

Celebration for the life of

Thelma Muriel Campbell Galbraith



Sunrise: January 31st, 1935 - Sunset: January 5th 2024

Stella Maris Catholic Church, Cayman Brac
Friday, 12 January, 2024
2PM

Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC
Organist: Raymond Scott

Interment at West End Cemetery

Order of Liturgy

Processional Hymn: # 32 Amazing Grace

Priest: Introductory Greeting

Priest: Sprinkling of Holy water

Placing of the Pall Jean Anderson, Marie Chin, Estelle Stilling

Placing of the Christian Symbols

Bible

Rosary

Crucifix- Andrew Galbraith, Mason Bodden

Priest: Opening Prayer

Liturgy of word:

First Reading: Wisdom 3: 1-9..... Gerry O'Brien

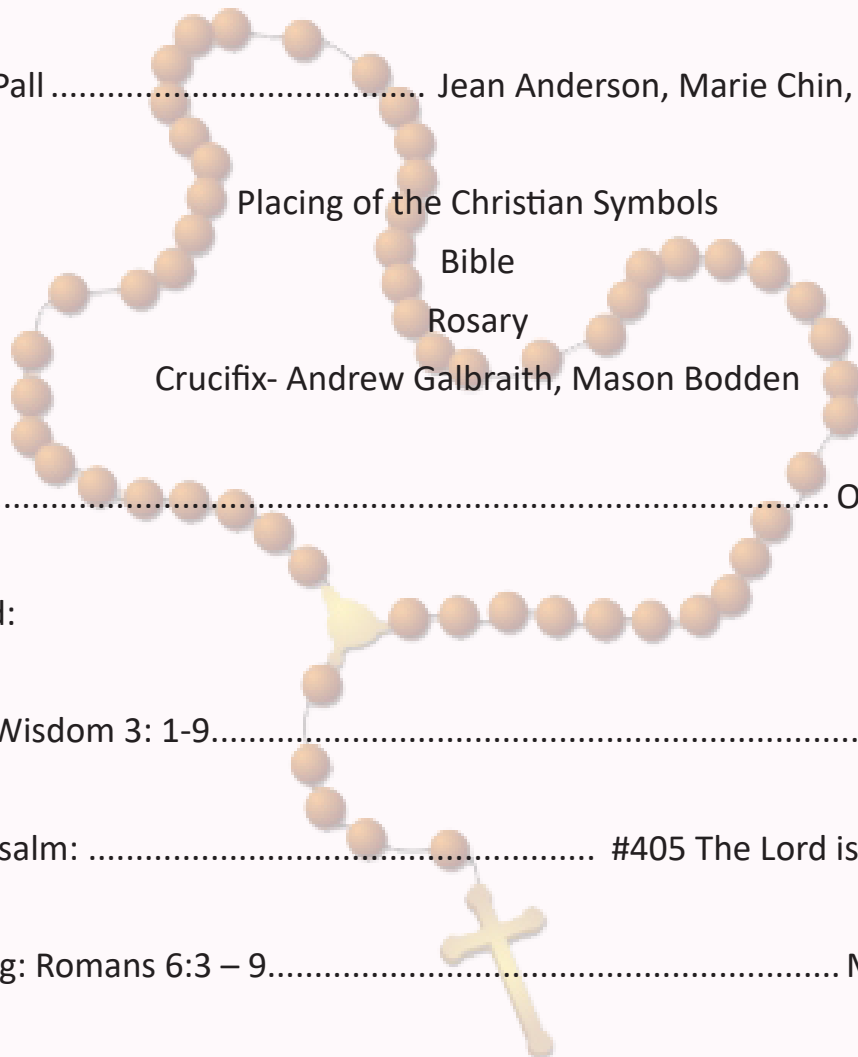
Responsorial Psalm: #405 The Lord is My Shepherd

