

*I am dissolving
into something bigger...fast.
I am stretching
to the very edges of the cosmos,
and that is exciting.
My bucket is full.
I have done everything I need to do.
I am at peace.
God is good.*

Ancilla – towards the end of her journey here on earth

Celebration
of the
Life & Resurrection
of
Sr Ancilla
Gaye Elizabeth Leech

BORN:	11.12.1949
ENTERED MONASTIC LIFE:	12.01.1975
FIRST PROFESSION:	11.07.1976
SOLEMN PROFESSION:	11.07.1979
DIED:	16.03.2026

Ordinary of the Mass

Mass Hallel – Colin D. Smith cfc

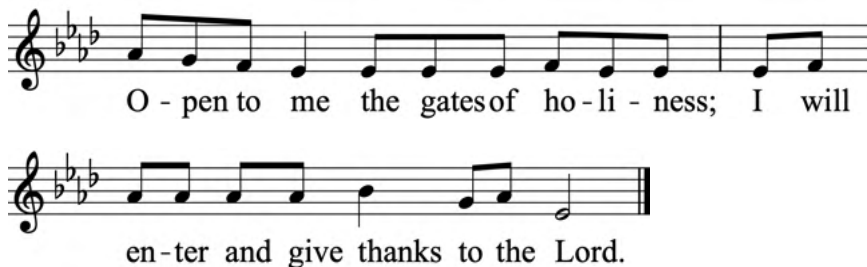
The Symbols of Faith are expressed in the following:

- *The lighting of the **Paschal Candle** – as a sign of hope which sheds its light over the celebration.*
- *The **Pall** has already been placed on the coffin – as a sign of the white garment of baptism returning to clothe us at the time of our death;*
- *The sprinkling with **Holy Water** – a reminder of our baptism.*
- ***Personal Symbols** of faith are placed on the coffin – Bible, Rule of St Benedict and Vow Paper.*

Entrance

Words: Psalm 117:19

Music: Sr Moira Bradshaw osb



O - pen to me the gates of ho - li - ness; I will
en - ter and give thanks to the Lord.

Tone: 8c

Stanbrook Abbey



This is the Lord's own gate
where the just may enter.
I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my savior.

Psalm 117:20-21

This is the Lord's own gate

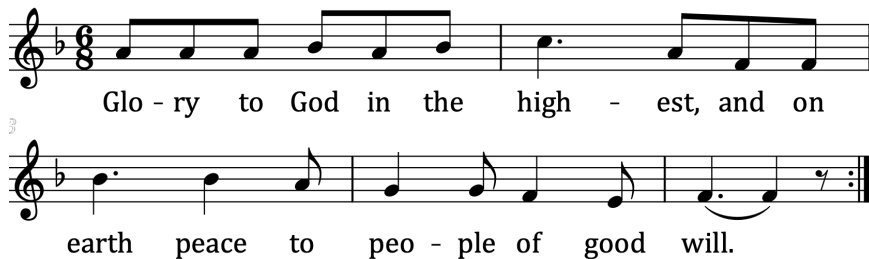
where the just may enter.

I will thank you for you have answered

and you are my savior.

The Gloria – Mass Hallel

Refrain - Chantress, then ALL repeat



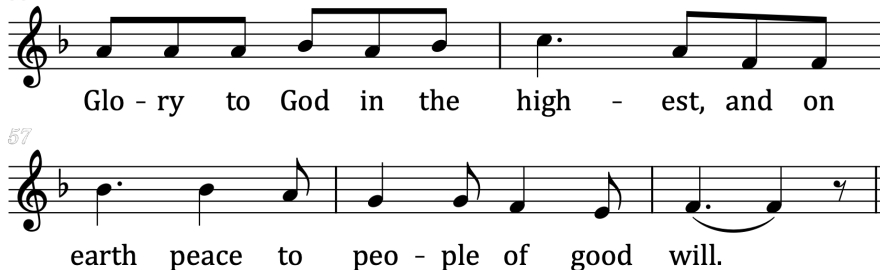
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on
earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

Chantress



1. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we
give you thanks for your great glo - ry.
Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, O God, al - migh - ty
Fa - ther.

