

A big thanks to those who were able to attend the funeral service for Sr. Audrey on Wednesday, and to those who helped afterwards with the refreshments. Sr. Linda Mary was most grateful for how the community came together to celebrate Audrey's life, and Christine French, on behalf of the Associates of the Order also expressed her thanks, and particularly commented on how beautiful (even more than usual!) the church looked.

With thanks to Rodney, you may be interested in having a look at the following article on the St Michael's Grammar website, which also includes two excellent photos. <https://www.stmichaels.vic.edu.au/community/news/end-era-farewell-pivotal-st-michaels-figure/>. I also include a short biography of her life, taken from Rodney's profile of her in *Newslink* some years ago.

Audrey Floate was born in Ballarat. After the war, her Father set up a business in Melbourne selling knitwear. Audrey and her sister, Adele, went to Spring Road State School in Malvern, and Audrey went on to MacRobertson Girls' High School, known for its high academic standards. She went to Melbourne University to study commerce and economics at her Father's insistence, but she did not enjoy commerce, eventually transferring to philosophy and English. There she "almost by accident" attended a lecture by Fr. Michael Fisher, an English (Anglican) Franciscan, who was conducting a mission. She was so convinced by his intellect and spirit that she volunteered to edit and produce a booklet containing Fisher's talks, doing much research as she went, and this she describes as a crash course in Christianity. The booklet duly came out under the title 'Christ Alive'.

Following the guidance of Canon Maynard at Easter Hill, Audrey flew to Perth to join the novitiate of the order, on 1st April 1959. After a year or so she was posted to the mother house in Ham Common near London. After she was professed she was sent to join the staff of one of the CSC schools. Upon her return to Australia, she set about transforming the CSC schools in Melbourne (St. Michael's Grammar), Adelaide (St. Peter's Collegiate School for Girls), and Hobart (St. Michael's). Her acute business acumen and foresight in education meant that she was well qualified for this role. She lived (as a Religious but by herself) in a number of places around Melbourne, until she settled near St. Martin's, and began attending here. She was a faithful member of this congregation for around 20 years until she moved to Aged Care in 2015. We give thanks to God for the faithful life of Sister Audrey, Community of the Sisters of the Church.

May the Risen Christ, Philip & James, Athanasius, and all the Saints walk with you this joyful Eastertide...
Sam