**Jill Campbell Homily**

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The beatitudes (Matthew 5.1-10) we heard today are about God’s justice. Jill believed in justice and cared about the poor and the downtrodden. The passage from gospel of John (John 14.1-6) is about the place God has prepared for Jill before she needed it.

We are confident that she is there now.

The 23rd Psalm we sang is about living well with God.

That is as much exegesis as you are going to get, because the now I want to talk about the example Jill has given us through who she was, so the rest of the sermon is titled:

**10 Things I loved about Jill**

1. Jill was interested in the news. Jill was full of righteous anger toward Vladimir Putin but really rated Steven Marshall. She would often ask me “what do you think of Scott Morrison”? I once made the mistake of answering that I was not sure he was doing enough for the poor. You could have heard a pin drop. I had made the wrong choice. Jill said “owwww , I don’t about that Sophie”.
2. Jill did not mess around with social rules- or things she was not interested in. If Jill sat and talked to you, and hung out with you, she did so because she wanted to. There was no artifice with Jill. You knew where you stood.
3. At communion time the priest says a little prayer and puts the bread in your hand. Jill always took this as a time to have a short, but loud, chat with me. She stopped me getting too pious. She reminded me what we were doing.
4. The last time I saw Jill in her new room at Oaklands, that Peter had found her, she was happy. She had big windows that overlooked a little garden. She asked me to open her windows to let in the fresh air. She missed smoking- but she did still love the fresh air. Nursing homes are often so over-hot and stuffy but Jill wanted to fresh air and she got it. I loved that she had a nice window, and that she opened it.
5. Jill loved food of many kinds. She demolished a pie while I was with her one day. She told me once, how much she was dreaming of fish and chips. I didn’t ever get the chance to smuggle it into her. Jill told me the day before she died, she had a nice lunch of chook. She said it was beautiful.
6. Jill went her own speed. During worship in our shared prayers Jill would throw off one side of the church by being the loudest person reading at a slightly different speed to all other people. It was a persuasive pace that convinced those around her to follow Jill. I would have to turn my mic back on to bring the whole congregation gently to Jill’s pace so we could all be on the same page.
7. Jill had her own sense of fashion. She was avant-garde. She sometimes wore some outrageous combinations, but she pulled it off somehow. She liked what she liked. I was thrilled when she was wearing the Christmas socks my boys bought her. She did not always like clothes people gave her. Jill had numerous hats and she liked what she liked.
8. Jill was very kind to me and affirming of my ministry. She often told me that I was a good priest. She reminded me to tell people how we feel about them more often.
9. Jill was faithful. She took God and the sacraments of the church very seriously. She was always pleased when I took her communion if she was sick. Sometimes it was hard for Jill to get up to church from Ocean Grove. It looks like a short walk on a map, but Jill was not a well woman, and needed a walker and was often puffed and thirsty when she arrived. Jill often forgot what time the service started and had all these barriers in her way. And yet, she trudged all the way up here no matter how hard it was, to sing God’s praises and give thanks.
10. Jill has been a gift to St Jude’s. I don’t want to spoil that by saying too much and trying to sum up all she has meant to us. I don’t want the inadequacy of my words to fail to properly capture that gift. Many of you will know what I mean. So, I will leave it there. Jill has been a gift to St Jude’s.

If I had more time, I am sure I could come up with another 10 things I loved about Jill.

Allow me to finish by saying that Jill Campbell was one of a kind.

Clearly loved by God.

Loved by many of us.

I know she is now at rest, and safe.

Amen