Second Reading: Romans 6:3 – 9..... Michael Hundt

Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Come, you are blessed by my Father, says the Lord; inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Homily

Prayers of Faithful

Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Hymn #49 Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine

Communion Hymn: #476 What a Friend we Have in Jesus

Obituary Hon. Moses Kirkconnell, OBE, JP, MP

Final Commendation

Recessional Hymn: #360 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Pallbearers

Dean Galbraith
O'Neil Galbraith

Christopher Galbraith
Norbert Scott

Cantrell Scott
Paul Conolly

Honorary Pallbearers

Andrew
Philip
Errol
Trevor
Dins
Colman

Marty
Wayne
Jason
Charles
Chase
Lorin

Bruce
John
Harrison
Cornel
Terry
Matthew

Ushers

Nola Bodden
Theresa Scott

Guest Book Attendants

Liz Walton Thompson
Zenith Varghese

Celebration for the life of Thelma Muriel Campbell Galbraith

Sunrise: January 31st, 1935 -Sunset: January 5th 2024

Date Of Memorial Service: Friday, 12th 2024, 2PM At Stella Maris Catholic Church, Cayman Brac

Thelma Galbraith SRN, SCN, better known as Nurse Thelma, was born in Trelawny, Jamaica to parents Isabella who lived to 104 years and Joseph Foster who died 66 years old, who was of German descent. Thelma was the first of 11 siblings, four daughters and seven brothers. When her father saw her at birth, he called her “My Blue Bird of Paradise.”

Thelma moved from Jamaica to the United Kingdom to take up training and became a Registered nurse specializing in midwifery at St Luke’s Hospital (Bradford) in 1963, where she excelled in many areas of nursing.

After completing her training in England, she returned to Jamaica in 1965 and registered with General Nursing Council For Jamaica. While there she worked for several years at the University of the West Indies Hospital in Kingston. She eventually went on to become head nurse at Appleton Estate Clinic and later became the head nurse at New Market Health Center (1966) in Westmoreland.

In 1968 she moved to Cayman Brac to accept the position of Head Nurse at Stake Bay Clinic. Some of the nurses she helped trained and mentored included Carol Sue, Merlene, Juline, Evadne and Elosie. During her time on Cayman Brac as a midwife she delivered many babies, she was also actively involved with the opening of Faith Hospital.

In November 1969 she met and married Bertram Galbraith, a marine civil engineer. In 1973 they welcomed their son Dean.

In November 1972, she returned to England where she worked for a short time as a visiting nurse to schools in Tunbridge Wells, Kent before making her way to Sheffield in Yorkshire where she continued as a mid-wife at the Nether Edge Hospital the same hospital where her son Dean was born.

After a few years of mid wifey she joined one of the largest hospitals in England, Northern General Hospital in Sheffield in 1978 where she worked as a Sister on the Geriatric Ward for many years and was promoted to Assistant Matron, until her retirement. She was loved and respected by all who knew her.

She was not just a nurse but an exemplified nurse being top in all her nursing and midwifery certifications, where Leeds Regional Hospital Board Awarded her first place in her final examinations (1958) and St Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing First Prize in her second year of nursing.

During her time in England, she also pursued other certifications in Stress Management (1992), Aromatherapy (1991), Continue Education In Management Studies (1986), Counselling Skills (1990).

In her retirement in England, she was always busy filling her days and kept her house immaculately clean and her garden well-trimmed and watered. She was very proud of her home and always made the time

to give it her attention. Crocheting, Tapestry Artwork, Knitting, Decors, Hats ad Handbags were all things she could do well. And once done she would donate them away while at the same time teach others how to knit and crochet.

In the spring and summer months she would spend time gardening, strawberry picking and going on tours throughout England, Scotland and Europe. She loved playing bingo and would often visit Top Rank Club in Sheffield and compete for the many prizes that were up for grabs.

Indoors you would find her playing Scrabble, Chinese Checkers, Cards, and even dominoes with Grand Ma and close relatives and friends.

