

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Karen Savage Churach

28TH FEBRUARY 1948 – 5TH JULY 2026



FUNERAL LITURGY

for
Karen Savage Churach

Tuesday 21 July 2026, 10:00am,
Bowra & Odea, 312 South Street Hilton

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Smile" Thalia Strings

INTRODUCTORY RITE

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

All: **Amen.**

Priest: May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace
and the Lord of life be always with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

EULOGY

Dan Churach

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 2Corinthians 9:3, 6-9 Read by Sashika Fernando

The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 23 Read by Sarah Sarmardin

SECOND READING 2Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 Read by Peter Blaire

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12a

Read by Fr Michael

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Read by Steve Green

Response: **Lord hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PHOTO PRESENTATION

"Only The Good Times" Beamer Brothers

"A Hawaiian Lullaby" Peter Moon

REFLECTION/FLORAL TRIBUTES

"Ave Maria" Thalia Strings

"Quartet No 75 Op 33" Haydn

FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Priest: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Karen 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 Karen
again and enjoy her friendship. Although this congregation will
disperse 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.

SONG OF FAREWELL

by Earnest Sands

PRAYER OF COMMITTAL

Please be up standing

DISMISSAL AND PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

RECESSIONAL

"Seabreeze" The Beamer Brothers



This is Karen's Life

KAREN CHURACH

Karen Churach was born on 28 February 1949 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Mary and Leo Savage. She was the third child at that time, with sister Maryellen and brother Leo Jr before her. Tragically, brother Leo drowned during the Christmas season in 1954 by falling through the ice on a nearby pond. Karen's youngest sister, Leoniece, was born soon thereafter.

Karen was a battler from childhood. Diagnosed with childhood leukaemia in the mid-1950s, she was fortunate enough to be among the early beneficiaries of a new pharmaceutical routine that eventually cured her of the dreaded disease. Other than her childhood memories of being sick, the one lifelong impact the disease left her was her love of the doctors and nurses who cared for her. It was natural that, after 12 years of education at Saint Matthew School and Saint Hubert Catholic High School in Philly, she enrolled in and completed her nursing training at Mercy Fitzgerald Nursing School in Darby, Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA

She worked a few years in Philadelphia hospitals before accepting the challenge of being the nurse in "The Bridge", a novel, government-funded drug rehabilitation centre for troubled adolescent children. On Halloween Day in 1972, Dan Churach was interviewed for a counsellor position at The Bridge and met Karen for the first time that day. The two of them became best friends at The Bridge and, within a few months, had their first date at a basketball game at Villanova College Fieldhouse, where the Wildcats took on the Providence College Friars. By their second date a week later, they began planning a wedding. Karen and Dan were married on 29 September 1973, less than 11 months after they met.

RHODE ISLAND

The young couple lived in Philadelphia for only a year after marrying before moving to Rhode Island. Karen worked at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital, mostly in the Emergency Room there. They bought their first house in Seekonk, Massachusetts, and their backyard bordered Rhode Island. On a Hawaiian holiday in 1976, the couple fell in love with the Islands and dreamed of leaving the cold winters behind and someday retiring on one of the neighbour islands. The thought of living in Hawaii persisted for the next few years, and on a summer holiday in 1979, while lying on a pebble beach at Moosehead Lake in Maine, Karen wondered aloud why they should wait another 35 or 40 years to do what they both wanted to do... move to Hawaii. The two of them agreed and spent that winter researching and planning. In June 1980, the young couple boarded a United Airlines flight from Rhode Island with 20 boxes and suitcases and headed west for Hawaii.



HAWAII

Karen and Dan spent 18 years in the Islands, the first two in Kaneohe, Oahu, where she worked at Castle Memorial Medical Centre, and Dan was a teacher at St Ann School. She and Dan settled into Island life quickly, and it rapidly became apparent to family and friends alike that they wouldn't be returning to the cold mainland. Two years later the couple accomplished their ultimate dream – to find opportunity on an outer island away from the hustle and bustle of Honolulu. In June 1982, Dan was hired at Parker School in Kamuela, and they moved again, this time to the Big Island of Hawaii.

The first few years Karen worked at Honoka'a Hospital, a small, 25-bed facility where she was the ED nurse, the CCU nurse, rode the ambulance and delivered babies. A few years later, they moved to Hilo, the "big city" to local Big Islanders, with a mid-80s population of some 30,000 people! She continued her nursing career at Hilo Hospital, Island Care and Hale Anuenue Restorative Care Centre, all the while living, laughing and loving so many while building countless lifelong friendships.

AUSTRALIA

Her husband Dan enrolled in a PhD program at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia in 1995, though Dan always knew they BOTH earned that PhD. Over the next few years, his three-month stays in Perth opened unexpected doors neither of them had considered until then. Karen made her first trip to Australia in August 1997 and fell in love with the country and its people, especially in Perth. In short order, husband Dan was hired to teach at St Mary's College in Broome, and Karen was originally employed at Broome Hospital. Eventually, she joined the Kimberley Age Care group, tackling the challenge of working across a territory stretching from Bidyadanga in the west to Kununurra in the east. That's 3,200 kilometres apart, or about 2,000 miles to our North American friends and rellies.

The couple had many experiences, made even more lifelong friends, and carried so many memories down the West Coast to Perth, where they purchased their first and only Australian house in Leeming, in the world's friendliest neighbourhood. Karen spent the last decade-and-a-half of her nursing career at Sir Charles Gardiner and Osborne Park Hospitals, initially in the ED and eventually in the Aged Care Assessment Team, where she finished her career working with older patients.

KAREN – FILLED WITH LOVE

Karen was a master culinary artist and a seamstress extraordinaire. She enjoyed reading, gardening and travelling. Most of all, Karen thrived on meeting new people... on befriending people from every place of origin or walk of life. Karen travelled around the globe time and again, always connecting with new folks, nurturing relationships and fostering friendships across the planet.

But... a work history is certainly a part of a person's lifetime, but it's only that – a part. Being a nurse was every bit a reflection of Karen's persona. She exuded her love for others, her caring personality, her fortitude to tackle any challenge, and her helpful nature toward all who were lucky enough to meet her. Karen practised her philosophy of always seeing the best in people, not the worst, and she maintained that passion of brotherly love across continents, oceans and from one hemisphere to another. This is who Karen Churach was for 77 years, all the while leaving a trail of beautiful, lasting friendships across the globe.

*Rest in peace, dear Karen. You will so greatly be missed
by so many souls who were fortunate enough
to share in your generous love.*

I love you, Karn – Your lifelong teammate, Dan.



OUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING THE FUNERAL SERVICE TODAY.

*It is a comfort to know that we are surrounded
by the love and thoughts of relatives and friends
who join with us as we reflect, pay tribute and share
our memories of Karen.*

