

In Loving Memory



Henry Gibson Dan (AM)

Seaman Dan

25 August 1929 - 30 December 2020



With heavy hearts we say farewell old friend.
Your life was one full of adventure and stories.
You are missed but your music lives on in our hearts forever.
We know you are serenading the heavens.

Liturgy of the Repose of the Soul of the Late

**Mr. Henry Gibson Dan (AM)
'Uncle Seaman'**



Wednesday 13th January 2021

Cairns Funeral Directors Chapel
36 Pease Street, Manunda

Viewing to commence at 10:30am
Followed by service at 11:00am

MEMORIAL SERVICE

ENTRANCE HYMN:

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

ALL: Amen.

GREETING – May the God of hope who frees all of creation give us the fullness of peace and may the Lord of life be always with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev Fr: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father, we firmly believe that your Son died and rose to life. We pray for Henry, who died in Christ. Raise him at the last day to share the glory of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD (Please be seated)

First Reading

Apocalypse 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me,

“Write down:

Happy are those who die in the Lord!

Happy indeed, the Spirit says:

Now they can rest forever after their work,

Since their good deeds go with them.”

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: If we should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil
would I fear, for you are with me.

The Lord is my shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; he leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

Response: If we should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil
would I fear, for you are with me.

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.

Response: If we should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill:
My table thou has furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup overflows.

For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

Response: If we should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Response: If we should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Second Reading

Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

Let us walk in newness of Life

We have been taught that when we were baptised in Christ Jesus, we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised, we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live anew.

life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him anymore.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, all who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14: 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No-one can come to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord

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

Homily

Eulogy

The late Henry Gibson Dan better known as 'Seaman Dan', Uncle Seaman, Pops, Dato, was born on the 25th of August 1929, on Thursday Island. His birth mother was Kitty Savage, later Kitty Ware, his birth name was Henry Savage. Later he was adopted by Catharine Jaira and Henry Maynard Dan and took on the family name of Dan.

For most of his life he was known by the nickname "Seaman".

As a young boy he grew up on Thursday Island in the 1930s, a time where the maritime industry was thriving. This became a huge influence on his life and would later be the inspiration for his music and stories.

During his young adult years, he met and married Clare Constance (née Dorante) in 1958, but later divorced in 1979. They had five children ***Conchetta Mau, Henry Dan (Deceased), Simon Dan (Deceased), William Dan and Elivianna Dorante (Later Adopted to his in-laws)***.

Uncle Seaman always said he was blessed to live a life where he would be here to see his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren come into this world.

He was affectionally know to all the children as Pops, not only to his immediate family, but to everyone in the community.

As the entertainer, he loved to play the guitar and sing to all the children at parties and family gatherings. Most would remember the first songs they learnt such as ***"Pearly Shells" and "Old T.I."***

He had many famous local sayings that were popular with the kids. Some of his favourite sayings were:

After blessing food, he would say **"2,4,6,8 – bog in don't wait"**. When we would travel, he would say **"Let's get to where we ain't"** and **"Safe journey my family"**. When he would hop into the car, boat or plane, he would say – **"On deck"**. And of course, his most famous saying **"Steady, Steady"**.

Like many others from his generation Seaman had quite an eclectic work experience: from the sea, to the land, to the bush.

He'd often tell the story of his first paying job when he was 6 years old, raking leaves for 2 shillings at T.I.'s old Royal Hotel every Saturday. With this pocket money he'd go to watch movies at the old picture show.

In 1938 he worked on Silver Plains Station on Cape York Peninsula as a young stockman. At the age of 11 he learnt how to ride the mustering horses.

In 1943 when he was 14 years old, he worked as a yardman at the National Hotel in Cairns, which is now known as the Cape York Hotel. That same year he would go on to work for the Hancock and Gore Plywood Mill. He later wrote in his biography that because it was wartime, he wanted to contribute to the war effort. For that reason, he worked long days from 7am till 6pm and only had a half an hour break for lunch. There were no smoko breaks back then.

After Seaman finished working at the plywood mill at age 16, he experience a stint in the sea life diving for trochus shell.

In 1947 Seaman returned to Thursday Island where he had the opportunity to start his professional sea-going career in the pearling and trochus industry under his uncle Thomas Savage. It was around this time he acquired his lifelong nickname, 'Seaman' Dan.