When she had a solitaire moment you would find her reading one of her favorite books, like Nora Roberts or even playing her favorite records like Nat King Cole to fill up the day from her music collection she built-up over the years. She loved to dance and would often attend social gatherings with family and friends and have a drink or two. As my mom use to say when you asked her if she wanted another drink she would reply "a bird cannot fly on one wing".

In the Mid- Nineties she and Bertram returned to live in Cayman Brac, they became active members of the Veteran & Seaman's Society.

Every morning she would read from her Magnificat, praying with the rosary. She was a staunch Catholic and adhered strongly to her daily Catholic rituals praying and reciting the rosary each morning.

During her first trip to Cayman Brac being a devoted Catholic and seeing the need for Sunday Mass for the Catholic community she invited the Priest to come over to host services on her front porch. Eventually she was instrumental in establishing the Stella Maris Catholic Church.

She was a great cook and past these skills onto her son Dean. She enjoyed baking, making English scones, Yorkshire Pudding, Jams, and Sorrel. Leading up to Christmas in Sheffield her basement became a winery of all flavors and maturity. She had an arsenal of secret recipes she kept close to her chest. And love to grow her own fruits and vegetables in her own plot in her garden wherever she lived.

She was very close to nature and very fond of pets and would often talk about her poodle in England called Cinders and how she expected to have the same Sunday dinner like everybody else at the table. Then there was Dusty her cat in England a fighter with so many scars as if she had been to Vietnam and back. While here on the Brac her pet loving ways followed her and she gave home to over 16 cats before Estelle caught and had them all spaded. They knew when it was time to be fed and made their way onto the deck at the exact time every day for Francis or mom to feed them. She was a very caring person in a special way.

Thelma also served on the board of Affordable Housing, and formed the Sister Island Diabetic Support Club (2009) ; The Senior Club and The Sow & Sew Club. She became a recognized Pioneer at the National Heroes Day 2015 for Health Services Pioneers. She was well loved and respected by all who knew her.

Her nursing career embraced the life span. She cared for patients as they welcome new life in the world. And she care for patients at the end of their lives. She was truly an earth angel. And was loved and respected by all who knew her. She was a bright in this dim world and her vibrant spirit will live on through family, friends and her substantial contributions during her time on this earth.

She survived by her children Arlene, Marie, Andrew, Christopher, Dean and Grand Children Wayne, Keisha, Jason, Charles, Chase, Lorin and Peter. And her brothers Philips, Errol, Trevor, Dins, Colman and Marty and Sisters Jennifer, Jean, and Donna, sisters in laws, Felicia Galbraith, Joan Scott and special cousin Denice Bothwell.

May her soul rest in peace. We love you dearly.

Dearest Mom, Grandma, Thelma,

We were church friends before you introduced Andrew and I, you had already decided I was going to be your daughter-in-law although I didn't know it at the time. After he and I were married we became even closer, you made it very clear that I was definitely your favorite daughter in law, after all you had picked me.

After my precious Mommy & Aunt passed away you were the eldest person in our family, Melanie & Peter saw you as their grandma, they enjoyed spending time with you & doing anything they could for you.

When Mason was born, you insisted he call you Grandma which made Melanie very happy, she & you remained close until her passing. When Mason heard you had passed away he was so sad, cried so much and said he is going to miss you but he knows you're in Heaven with his precious Mommy.