Refrain - ALL



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on
earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

22 Chantress



2. Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Be-got - ten Son,

26



Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa -

29



ther. You take a - way the sins of the

31



world, have mer - cy on us. You take a -

33



way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

55 Refrain - ALL



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

57



earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

41 Chantress

meno mosso



3. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have

a tempo

mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the

49 Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

51 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

53 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

55 **Refrain - ALL**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

57 earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

rit...
A - men, A - men.

(Mass Hallel Gloria reworked for changes in liturgical text (2011)
by Sr Hildegard Ryan osb)

Words of Remembrance

First Reading Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-10

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It is by faith that we understand that the world was created by one word from God, so that no apparent cause can account for the things we can see.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Tone 6d – Stanbrook Abbey



**I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.**

Psalm 137

- 1 I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.**
- 2 I will adore before your holy temple.**

**I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.**

- 3 On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.**
- 4 All the rulers on earth shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.**
- 5 They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
"How great is the glory of the Lord!"**
- 6 The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.**
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.**

**You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.**

Second Reading 2Corinthians 4:7-12

A Reading from the second letter to the Corinthians

We are only the earthenware jars that hold this treasure, to make it clear that such an overwhelming power comes from God and not from us.

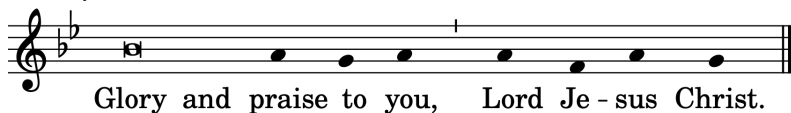
We are in difficulties on all sides, but never cornered; we see no answer to our problems, but never despair; we have been persecuted, but never deserted; knocked down, but never killed; always, wherever we may be, we carry with us in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus, too, may always be seen in our body.

Indeed, while we are still alive, we are consigned to our death every day, for the sake of Jesus, so that in our mortal flesh the life of Jesus, too, may be openly shown. So, death is at work in us, but life in you.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation



**The Word was made flesh
and lived among us.**

Gospel John 1:1-5; 14; 16

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word:

The Word was with God

And the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

Not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

And that life was the light of men,

A light that shines in the dark,

A light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was made flesh,

He lived among us,

And we saw his glory,

The glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,

Full of grace and truth.

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –

Yes, grace in return for grace,

Since, though the Law was given through Moses,

Grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

It is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,

Who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Prayers of Intercession

Preparation of the Gifts

Words: Psalm 138 Music: Sr Moira Bradshaw osb

The musical notation consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and a quarter rest. The lyrics "In the pre-sence of the an - gels," are written below the staff. The second staff begins with a second ending bracket above the first measure. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and a quarter rest. The lyrics "I will sing to you," are written below. The third measure of the second staff has a *rit...* marking above it, followed by a fermata over the notes G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), and C5 (quarter). The lyrics "O my God." are written below. The third staff begins with a third ending bracket above the first measure. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and a quarter rest. The lyrics "I will sing to you," are written below.

Tone: M5 - Gregory Murray osb

Psalm 137:1,2

**I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
You have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.**

Holy, Holy, Holy ~ Mass Hallel

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -
12 san - na in the high - est. Blessed is He who
18 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
22 san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of hosts.' The second staff continues with 'Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -'. The third staff starts at measure 12 with 'san - na in the high - est. Blessed is He who'. The fourth staff starts at measure 18 with 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. The fifth staff starts at measure 22 with 'san - na in the high - est.' and ends with a double bar line.

Memorial Acclamation – Mass Hallel




1
2
3

We pro - claim your death, O Lord,
and pro - fess your re - sur - rec - tion,
un - til you come a - gain

Detailed description: This block contains three staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, followed by a quarter rest. The second staff continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, followed by a quarter rest. The third staff begins with a quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note B4, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Solemn Amen – Mass Hallel




A - men; A - men; A - men; A - men.