Later he joined the lugger '*Idalia*' as an engineer then moved to the lugger '*Yola*' where he got his first chance to put on a pearl-shell diver's helmet at 18 years old.

As a career fisherman in the 1950s, Seaman travelled across the top end of Australia from T.I. to Darwin and later Broome.

In Darwin, Seaman worked for the Municipal Council's Botanical Gardens, then went on to work at the Koolpinyah Cool Stores doing ice making and butchery.

While in Darwin, he also got his first real introduction to live music performances at the Hotel Darwin.

He continued to dive until the 1970s: diving from Torres Strait to the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York Peninsula, and Mornington Island to Elcho Island to name a few .

His diving career was extensive, this became the foundation of his musical legacy and from where his songs and stories drew inspiration.

After his career on the sea, he worked in mining exploration, working for Consolidated Mining Industries as a mining prospector.

Following his career as a prospector, he then became a taxi driver on Thursday Island for the late Sidney Laifoo. Seaman also ventured into business, operating a video store and even a hotdog stand - with his famous sambal topping.

It was around this time he began making his presence felt as a regular performer at local hotels.

Music is what Seaman Dan is widely known for; it was his love and passion. He made so many people smile while he serenaded them with his smooth crooning voice.

His illustrious career as a professional musician began the day he met Dr. Karl Neuenfeldt at the Radio 4MW station on Thursday Island. It was on January 15, 1999 – almost 22 years to this day. This was a very special moment for Seaman Dan and was one of his favourite stories to tell. He was proud to be able to start a music career at the ripe young age of 70 years old. He would always say, *“You are never too old to live your dreams”*. His journey in life was a testament to this.

Since that day he has travelled Queensland, Australia and the world sharing his music, stories and culture.

He recorded 10 albums, won multiple awards and was honoured and recognised for his contribution to Torres Strait Islander and Torres Strait culture and music.

On the 30th of December 2020, Uncle Seaman was called to set his sail for his final journey home on the heavenly oceans and to finally lay his pearling helmet to rest.

We are now gathered here on this day as family and friends to see this Saltwater Cowboy sail home.

So, with heavy hearts we say farewell old friend, your life was one of adventure and so full of life and stories. We know that you are serenading the heavens with your smooth crooning voice.

Even though you are on your next journey, we will forever hear you in your music, and always remember your most famous local saying – Steady, Steady.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For the family and friends of Henry, that, in their grief, they may find comfort and consolation in us and that at this time of heartfelt sadness and loss may draw them closer to the Lord. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who experience real sorrow as we give Henry into the Lord's hands: that they may not mourn as those who have no hope but be firm in faith. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For Henry who heard Christ's redeeming and saving word: that he may now share in the peace of seeing Christ face to face. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed, especially those who have been farewellled from this church: that they may know forgiveness and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: that it may continue to proclaim that Jesus Christ has overcome death and give eternal life to his faithful followers. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the forgiveness of sins: that way wrongs or failures in love that may have been part of the life of Henry may now be wiped away by prayers of this community. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Rev Fr: Compassionate and loving God, hear the prayers of all who mourn the death of Henry, and be with them in our hour of need. We make this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

FINAL FAREWELL AND COMMENDATION

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Henry 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 Henry again and enjoy his friendship. Although we 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.

ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the most High.

(ALL PRAY IN SILENCE)

Rev Fr: Saints of God, come to his aid! Come to meet him, angels of the Lord!

ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the most High.

Rev Fr: May Christ who call him, take him to Himself, may angels lead him to the bosom of Abraham.

ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the most High.

Rev Fr: Give him eternal rest, o Lord, and may your light shine on him forever.

ALL: Receive his soul and present him to God the most High.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Rev Fr: Father of mercies, into your hands we commend Henry in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he will

raise him on the last day. We give thanks for the blessings, which you bestowed upon Henry's life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints of Christ. Merciful Lord turn towards 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 brother forever.

We ask through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Rev Fr: May the angels lead you into paradise: may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he Rest in Peace.

ALL: Amen.

BLESSING

Rev Fr: May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Rev Fr: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL

Thank You

The Family of Henry Gibson Dan appreciates your
condolences and support at this time.

