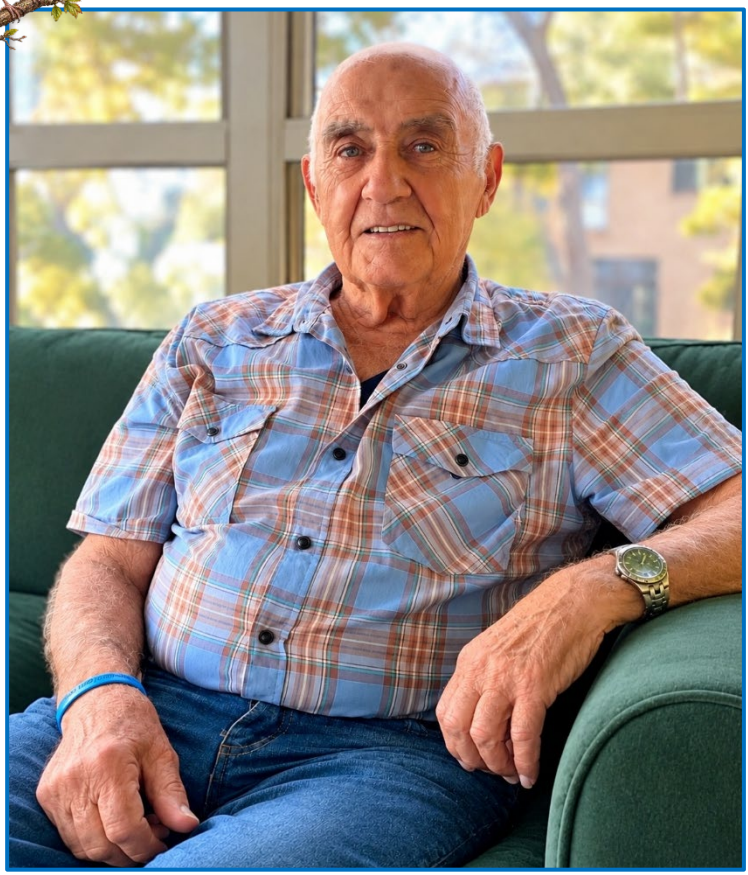
Celebrating the Life of



Charlie Abdilla

'Ta Manew'

Born 23rd August 1938

Żurrieq, Malta

Born to Eternal life 26th September 2026

Aged 88 Years

Requiem Mass and Thanksgiving for the Life of

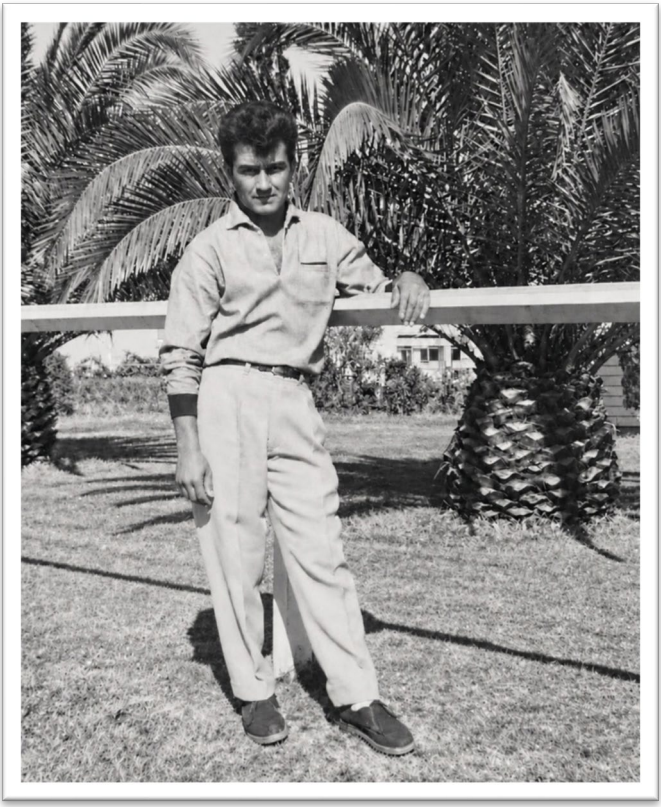
Charlie Abdilla

St John the Evangelist
Catholic Church, Riverstone
8th October 2026





'Forever in Our Hearts'



Reunited with his beloved wife, Tessie,
his daughter Rita and his grandson Timothy.
Deeply missed by his loving children and their spouses,
Therese & Mario, Nicky & Helen, Joseph, Maria and Daniel,
his adoring grandchildren, Rebecca, Stacey, Craig, Brendan, Ricky,
Luke, Bonnie, Rachel, Kaylee, Megan, Patrick, Bradley, Sharni,
Abbey, Bryce, Cindy, Candice, Aaron, Kane and Jed,
and his cherished great grandchildren, Rosie, Maisie, Zahara,
Georgia, Marnie, Archie, Ivy, Hazel, Zahlee, Oakley, Alfie, Oliver,
Arthur and Macey, Sonny and Paisley with twins on the way.



'Two Become One'

Joined Together in Holy Matrimony

8th April 1961

at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church, Wentworthville

FUNERAL LITURGY

Celebrant: Fr. Zakaria Gayed

(Please Stand)

Entrance Hymn – Let it Be - Sung by Stacey Abdilla & Tanya Carboni

Introductory Rites

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

All: **Amen.**

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.

Lighting of the Pascal Candle

Nicky Abdilla

Fr. Zakaria: In baptism, Charlie was enlightened by Christ. He walked as a child of the light and kept the flame of faith alive in his heart.

