



New South Wales

State Funeral

John William Raper MBE

**12 April 1939 – 9 February 2022**

Monday 28 February 2022  
at 10:30am  
Sydney Cricket Ground  
Sydney







# Order of Service

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The Mass is celebrated by  
The Most Reverend Daniel Meagher DD VG

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## Procession

### Pallbearers

Brothers of John

Gerard Raper, Peter Raper, Michael Raper  
Paul Raper, Maurie Raper, Ronnie Raper

Grandsons of John

Jake Raper, Kai Raper, Alex Raper

## Hymn

‘Here I am Lord’

Sung by Monica Oriel

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.*

*I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am Lord,*

*Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am Lord,  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

### **Welcome**

Most Reverend Daniel Meagher DD VG

### **Acknowledgment of Country**

Tyrell Sloan  
St George Illawarra Dragons

### **Eulogy**

Stuart Raper  
Son of John

### **Opening Prayer**

Bishop Danny

## Reading

Maddy Raper  
Granddaughter of John

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy 4.6–11

*I have fought the good fight to the end.  
As for me, my life is already being poured away  
as an offering, and the time has come for me to depart.  
I have fought the good fight to the end;  
I have run the race to the finish;  
I have kept the faith; all there is to come for me now  
is the crown of uprightness which the Lord,  
the upright judge, will give to me on that Day;  
and not only to me but to all those who have  
longed for his appearing.  
The word of the Lord  
All: Thanks be to God*

## Responsorial Psalm

‘The Lord is My Shepherd’  
Sung by Monica Oriel

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*Yeah, though I walk through valley of shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil.*

*Yeah, though I walk through valley of shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil.*

*For you are with me,  
You will comfort me.  
For you are with me,  
You will comfort me.*

*Surely goodness and mercy  
Shall follow me all the days of my life.  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever and ever,  
Forever, forever.*

## **Gospel**

John 14.1-6

## **Homily**

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Jake Raper  
Grandson of John

*May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm on your face,  
the rain falls softly on your fields,  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Alex Raper  
Grandson of John

*Loving God, we pray for those who suffer from dementia.  
Look with mercy upon their distress, confusion or isolation  
and help others to understand with compassion and love.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Thomas Raper  
Grandson of John

*God is our refuge and strength and an ever-present help in  
trouble. We pray for people who feel isolated and alone.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***



Max Raper  
Grandson of John

*We pray for the compassionate staff who nursed and cared  
for Chook at Garrawarra and who guided us through difficult  
times. May God richly bless their works of service.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Sioni Raper  
Granddaughter of John

*We pray for Toots whose dedication to Chook over the  
years showed her neverending love for him. May she take  
comfort in knowing how much her family and friends  
love and care about her.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Kai Raper  
Grandson of John

*We pray for all Chook's family, his children and  
grandchildren, that we remain strong as a family and  
continue to care and love each other.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

Maddy Raper  
Granddaughter of John

*For the rugby league community, may they continue to  
inspire future generations to achieve sporting excellence.*

*Lord hear us*

***All: Lord hear our prayer***

### **Tribute**

The Honourable John Howard OM AC  
Former Prime Minister of Australia

### **Tribute**

Kurt Raper  
Son of John

### **Tribute**

Aaron Raper  
Son of John

### **Tribute**

Gerard Raper  
Brother of John

### **Tribute**

Caryl Raper  
Wife of John

### **Reflection Tribute**

'My Way'  
Recording by Frank Sinatra

### **Final Commendation**

### **Final Prayer**

## Procession

Accompanied by a Guard of Honour formed by the  
St George Illawarra Dragons NRL playing squad and  
former players and teammates

‘When the Saints go marching in’ (Orchestral Version)  
Produced and arranged by: Tauese Tofa

‘When the Saints go marching in’ (Brass Band Version)  
Producer: Tauese Tofa  
Arranger: Simon Ghali, Tauese Tofa, Hot Potato

John’s family would like to extend their grateful thanks  
to everyone for their prayers, expressions of sympathy,  
thoughtfulness and friendship during their sadness

To all those who loved John in life, thank you for your  
presence here today

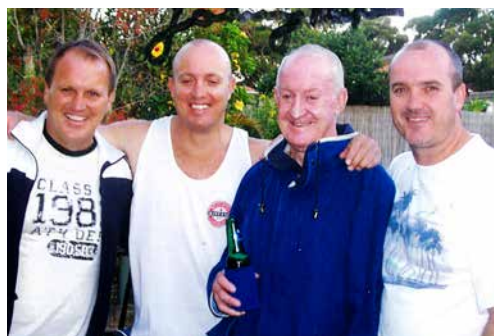
To offer condolences, visit the online condolence  
book at **[nsw.gov.au/state-services](https://nsw.gov.au/state-services)**  
Condolences will be printed and  
presented to the Raper family

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At the conclusion of today’s service, please remain in  
your seat until directed by an usher

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Best wishes  
Johnny Raper



