

Maurice (Maurie) Degrelle Webb
Funeral, Sacred Heart Church, 2-1-20

Today our community gathers around you and your families: Peter, Gerard and Kathryn, to celebrate the life of your dad, Maurie. He indeed was a remarkable man. We gather also with the St Brendan's College Community who today farewell their number one supporter who is I think also, the last member of the first student intake of 1940. He began at St Brendan's with my own father.

We farewell a man of our community, a member of the Lions and many other groups and associations. The community of the Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village farewell a member of their family. He was part of this parish, where he worshiped and sent us all mad with his lame jokes and little stories. I wasn't alone when he would tell me a story and anyone else would be stopped and told a story or joke each time you saw him.

Susan he is now with all those who have gone before us, his beloved wife and his son, your husband Lawrence. One of the special family items placed on his coffin was a card from Lawrence's funeral which said: *"When you eat fruit, think of the person who planted the tree."*

When you think of Maurie, give thanks to God who loves us all into life. Maurie was a man faith. He was proud and in his way of life tried to share it the best way he could. The short time I knew him was very much about his almost determination to make sure he got to Mass. Denis and to all those who brought him here faithfully each Sunday, and there were many who brought him to Mass, thank you.

He touched so many of the students of St Brendan's where he was more than just a teacher. On the Brendan's Facebook page, I share a few of the comments to show the man you know and the man those young men and boys came to recognise as someone special.

- *He helped me with my first job after leaving St Brendan's...good onya Webby.*
- *I've only fond memories of the late Maurie. He's such a passionate Old Boy who always encourages pride and respect in all that we did. One that stood out for me was when we took time of our Business Class to help with 'Meals on Wheels'. We made it to the front page of the Cap Coast Mirror. I recall the late Maurie speak with much emotion and thanking the students for being part of the program. I learnt from the late Maurie that service and personal sacrifice is what gives true fulfillment and contentment in life. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family at this time.*
- *RIP Maurie, a true gentleman...his passion for everything he did in life was abundant...his passion for his beloved Yeppoon Seagulls was immense and so special.*
- *A face of SBC.*

- *A truly great man.*
- *And finally: RIP Maurie. My fondest memory of you was when you coached us under 6 stone side to an undefeated year and we hid your old Morris in the scrub at training, but you took it on the chin and nearly killed us at training the next afternoon. You were what we loved about boarding school.*

To all Maurie's family gathered and to you his extended family, you too would tell stories and share much of his life also. These are but a few from the young men whom he encountered and gave life to.

As we paint this picture of the man we come to give thanks to God for, we all know he wasn't a saint either. He could be grumpy and cantankerous, demanding and impatient. He was human and had all the frailties which are part of who we all are. It was perhaps this frailty which we can all look to too see a way ahead into this New Year and this new decade of 2020.

Because as we heard in our reading this morning: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.* We have all just celebrated Christmas a few days ago and in faith Maurie was there with us in spirit as well. At Christmas a frail little child, a baby, came into the world to make a difference to who we are and how we live in this world. If we want to honour that day and if we want to honour Maurie Webb, be the people of faith that he was as an example to you.

Yes, perhaps we can call Maurie a saint. But saints are not perfect. They do the best they can with what they have got, and importantly they give thanks to God for all that they have been given, as Maurie did. In the words of the Gospel it says: *Come you whom my father has blessed...I was hungry and you gave me food...thirsty and you gave me drink...sick and you visited me...* There are many living saints who do this, many here today. You are making the Christmas story real and human; you too are walking in the footsteps of those like Maurie who have gone before you.

Kathryn, Gerard and Peter, to Sue and all his family gathered today, he was your dad, grandad and great granddad. He was your friend, mentor, teacher, brother. We commend Maurie to God and give thanks to God for the gift that he was. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace, amen.

Fr Matthew Moloney