All: **May Christ, the eternal and unfading light now welcome Charlie into the kingdom of light and peace.**

Sprinkling of Holy Water

Fr. Zakaria: In the waters of baptism, Charlie died with Christ and was born with Him to eternal life.

All: **May Charlie now share eternal life with Christ in glory.**

Placing of the Pall
Bonnie and Abbey Dimech

Placing of the Symbols of Faith and Life
Sharni Abdilla, Cindy Ayscough, Candice Abdilla, Zarena Gatt & Pauline Azzopardi

Penitential Rite

Fr. Zakaria: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins that we may prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Fr. Zakaria: Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

Fr. Zakaria: Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Words of Remembrance *(Please be Seated)*
Grandchildren – Abbey, Rebecca and Stacey on behalf of all the family.

Opening Prayer

O God, almighty Father, our faith professes that Your Son died and rose again; mercifully grant, that through this mystery your servant, Charlie, who has fallen asleep in Christ, may rejoice to rise again through Him. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

(Please be Seated)

First Reading

Read by Megan Ayscough

A reading from the book of Apocalypse 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Read by Bonnie Dimech

℟ **The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

All: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

All: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

All: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

All: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.



Second Reading

Read by Mary Mason

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 4:6-8

As for me, the time has come to depart. I have fought the good fight to the end, I have run the race to the finish, I have kept the faith. All there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, he upright judge, will give to me on that day, not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

(Please stand)

All: **Alleluia, alleluia!**
I Am the resurrection and the Life says the Lord,
Whoever believes in me will never die.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of John 14:1-6

Jesus said to the 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.**

(Please be seated)

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful *(Please stand)*

Fr. Zakaria:
Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for His Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to His:

Kaylee Ayscough:
We thank God for the gift of Nunnu, a loving person. Thank you for his love and outstretched arms which welcomed us with unconditional love. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Kaylee Ayscough:
As Nunnu showed us the qualities of love, strength, courage, respect, honesty, forgiveness, and loyalty, may we in turn show these qualities to others. Lord, hear us.

Kaylee Ayscough:
For those who cared for Nunnu including the doctors, nurses and staff at Hamlyn Terrace Care Community. May they continue to be blessed in their work as they care for all of God's Children. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Kaylee Ayscough:
May the memories we have of Nunnu continue to unite our family and be a constant source of strength to each of us. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Kaylee Ayscough:
We know that Nunnu has been welcomed by his wife Tessie, his daughter Rita and grandson Timothy. We pray that Nunnu, Rita and Tim will look after each other and together comfort and are there for those of us who are left behind. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Kaylee Ayscough:
God bless all our family and those who grieve the loss of Nunnu. Keep us close in our love. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fr. Zakaria:
Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and voices of Your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

(Please be Seated)

Offertory Procession Hymn – All His Children

Gifts brought forward by Mary Mason and Mary Gatt

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Invitation to Prayer

(Please Stand)

Fr. Zakaria: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His Holy Church.**

Prayer Over the Gifts



Fr. Zakaria: Lord, receive these gifts we offer for the salvation of Charlie.
May Christ be merciful in judging him for he believed in Christ as his Lord and saviour. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Preface

Fr. Zakaria: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Fr. Zakaria: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Fr. Zakaria: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right and just.**

Fr. Zakaria: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In him the hope of the blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying, might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed, for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven. And so, with the angels and archangels, with thrones and dominions, and with all the hosts and powers of heaven

we sing the hymn of your glory as without end we acclaim:

All: **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.

Eucharistic Prayer

(Please Kneel)

Fr. Zakaria: The mystery of faith

All: **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,**
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Fr. Zakaria: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

(Please Stand)

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Fr. Zakaria: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:



All: **Our Father, who art in heaven**
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Fr. Zakaria: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

Sign of Peace

Fr. Zakaria: Lord, Jesus Christ who said to Your apostles: I leave you peace, My peace I give you. Look not on our sins but on the faith of Your Church and grant us the peace and unity of Your Kingdom where You live for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**



Fraction Rite

All: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:**
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace.

Holy Communion *(Please kneel)*

Fr. Zakaria: Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Hymn – Peace in the Valley *(Please be Seated)*

Thanksgiving Hymn – Amazing Grace

Prayer After Communion *(Please stand)*

Fr. Zakaria: Lord God, Your Son Jesus Christ gave us the sacrament of His Body and Blood to guide us on our pilgrim way to Your kingdom. May Charlie, who shared in this Eucharist, come to the banquet of life Christ has prepared for us.

All: **Amen.**

Photo Tribute

Final Commendation & Farewell

Fr. Zakaria: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Charlie 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 Charlie again and enjoy his friendship. Although this congregation will dispense in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of

his kingdom. Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of Charlie. May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

Fr. Zakaria: Saints of God, come to his aid!
Come to meet him, angels of the Lord!

All: **Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Fr. Zakaria: May Christ, who calls you, take you to Himself;
May angels lead you to the side of Abraham.

All: **Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Fr. Zakaria: Eternal rest grant upon him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

All: **Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.**

Sprinkling and Incensing the Casket

Fr. Zakaria: May the angels lead you into paradise:
May the Martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. Let us take Charlie to his place of rest.

Recessional Hymn – Cause I Love You

Procession to Charlie's Final Resting Place

The cortège will proceed to
Pinegrove Memorial Park
Kington Street, Minchinbury.

Afterwards please join us to share memories and refreshments at
Riverstone Schofields Memorial Club
23 Market Street, Riverstone.

Sincere Thanks

"We wish to thank you for accompanying Charlie in life and for your kind and comforting expressions of sympathy. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered."



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In Loving Memory of Charlie








1981
TRU-BLU












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Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I've savoured much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch.

If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

- Anne Lindgen Davidson



"Cheers ... Until we Meet Again"