Requiem Mass
in celebration for the life of

Cilla Black O.B.E.

St. Mary’s Church, Woolton

Thursday 20th August 2015
1.00 pm
**Entrance Music** - “Clair de Lune” (*Debussy*)

**Opening Hymn**

*All things bright and beautiful,*  
*All creatures great and small,*  
*All things wise and wonderful,*  
*The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water,  
We gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell,  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

**Greeting** - Bishop Tom

**Opening Words & Musical Tribute** - “Faithful One” (*Sir Cliff Richard*)
Prayer - Bishop Tom

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,
you willingly gave yourself up to death,
so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.
We ask you to comfort your servants in their grief
and to receive Cilla into the arms of your mercy.
You alone are the Holy One, you are mercy itself;
by dying you unlocked the gates of life
for those who believe in you.
Forgive Cilla her sins
and grant her a place of happiness, light and peace
in the kingdom of your glory for ever.

Amen.

Liturgical of the Word

First Reading - read by Robert Willis

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I, and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.
Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference in your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be the household name that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect,
without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was;
There is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval.
Somewhere very near, just around the corner.
All is well.

Henry Scott Holland
Psalm
The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for His own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forevermore,
My dwelling place shall be.

Second Reading - read by Christopher Biggins
A reading from the book of Wisdom (3:1-9)
The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a sacred offering. When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they. They shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever. They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.
When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening,’ they said, ‘and the day is nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. They they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’
They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of the bread.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily - Bishop Tom
Introduction to Prayer - Bishop Tom
Dear Friends, let us join with one another in praying to Almighty God, not only for our departed sister Cilla, but also for the community of the Faithful, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

Prayers of the Faithful - read by Jimmy Tarbuck
For Cilla who, when she was baptised, was given the pledge of eternal life, that she may now be admitted to the company of the saints with Bobby, and their daughter Ellen.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
For Robert, Ben and Jack her beloved sons, and John and Allan, her beloved brothers and their families and friends, that they will continue to be inspired by her memory.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
For those whose lives ‘our’ Cilla has touched. That they will continue to remember her in their prayers.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
For the people of Liverpool, young and old, who took her to their hearts.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
For her many fans and admirers, who appreciated her many gifts, as entertainer and singer. May they fill the gap she has left in their lives, as with family and friends, with bouquets of treasured memories.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
For each and everyone in St. Mary’s Church today. She was our Mum, our Nan, our Sister, our inspiration, our treasured friend. May she find eternal peace.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
Bishop Tom:
Lord God, our shelter and our strength,
you listen to the cry of your people.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt,
and courage to live through this hour.
Make our faith strong, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I’m 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.

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

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

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 first begun.
Prayer over the gifts
Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Lord, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ. Accept these gifts and receive our sister Cilla into the glory of your Son, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

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 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 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:

**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.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take this, all of you, and eat of it,  
For this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:  
Take this, all of you, and drink from it,  
for this is the chalice of my Blood,  
the Blood of the new and eternal covenant,  
which will be poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs and with all the saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Cilla, our Pope Francis, our Bishop Malcolm, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.
Remember your servant Cilla
whom you have called from this world to yourself.
Grant that she who was united with your Son
in a death like his,
may also be one with him in his resurrection,
when from the earth
he will raise up in the flesh those who have died,
and transform our lowly body
after the pattern of his own glorious body.
To our departed brothers and sisters, too,
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory,
when you will wipe away every tear from our eyes.
For seeing you, our God, as you are,
we shall be like you for all the ages
and praise you without end, through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

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.
Amen.

At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:
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.
Deliver us, Lord, 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.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And with your spirit. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

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.

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.

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

Communion Music - “Anyone Who Had A Heart” (Cilla Black)
Post Communion Hymn
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell’s destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan’s side:
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Post Communion Prayer
Eternal God, you made the love of man and woman
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.
Grant mercy and peace to Cilla,
who was united in love with her husband.
May the care and devotion of her life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.
Look kindly on her family,
as they now turn to your compassion and love.
Strengthen their faith and lighten their loss.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Reading - Ben Willis
It was beautiful as long as it lasted,
The journey of my life.
I have no regrets whatsoever,
Save the pain I’ll leave behind;
Those dear hearts who love and care
And the strings pulling at the heart and soul,
The strong arms that held me up
When my own strength let me down.
At every turning of my life
I came across good friends,
Friends who stood by me
Even when the time raced me by.
Farewell, farewell my friends
I smile and bid you goodbye.
No, shed no tears, for I need them not,
All I need is your smile.
If you feel sad, do think of me,
For that’s what I’ll like.
For when you live in the hearts of those you love
Remember then - you never die.

Rabindranath Tagore

Final Tribute - Paul O’Grady

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

May the choirs of angels come to greet you.
May they speed you to paradise.
May the Lord enfold you in his mercy.
May you find eternal life.
Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister Cilla, in sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, she will rise with him on the last day.

We give thanks for the blessings which you have bestowed upon Cilla in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we meet in Christ and are with you and with our sister for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Now in peace, let us take Cilla to her place of rest.

Recessional Music - The Long And Winding Road (The Beatles)
The family thank you for your attendance today and for the many messages of sympathy received at this sad time. They are comforted by your support and prayers.

Donations if desired to either
Alder Hey Children’s Charity, Liverpool
or
Great Ormond Street Children’s Charity, London
c/o the undertakers