Detailed description: This block contains a single staff of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, followed by a quarter rest. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Lamb of God – Mass Hallel

Chantress ALL



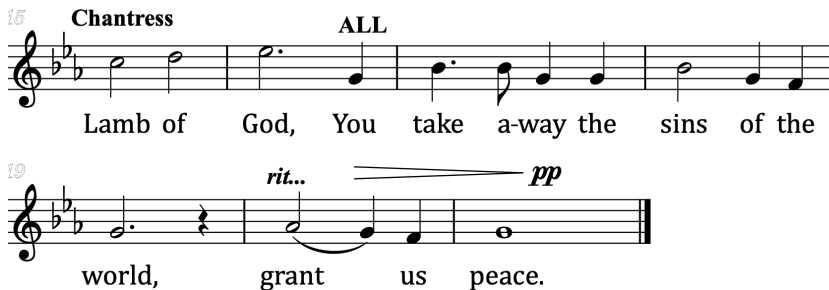
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Chantress ALL



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Chantress ALL



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE FINAL COMMENDATION

After the priest says the Prayer after Communion those appointed come forward and remove the symbols and the pall. When everything is removed the plants are put onto the coffin.

The Prioress proceeds to the head of the coffin and the community move down in their stalls so as to be ready for the singing of the “Non Nobis” and the procession from the church.

The priest stands near the coffin for the Rite of Burial and Final Commendation.

Celebrant

With faith in Christ, we reverently bring the body of our Sister Ancilla to burial in its human imperfection.

Let us pray with confidence to God, who gives life to all things, that he will raise up this mortal body to the perfection and company of the saints.

May God give her a merciful judgment and forgive all her sins. May Christ the Good Shepherd lead her safely home to be at peace with God our Father.

And may she be happy forever, with all the saints, in the presence of our eternal Lord.

All pray in silence.

The body is then sprinkled with holy water and incensed.

Celebrant

Saints of God, come to her aid!
Come to meet her, angels of the Lord!

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

Celebrant

May Christ who called you, take you to himself.
May angels lead you to Abraham's side.

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

Celebrant

Give her eternal rest, O Lord,
And may your light shine on her forever.

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

Celebrant

O Loving God, into your hands we commend our Sister Ancilla.
We are confident that with all who have died in Christ she will be
raised to life on the last day and live with Christ forever.

We thank you for all the blessings you gave her in this life to show
your fatherly care for all of us, and the fellowship which is ours
with all the saints in Jesus Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Welcome our Sister Ancilla to paradise and help us to comfort
each other with the assurance of our faith until we all meet in
Christ to be with you and with our sister forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

*Those appointed move to the four corners of the coffin.
The “Non Nobis Domine” begins immediately.*

*The “Non Nobis Domine” is intoned by the chantress
and repeated 3 times by the choir.*

Non Nobis Domine

Words: Psalm 115 and RB Prologue 30

Music: Patrick Doyle

Arrangement: Graham Preskett

Non no - bis Do - mi-ne, Do-mi-ne, non

no - bis Do - mi - ne. Sed no - mi - ni, sed

no - mi - ni, tu - o da glo - ri - am.

In Paradisum

The body is now taken from the Church. The “In Paradisum” is played as the sisters, and all guests, follow the coffin from the church to the hearse. The bell tolls until the hearse reaches the cemetery.

The tolling of the bell signifies mourning, remembrance, and the passage of the soul from this life to the next. It's a slow, deliberate ringing, with a gap between strikes, distinct from the celebratory ringing of bells for other occasions. The sound serves as a public announcement of death, a reminder of mortality, and a communal expression of grief.

When the funeral directors are ready the community and guests process behind the hearse to the cemetery.

The Rite of Committal

Outline of the Rite

1. Invitation
2. Scripture Verse
3. Prayer over the Place of Committal
4. Committal Intercessions
5. The Lord's Prayer
6. Concluding Prayer
7. Prayer over the People

Invitation

When the funeral procession arrives at the cemetery the priest says the following or a similar invitation.

Our Sister Ancilla has gone to her rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome her to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist her with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day with Sister Ancilla. Together may we meet Christ Jesus when he who is our life appears in glory.

Scripture

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.
John 6:39

Prayer over the place of committal

The priest says the following prayers

Priest

All praise to you, Lord of all creation. Praise to you, holy and living God.

We praise and bless you for your mercy, we praise and bless you for your kindness. Blessed is the Lord, our God

All: Blessed is the Lord, our God.

