MASS OF THANKSGIVING
For the Life of

Criselda Villegas

June 14 1962 – October 21 2026

St. Ignatius Catholic Church
Walkers Road, George Town, Grand Cayman
Saturday, October 31
10.30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC
Organist: Reymar Latap
Choir: The 4th Symphony
Cantor: Marites Perida

Order of Mass Service

Processional Hymn: #32 Amazing Grace ..... Congregation
Placing of the Pall: ..... Rey Villegas and Christopher Villegas
Placing of the Christian Symbols – Bible, Crucifix, Rosary .....
Irene Ebanks, Hanklin Ebanks and Rosemarie Villegas

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Daniel 12: 1-3 ..... Ms. Jessica Rayos del Sol
Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm : #405 The Lord is My Shepherd ..... Cantor: Marites Perida

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 ..... Ms. Jennifer Weber
Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:..... Cantor: Marites Perida
Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Priest: The Lord be with you
All: And with your Spirit
Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
All: Glory to You, O Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25 -30 … .....Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC
Priest: The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily: .....Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC

Prayers of the Faithful .....Mr. Ed Weber

Offertory Hymn: #245 Make me a channel of your peace ..... Congregation

Sanctus (sung)

Eucharistic Prayer

Memorial Acclamation (Sung)

Great Amen (Sung)

Our Father (Sung)

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God (Sung)

Communion..... Fr. Anthony Fernandes, SAC and Mr. Art Ursua
Communion Hymn: #505 On Eagle Wings..... Congregation
Prayer After Communion

Meditation Hymn: ..... Ms. Marites Perida

Eulogy

Tributes..... Villegas Family

Recessional Hymn: #293 How Great Thou Art ..... Congregation

Pallbearers

Rey Villegas

Christopher Villegas

Hanklin Ebanks

Edward Severino

Eliezer Severino

Edwin Severino

Eulogy

Life Story of Criselda Villegas

Criselda Villegas was born on June 14, 1962, in the town of Hagonoy, province of Bulacan, Philippines, to Ricardo De Guia and Sabina De Guia.

Criselda earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in the Philippines. She worked at a public school in Bulacan, where she met her husband, Ireneo, affectionately known as Rey. They married in June 1985 and were blessed with two children: a daughter, Irene, and a son, Christopher.

Criselda's life revolved around children. She worked as an elementary school teacher for over 20 years before moving to the Cayman Islands in 2010. She then worked at Discovery Kids for 15 years before retiring alongside her husband. Together, they enjoyed traveling overseas, cooking, eating, doing household chores, watching TV, and simply laughing together.

In 2017, Criselda was diagnosed with stage IV metastatic breast cancer. She immediately began chemotherapy and underwent various treatments, therapies, and procedures. Through it all, she never lost her hope or faith. Instead, both grew stronger.

Criselda continued to fight her battle with courage and faith. Along the way, she met other patients and became a source of inspiration to them. Her life became a true testament to God's love and faithfulness, reminding others never to doubt but to trust in His plan.

Left to mourn her passing are her beloved husband, Rey; daughter, Irene; son, Christopher; son-in-law, Hank; daughter-in-law, Rose; brothers, Crispin and Fernando; and sisters, Cristeta and Chabina. She also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, extended family members, and dear friends who will cherish her memory.

Tributes

From Your Beloved Husband Rey; Your Daughter Irene; Your Son Christopher; Yous Son-in-Law Hanklin; and Daughter-in-Law Rosemarie

Mom, how do we begin to put into words the love, gratitude and heartbreak we feel as we say goodbye to you? You have been the best mother and wife anyone could ask for. You filled our home with unconditional love, warmth and endless sacrifices. You were, and will forever be, the anchor of our family- our source of strength, our safe haven, and the heart that held us together.
Everyone who had the privilege of knowing you would always say the same thing: that you have the purest heart, that you are one of the kindest, sweetest and most generous souls they have encountered. And we couldn't be any prouder to call ourselves your family. You taught us what it means to love selflessly, to give wholeheartedly, to care deeply, and to live with grace and kindness. These are the gifts you have given us that no amount of time can ever take away.

