider: My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only for Pauline, but also for the Church, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

1. For the church, as we walk together in this Year of Jubilee:
That we may delight in diversity and persevere in unity and inclusivity. Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer.**

2. For all dedicated to the care of our “common home” and ensuring an equal share of the world’s resources:
That we may work together for reconciliation, peace and the grace of hope. Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer.**

3. For Pauline’s family with us today, especially her sisters, Joan and Christine. For all with whom Pauline ministered with generosity and faithfulness - Sisters, colleagues, students, friends and ex-students. That they may all be gifted with joy and unconditional love. Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer.**

4. For all who cared lovingly for Pauline: here at Santa Sabina convent and at Concord Hospital. For all her doctors and health care professionals. That they may be blessed for their dedication. Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer.**

5. For all who have died: especially Pauline’s parents, Daniel and Florence, her siblings Peter and Cecille. For the deceased members of our Dominican Family: That with Pauline, they may feast forever at the Banquet of Life. Lord, in your mercy:

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Presider: God, our shelter and our strength,
You accompany us in life with sisters and brothers in faith.
Hear the prayers of your Church,
and grant us today what we ask of you.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Rose and Ethan Dwyer

Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar

Instrumental Music

Hannah Dwyer

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY

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.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

All: **Christ has died, alleluia!**
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Christ will come again, alleluia!

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GREAT AMEN



THE COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SIGN OF PEACE

Special Ministers of the Eucharist: Sr Sheila Flynn OP and Sr Elizabeth Hellwig OP

LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Choir

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COMMUNION REFLECTION

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

All sing: An upper room did our Lord prepare
For those he loved until the end:
And his disciples still gather there
To celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
He by the cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete –
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace.
He loves beyond our uttermost:
In every room in our Father's house
He will be there, as Lord and host.

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FINAL COMMENDATION

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Presider: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Pauline and now we come to the last farewell.
There is sadness in parting,
but we take comfort in the hope
that one day we shall see Pauline again
and enjoy her friendship.
Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow,
the mercy of God will gather us together again
in the joy of God's kingdom.
our sadness and strengthen our hope.
Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

All pray in silence

The coffin is now incensed

SONG OF FAREWELL *(Tune – Old Hundreth)*

Choir: Come to her aid, O saints of God.
Come, meet her, angels of the Lord.

All sing: **Receive her soul, O holy ones;
Present her now to God, Most High.**

Choir: May Christ, who called you, take you home.
and angels lead you to Abraham. **Ref.**

Choir: Give her eternal rest, O Lord.
May light unending shine on her. **Ref.**

Choir: I know that my Redeemer lives,
The last day I shall rise again. **Ref.**

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PRAYERS OF COMMENDATION

Presider: Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister, Pauline, 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 have bestowed upon Pauline 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 for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Presider: Dear friends,
may every sign of affection
and every gesture of friendship
that you give to others
be a sign of God's peace for your world.

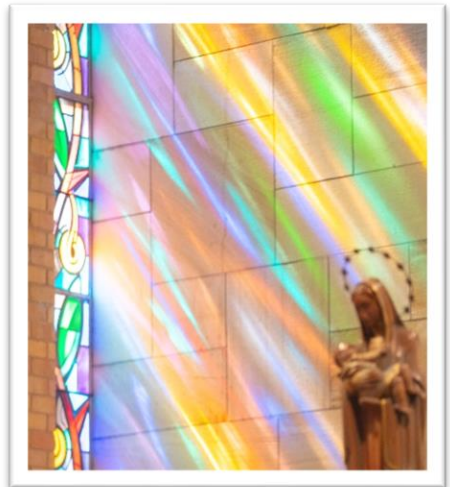
In peace let us take our sister to her place of rest.

The symbols of the Christian life are now removed from the coffin. Family, friends and Sisters follow the coffin outside the chapel for a final blessing.

RECESSIONAL

"Ave Maria"

Contributors: Gulio Caccini
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The Dominican Sisters and Pauline's family
thank you for being with us today.

Following Mass, we will move to Rosary Lodge for refreshments.
All are welcome!

The Rite of Committal will take place at 1.30pm at Rookwood Cemetery.

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