Priest

You sanctify the homes of the living and make holy the places of the dead. You alone open the gates of righteousness and lead us to the dwellings of the saints. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

All: Blessed is the Lord, our God.

Priest

We praise you, our refuge and strength.

We bless you, our God and Redeemer.

Your praise is always in our hearts and on our lips. We remember the mighty deeds of the covenant. Blessed is the Lord, our God

All: Blessed is the Lord, our God.

Priest

Almighty and ever-living God, remember the mercy with which you graced your servant Ancilla in life.

Receive her, we pray, into the mansions of the saints. As we make ready our sister's resting place, look also with favour on those who mourn and comfort them in their loss.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The priest then says the words of committal during or after which the coffin is lowered.

Priest

Because God has chosen to call our Sister Ancilla from this life to himself, we commit her body to the earth, its resting place, for we are dust and unto dust we shall return. But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead.

All: Amen

Intercessions

Priest

For our Sister Ancilla let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

Reader

You raised the dead to life; give to our Sister Ancilla eternal life.
We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader

You promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring Sister Ancilla to the joys of heaven.
We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy

Reader

Our sister was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.
We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader

Our sister Ancilla was nourished with your body and blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader

Let us pray for those who mourn. Comfort them in their grief.

We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Let us pray also for ourselves on our pilgrimage through life.

Keep us faithful in your service.

We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest

Now let us pray as Christ the Lord has taught us:

All: Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

Priest

Listen, O God, to the prayers of your Church on behalf of the faithful departed, and grant to your servant Ancilla whose funeral we have celebrated today, the inheritance promised to all your saints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Prayer over the People

Priest

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

All pray silently. The priest, with hands outstretched over the people, says the following prayer.

Merciful Lord, you know the anguish of the sorrowful, you are attentive to the prayers of the humble. Hear your people who cry out to you in their need, and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Ancilla, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.

All: Amen.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen.

May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

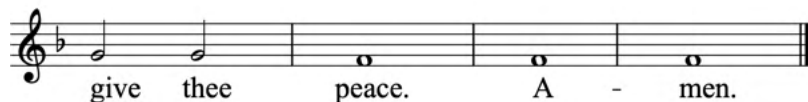
Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The following is sung while the sisters and visitors sprinkle the grave and coffin with holy water and lower a flower into the grave.

The Lord Bless Thee

Words: Numbers 6:24-26



A
Brief Journey
through
Ancilla's
Life

Family



Mum & Dad



Ancilla

Beloved Grandparents



Glenn – “my baby brother”

Entered the Sisters of Mercy



Above: Mum and Mother Berchmans



Left: with Sr M Helen.

Transferred to Benedictine Nuns, Pennant Hills



Ancilla, Anna, Dominica, Mary John, Kym
Mary



Ancilla & Mother Placid



Frances & Ancilla



Sr Maria Boulding (from Stanbrook Abbey)

Heading north to the Queensland foundation



Emu Park



then Lammermoor Monastery





Ancilla – walking barefoot along the pathways of Florence to experience the presence of the geniuses who walked these pathways before her and shaped Western art, science and literature.