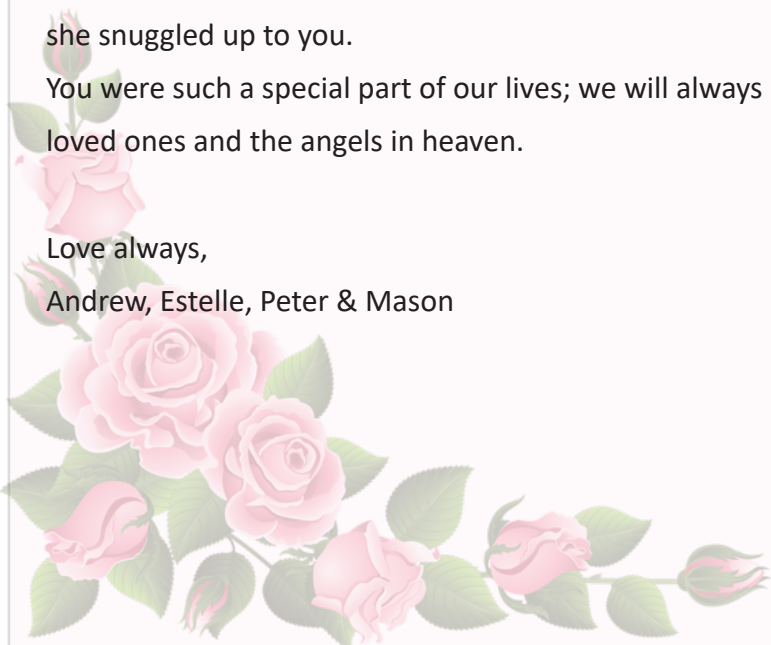
We had so many good times together, attending Church together, picnics, family dinners, trips to the Farm Store with Mason's sister Montana in the back seat to reach over to kiss you, going for pizza & just visiting.

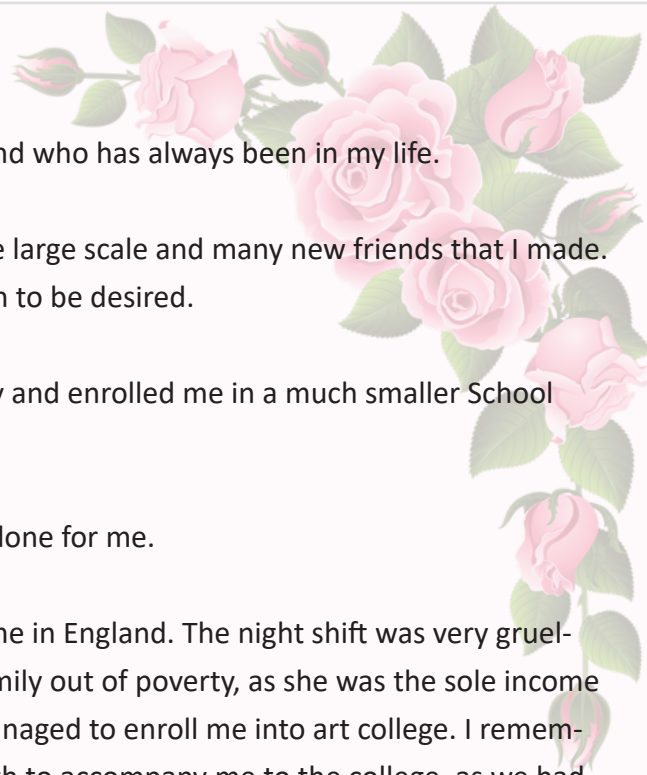
After you went into the rest home, we didn't get to see you very often, but I would always drop off some little treats for you & we would take you to church. When Andrew came over at the weekends, he would take you out shopping & to the hotel for lunch with Skye. On the way back he would take you by the house to see my newly rescued puppies. You fell in love with them and desperately wanted to take one of them to live with you. That's why I got special permission to bring our little Cuddle Bug over to see you in the hospital, your face just lit up when I brought her in & you patted her when she snuggled up to you.

You were such a special part of our lives; we will always love and miss you. Rest in peace with your loved ones and the angels in heaven.

Love always,

Andrew, Estelle, Peter & Mason





My tribute.

Mommy, was my protector, educator, cheerleader and best friend who has always been in my life.

