

Fr Bert Fullbrook sdb
Salesian Community
3 Macedon St
Sunbury Vic 3429

24 February 2016

Dear Manuel, David & James,

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Tess, a loving wife, a devoted mother and a dear friend. My prayers are for her and with you as you grieve the loss of the one you loved.

This is how I'd like to remember Tess. The first time I met her was at Tardun WA in 1978 at a school re-union. Valentine (Val), class mate of mine, introduced me to his wife. Tess was then a beautiful 34 year old young lady in her prime. From that day onward we became friends and Tess shared with me the good news, particularly the arrival of David her first born and James two years later. Tess also shared with me the sad news of the passing of Valentine leaving her widowed with two toddlers, David (4) and James (2).

I remember Tess as a competent teacher, a superb organiser, and a loving, devoted mother of David and James. Single-handedly, Tess put her two boys through primary school and through Aquinas, a prestigious college. Later she supported her two boys through university and was proud of their academic achievement.

Such was our friendship, that I invited Tess to my ordination in Adelaide in 1991. It was in Adelaide that Tess met Manuel, and the two fell in love in the space of a week. It was my privilege to officiate at their wedding at Aquinas chapel on 22 December 1991. Tess, the organizer, was at her best. The memory of that wedding has stayed happily with me over the years.

I served as a priest for five years in Perth; three in Kelmscott and two in Victoria Park. During that time, I was a regular visitor at the home of Tess and Manuel. Tess, always a gracious host, loved entertaining visitors whom she invited to her home. On the 2nd of December 1996, Tess pulled me out of St John of God's hospital for the day. Tess, the organiser, had planned a surprise party for my sixtieth birthday. She deposited me back to hospital, and after I was discharged she nursed me through the first few of my rehab. These are my memories of Tess, the organizer, the friend, the energetic woman, and the gracious giver of hospitality.

May she rest in peace, and may she enjoy the reward she so richly deserves in the home God has prepared for her in heaven.

In loving memory,

Bert