Off overseas with Fran



Graduation – BA

4 Majors – Biblical Studies, Comparative Religions, Anthropology, Aboriginal Studies



Jamberoo

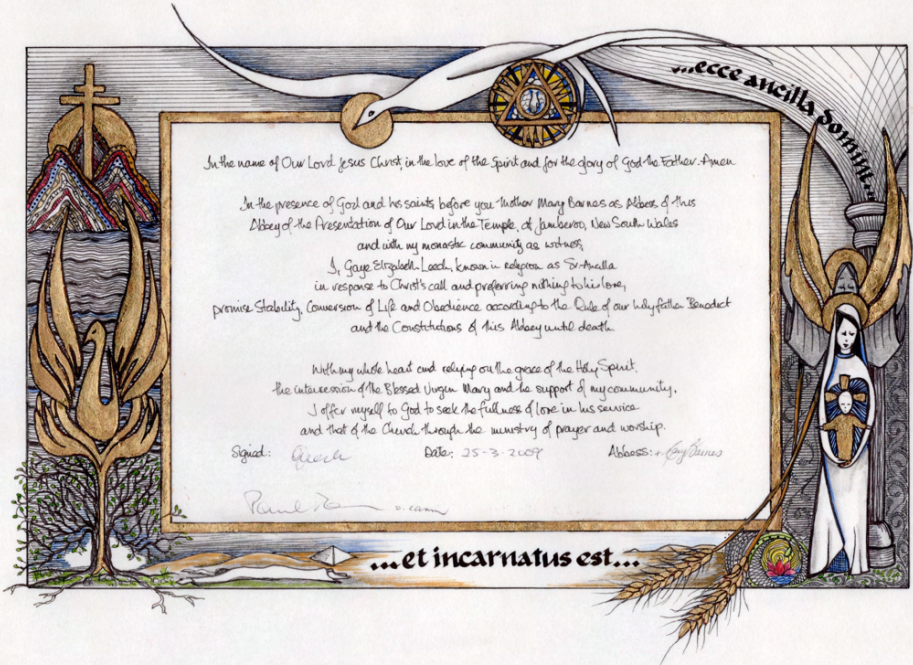


Interfaith relationships were important for Ancilla



Solemn Profession – Jamberoo

Ancilla painted her vow paper below





2026
Anointing



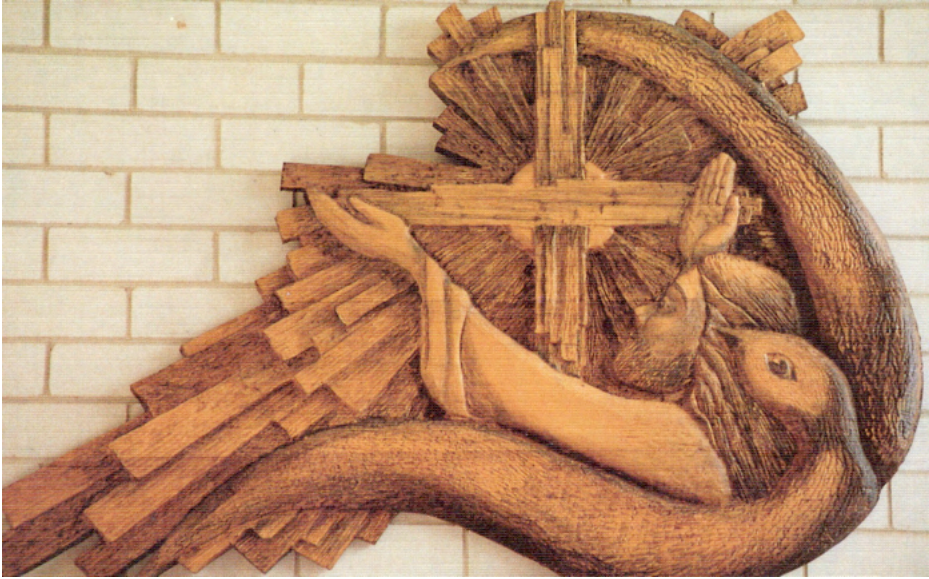
Ancilla made many, many friends along her life's journey. It would be impossible to show photos of all those who were very special to her. Just know that you were one of them and we thank you for loving and upholding her.



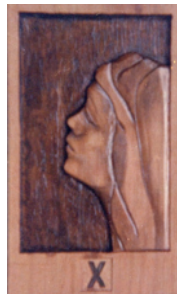
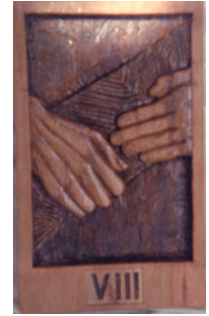
The following are just some
examples of Ancilla's
Woodwork
&
Leatherwork







Stations of the Cross



Some of Ancilla's Leatherwork









When we fall...let us fall as flame.
"Three Religious Rebels" – Alberic to Stephen

Thank You
for coming to celebrate
Ancilla's life
with us and to thank God
for her presence
along our journey
and for the love, friendship
and artistic skills
she shared so generously
with so many.

All are invited to the
Abbey Dining Room
for refreshments
and to share our memories of our
sister Ancilla.

We are such stuff
as dreams are made on,
and our little life
is rounded with a sleep.

The Tempest – W. Shakespeare