As a young man, starting high school, I was overwhelmed by the large scale and many new friends that I made. All of these distractions left my school work and behaviors much to be desired.

Being the loving and caring Mom that she was, she acted swiftly and enrolled me in a much smaller School with less distractions.

Looking back now it was one of the best things she could have done for me.

My Mother worked solely night shift as a midwife during her time in England. The night shift was very grueling, but my Mother sacrificed her health and life to keep the family out of poverty, as she was the sole income earner in the family. I am still in wonder as to how my Mom managed to enroll me into art college. I remember after her night shift, the next morning she found the strength to accompany me to the college, as we had missed enrollment by a day. With her persistence and passion, by the end of that day I was officially enrolled. Later after graduating, one day she sat me down at the dinner table when I was visiting her, and gave me advice about returning to the Cayman Islands to find employment in my trained field.

Throughout my life, my Mom would always remind me about my Nigerian roots, and she made me feel proud of who I was.

So, words cannot express my true emotions and the deep gratitude and Love that I feel for my Mom, for the love she showed me, through it all.

I find comfort knowing that I was able to show her my gratitude throughout the years up until the week that she passed I am so happy to have spent so much time with my Mom.

I Love you very much and will miss you dearly my Mommy "Thelma G".

From your loving Son, Christopher Chima Onwubuya Galbraith.

Tribute From Arlene, Marie And Family

“Even though we may not have had as much time as we would have liked with our mother, we nonetheless deeply saddened by her passing . We regret that not all of us will be able to attend her celebration of life ceremony , but even so, we acknowledge the value and influence she had on our lives, and will always remember her. We hope that as we come together to honor her life today, we might find solace in the love and support that we can provide to one another through this trying time. Mom, may you rest in peace.”

