



We Thank You

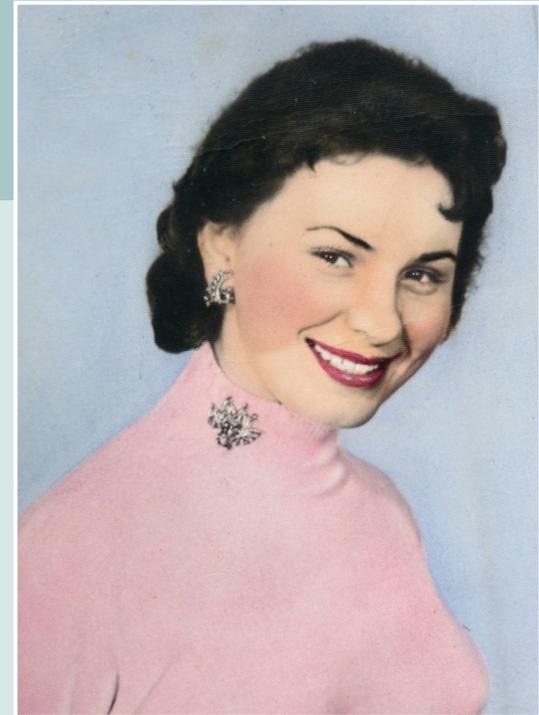
The family wish to thank everyone for their love and support.

After the service, please join us for light refreshments at
Wallsend Diggers, 5 Tyrrell St, Wallsend.

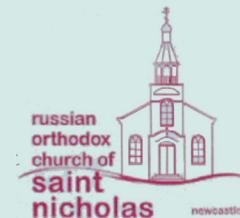


In Loving Memory Of
Eugenia "Gina" Thoroughgood
nee Kallaur

20 April 1938 - 19 November 2021 - 83 years



Funeral Service
10am Friday,
26th November 2021



Understanding funeral services in the Russian Orthodox Church



The Orthodox Christian funeral service is different from other contemporary Christian funeral services in three main ways:

The casket is open, and the priest and congregation make physical contact with the departed one;

The priest stands at the head of the casket facing the sanctuary, rarely addressing the congregation directly during the service; and Very little, if anything at all, is said about the past of the departed one; instead, various prayers are read and hymns sung, expressing Orthodox Christian belief about death and hope for the one departed.

The body is laid reverently in the casket, and is prepared in a way that gives expression to the Orthodox Christian faith. A simple paper “crown: bearing the words of an important prayer - “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!” - is placed on the head. The crown is an ancient symbol of victory, and this custom shows that faith in God expressed in prayer will give victory over death. The body is covered with a white shroud bearing symbols of resurrection of Christ. A cross is placed in the hands, symbolising the departed one’s confession of the Christian faith. Later, a copy of the Prayer of Absolution is also placed in the hands, bearing witness to the prayer of the Holy Orthodox Church for the forgiveness of the departed one.

The body is treated reverently, as something precious all that remains to us in a physical sense of one dear to us. It is kissed at the end of the service for one last time in this world. At the cemetery, the casket is lowered with solemn prayer into the grave, there to await the general resurrection.

Some of the prayers and hymns in the service are very theological in content: these express the Orthodox Christian faith of the departed one and those who pray. Some prayers refer to the Christian martyrs, for whom death was not a thing to fear or dread, but an entry into eternal life. Some are written as if in the words of the departed one: “I beg and entreat you all, that you pray without ceasing unto Christ God for me”. Others are simple requests to God for mercy, forgiveness, and loving-kindness.

The readings from the Holy Bible encourage faith and hope. Although not primarily directed to this purpose, one finds that these beautiful prayers, hymns and readings do bring consolation, and that they do inspire one with a sense of the value of the life of the relative, friend or acquaintance now taken from us. One feels that the Orthodox Christian is farewelled fittingly, with all the reverence and solemnity due to a faithful servant of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