One of the most powerful testaments to your beautiful soul was the way you faced your battle with cancer. Through every needle that pierced your skin, every chemotherapy session, every procedure and surgery, you showed us what extraordinary faith, courage and hope truly look like. Even in your suffering, you continue to inspire others by becoming a reminder to them that hope can still shine through the darkest days, that faith can carry us through the most painful moments, and that every treatment is not a battle against cancer, but a symbol of hope, life and the possibility of tomorrow.

You trusted God through every uncertain moment. You held on to your faith even the road was difficult, and you surrendered your life to His plans with a strength that continues to inspire us. Now, as we navigate this unimaginable loss, we will do our best to follow your example. We will trust in God's plan, we will hold on to our faith, and we will believe that the same God who carried you through your journey will carry us through ours.

Right now, the pain of losing you is beyond anything words can describe. Our hearts ache for your presence, your voice, your smile, your hugs, and all the little things that made you you. Although we can no longer hold your hand, we will carry you in our hearts every single day. Your love will continue to guide us, your faith will continue to strengthen us, and your kindness will continue to live through us. We will honour you by loving one another the way you loved us, by loving and caring for Dad the way you loved and cared for him, and by living lives that reflect the beautiful person you have always been.

Thank you for being our mom. Thank you for being Dad's loving wife. Thank you for fighting to live longer to be with us, your family. We are forever grateful for the time God blessed us with you. We will carry that gratitude alongside our grief, knowing that being loved by you has been one of the greatest privileges of our lives.

Rest peacefully now, our beautiful Mother. You have fought so bravely, loved so deeply, and given so much. You no longer have to endure the pain or the struggles of this world. We pray that you are resting in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father, surrounded by the peace you truly deserve.

Until we meet again, you will forever be our greatest blessing, our guiding light, and the most beautiful part of our story.

We love you, Mom. Always and forever.

Tribute from Your Siblings; Crispin, Cristeta, Chabina and Fernando

From Cristeta

Sister Cris, your passing is so hard to accept. So many people were shocked, surprised, and confused. So many asked me, “Why? What happened to Ate Cris?” It was such sad news when we read the post saying you were gone. So many people messaged and called me one after another. They couldn’t believe you had left us, and they were deeply saddened. So many people loved you, sis. You told me you would get through it, that we would all get through it. On October 10 you chatted me: “Sister, don’t be sad, I have something to tell you. My lungs are cancerous too, but we’ll get through this.” When you told me that, my tears fell. I said we would get through it, because you are so strong-willed and so brave. God is merciful, you will heal, you will overcome this. We kept praying, asking for mercy to heal you and give you strength. You knew you never wanted me to be sad or to cry. You even told me when Freddie passed that it was okay to cry and natural to be sad. Now it’s you, and with the two of you gone, it is so hard. But I will try to bear it all. As I said, the Lord has a reason for taking you from us. You won’t feel any more pain. You are going to be with God, and you will be reunited with Inang, Amang, Jenny, Freddie, and Roland. You will be with the Lord in heaven. Sis Cris, you were always one of the people who gave me strength. You became like a mother to me when Inang passed away. You were always the one supporting me. You were such a kind sister, so helpful and generous. People knew your kindness, your goodness of heart, and how you always helped others. Even the food you were about to eat, you would still give away to others. I wasn’t even able to care for you, hug you, or kiss you. I will miss you so much. I’ll miss our chats, our calls, our gossip sessions over chat and phone, and the sweet way you were with me. Now I have no one to tell when I’m sad or upset. You were so excited to come home to the Philippines, so happy because we would all finally see each other here. You had so many food requests for when you got home, and so many places we were going to visit. Don’t worry, I will look after Ren and Atong even though they’re married now, and Kuya Rey as well. Thank you so much, Sis Cris, for everything: for your love and all your help to my family, to Thea and Alcris, and most of all to me. You were such a wonderful daughter, sister, and friend. I am so lucky that you were my sister. You will remain in our hearts and minds forever. We will never forget you. We send you off with a TIGHT HUG AND A KISS... Until we meet again, we will miss you. WE LOVE YOU SO, SO MUCH...