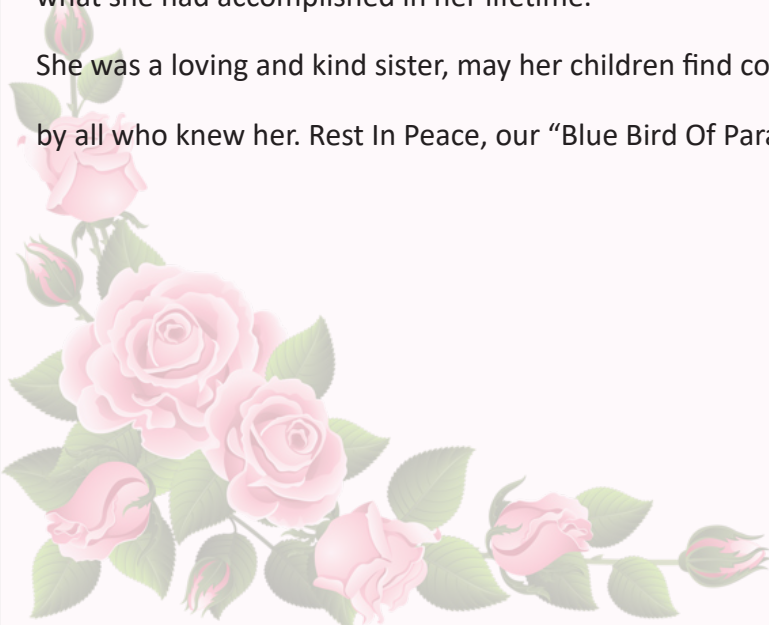
Tribute from Andrew Galbraith

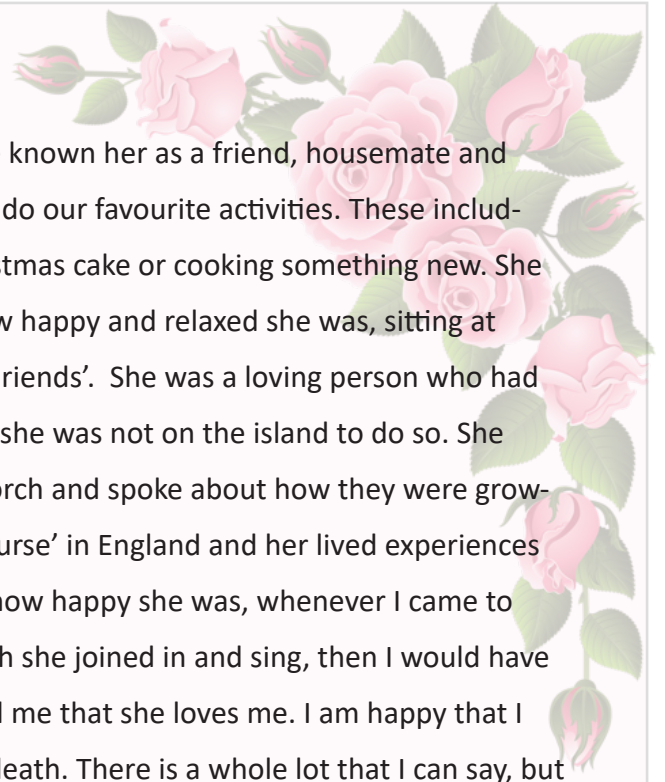
Mom you are forever loved, forever missed.

Tribute from Phillip, Jean, Jennifer, Donna, Errol, Trevor, Dins, Colman, Marty

In tribute to our eldest sister Thelma, who was our mother’s first child and was like a mother to some of the younger siblings. We are deeply saddened by her passing and deeply regret we did not have a chance to see her often but we remember her with love and affection as we shared many happy times together. Her achievements in her profession as a nurse in the UK, Jamaica and Cayman Islands made us all proud of what she had accomplished in her lifetime.

She was a loving and kind sister, may her children find comfort knowing that she was loved and respected by all who knew her. Rest In Peace, our “Blue Bird Of Paradise”.





Miss Thelma has been known to me for the past 15 years. I have known her as a friend, housemate and employer. I remembered the good days, when we would sit and do our favourite activities. These included, watching wheel of fortune, crocheting, cooking, baking Christmas cake or cooking something new. She would normally say, "Anything can make a meal." I can recall how happy and relaxed she was, sitting at her favorite spot, in the living room, when playing 'Words with Friends'. She was a loving person who had 'hundreds' of cats. She ensured that they were fed daily, even if she was not on the island to do so. She took pride in her plants and so we always sat together on the porch and spoke about how they were growing nicely. I enjoyed listening to her stories about her life as a 'Nurse' in England and her lived experiences growing up. I remembered visiting her in the hospital, and saw how happy she was, whenever I came to visit her. I would sing her a song 'God will take care of you', which she joined in and sing, then I would have prayed with her. Even though she was ill, she was still able to tell me that she loves me. I am happy that I have shared great memories with her, even the day before her death. There is a whole lot that I can say, but these memories will live on.

Miss Frances

To our grandma the beautiful memories of you when we were growing up and staying over with you at your house at the weekends, you taking us to church on a Sunday, playing in the park when we came back home, your Sunday dinners and all the love you showered us with,
My Grandma Thelma "she is gone but she is everywhere" Grandma your memory will never fade "in life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. Rest in peace your Grandsons Chase & Lorin

"Thelma, If I had a flower for every time I think about you, I could walk forever in my garden.

Your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part, God has you in his keeping, I have you in my heart."
~Denise.





Graveside Service

Prayer Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC.
Rite of Committal Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

O Lord my God

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joys shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Thanks & Acknowledgement

The family of the late Thelma Galbraith would like to thank everyone who loved and supported her during her illness especially Nurse Frances Clyne and her Staff at The Kirkconnell Care Home and Tibbetts Anex, Dr Thompson and the staff at Faith Hospital, a special thank you to Nurse Amy Hunt for her care and support to her and to the family after her passing. Our thanks and appreciation to all our friends and family for their love and support after her passing