From Chabina

To my dearest sister Cris, Thank you for everything, for being our mother ever since Inang passed away. Best friend and sister, that’s what you were to me, and you know that. I’m grateful for your love and support for us: me, my two children, and my grandchild Lara. You stood as a second parent to my children. I am so blessed that you were my sister. If the Lord gave me another life, I would still choose you to be my ate. Losing you hurts us so much, but I don’t let myself think that you’re truly gone. Please always guide us, especially your children and Kuya Rey. Rest now, sis. Where you’re going, you’ll be with Inang, Amang, and Jenny. Until we meet again, my dear sister. We love you.

From Gina

To my sister-in-law, Ka Endang, Thank you for everything. You are engraved in my heart and in all our hearts, and you will never be erased. We love you so much, Ka Endang. Only memories are left for us to return to now. God knows how hard we prayed and pleaded. We will always pray for you, and please pray for us too from up there, especially for your husband and children.

Tribute from Nieces and Nephews

Dear Tita Cris,

We hope that, wherever you are, you can hear these words and feel how deeply we love you. Your passing is so hard to accept, but even through our grief, we find comfort in knowing that you are free from pain and resting peacefully in the Lord's loving embrace.

From all of us, the De Guia cousins, thank you for being one of our greatest supporters. Thank you for your advice, your encouragement, and for always believing in us. Your warmth, kindness, and easygoing nature made us feel comfortable and loved.

Whether near or far, you always found a way to make us feel your presence. Even those of us who never had the chance to meet you in person felt your love through your thoughtful messages and the way you checked on us. You made each of us feel that we belonged, and we will always carry that feeling in our hearts.

Thank you for fighting for ten years to stay with us. Even through all the pain you endured, you continued to put others first. You were the one hurting, yet you worried about whether you were inconveniencing us.

For those of us who had the chance to care for you, even briefly, those moments will always be precious. Whenever you said "sorry" or asked for our patience while we helped you, we hope you knew that you never needed to apologize. We never grew tired of caring for you, Tita. We love you, and every opportunity to care for you was another chance to show you how much.

We thought we would be the ones giving you strength, yet so often, we found our courage in you. You showed us how to remain strong and keep going through difficult times. You gave it your very best, Tita, and we are so proud of you. Your courage was never measured by the outcome of your battle. Thank you for fighting to stay with the people you loved until the very end.

We will miss your sweet, affectionate ways, especially when there was something you wanted to eat. We will treasure the memories of accompanying you to Breast Cancer Foundation and Cancer Society events, along with the simple moments we shared. If we could be by your side again, we would gladly do it all over again. And when we meet again, we'll share some balut, Tita.

Thank you for keeping our family close and for nurturing the love that binds us together. We promise to continue caring for one another, to keep our family united, and to carry your love forward. You will always be part of who we are.

We love you dearly, Teacher Cris. We will speak your name, share your stories, and hold your memory close. You will forever be in our hearts.

Rest peacefully, our dear Tita. Until we meet again.

Thanks & Acknowledgements

The family of Criselda Villegas wishes to express our heartfelt and deepest gratitude for the outpouring love, support, calls and prayers during her illness and time of loss. Thank you for joining us in the eucharist celebration of thanksgiving for the life of our beloved Criselda.

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the medical teams at Health City and Health Services Authority who cared for her. Our family is forever grateful to Dr. Vineetha Binoy, Dr. Archita Joshi, Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil Dr. Sriharsha Venkataramanaswamy and Dr. Vikas Roshan.

Our never-ending thanks also to Cayman Islands Cancer Society; Cayman Islands Breast Cancer Foundation; Jasmine Palliative & Hospice Care; Discovery Kids; Shangri-La Bed & Breakfast; St. Ignatius Catholic Church; Bodden's Funeral Home; Families and friends all over the world.