

**Obituaries**

**Bernice Lucille Lott**

Bernice Lucille Lott, 94, of Heppner, died Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at Pioneer Memorial Long Term Care in Heppner. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 8, 2021, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner with recitation of the Holy Rosary at 10:30 a.m., also at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Concluding service with burial will follow at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

She was born February 25, 1927, at Hernden, Kansas, the daughter of William and Francis Pitner Kennedy. Bernice was raised and attended school at Hernden until the family moved to Walla Walla, WA in 1940. She attended and graduated from St. Patrick's Catholic School in Walla Walla. After high school Bernice worked at JC Penny in Walla Walla.

On August 16, 1946,

Bernice married Randolph "Randy" Lott at Walla Walla. In 1948 the couple moved to Lexington, OR where Randy worked for Redd Lenoard at Lexington Implement. In 1958 Randy and Bernice opened Lott's Electric in Heppner. She assisted Randy at the store as well as raising their three children.

Bernice was a member of the Willow Creek Country Club and St. Patrick Catholic Church where she taught Catechism for the youth. Bernice spent many hours donating her time to the March of Dimes. Her favorite pastimes were gardening and anything to do with her grandchildren.

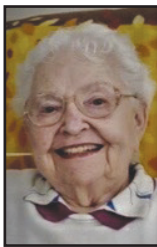
She is survived by her daughter, Patti Lott Pappas; grandchildren, Lance Lott, Jenessa Lott Mauer, Conner Pappas, Emily Pappas and

siblings, Shirley Kennedy Manual of College Place, WA, and Roger Kennedy of Dalles, TX.

Bernice was preceded in death by her husband, Randy Lott; sons, Donald Lott and Michael Lott; siblings, Deloris Kennedy and Robert Kennedy and her parents, William and Francis Kennedy

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Altar Society, PO Box 633, Heppner, OR 97836, or to Morrow Co. Health District, Long Term Care, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Willow Creek Terrace, 400 Frank Gilliam Drive, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com).



Bernice Lucille Lott

**Alma Darlene Drake**

Alma Darlene (Connor) Drake of Portland, OR passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at the age of 78. Darlene was born January 20, 1938, in Heppner, OR to Albert and Mary (Morgan) Connor.

While growing up in Heppner, Darlene was active in many local groups and clubs. An outstanding student, she lettered in band four times and was the band president her junior year. She was a member of the National Honor Society and won honors for her work in student journalism and the Model UN program. She graduated from Ione High School in June 1956.

Darlene married Ernest Drake of Heppner in 1955 in Boise, ID. They moved to Fairfield, CA in the mid-1960s when Ernie was hired at Armijo High School. While in Fairfield, Darlene was active in the

high school teachers wives club, enjoyed sewing and quilting and collected elephants of every shape and size.

Travel was Darlene's joy; the more exotic the location, the better. Skin diving in Hawaii, whale watching and hummingbird sightings in Alaska and exploring the Czech Republic were especially memorable trips.

Darlene returned to Portland in 2019.

A devoted wife and mother, Darlene was always ready to do anything to support her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The many hurts fixed, tears dried, and thousands of cookies baked were concrete demonstrations of her love for her family. She made a house a home for all.

Always game for anything, she enjoyed movies, mystery novels, dancing and red wine (with an ice cube). Her drive to enjoy life was timeless, just as strong in her 80s as in her teens.

Darlene is survived by her sister, Collene Williams of Portland, OR; her daughters, Kathy Lambrecht and Becky Bega of Portland, OR; son, Scott Drake of Portland, OR; five grandchildren, Jason and Sean Lambrecht, Ellen Bega, Ryan and Connor Drake; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Ernie Drake; her parents; her siblings, Keith, Morgan, Gary, Nelson and Dean; and grandson, Fernando Bega.

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life at the Pavilion of Hager Park in Heppner on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 3 p.m.

**Spiritually Speaking**

**What God has joined let no man separate**

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The readings today speak to us about the creation of man and woman and talk about the bond of love that marriage creates between a man and a woman, a bond that God does not seek to be broken. But unfortunately, through our selfishness and isolationism, we often do break it. Marriage. We have just witnessed and will be taking part in a marriage celebration this weekend, to understand and relive the marriage covenant that some of you have already embarked upon. Today, speaking about marriage is difficult because our culture is against the Christian idea of marriage. We come to the Eucharist as isolated individuals, but the Eucharist, properly understood and celebrated, creates a bond of love between us.

The reading from the Book of Genesis (Genesis 2:18-24) speaks of the creation of the first woman of the world. The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So, He created woman as the partner for man, to be with him and to support, encourage and assist him in all his endeavors. "I will make a helper suited to him" (Gen 2:18). Man becomes complete only when he is joined with the woman, and the bond that joins them is love. Love is not just an emotion. It is a lifelong decision and a commitment to another one to live together through thick and thin, "for better or worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health," until death. This union of man and woman is best expressed in the conjugal union. This act naturally brings forth children who ensure the posterity of mankind. Soon we are going to celebrate the wedding jubilarians of our church, and every time I celebrate the Mass for the Wedding Jubilee Anniversaries of couples, I always look at their original wedding photo. What I invariably notice is that on the day of their wedding, they looked totally different. But after 25, 50, 75 years of living together, everybody can see that they now look almost like brother and sister. This is what our Lord said: "They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." (Mk 10:8-9). Jesus made it clear that from the very beginning of creation, God has never allowed divorce.

The reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (2:9-11) addresses the target group of people who are in all probability converts from Judaism, many of whom may also have been priests or Levites. After becoming Christians, because of the difficult circumstances of the time, they had to abandon Jerusalem, the holy city, and seek refuge elsewhere. In their exile, they look back with nostalgia on the splendor of the cult they played a part in prior to



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

their conversion. They feel deceived and are tempted to give up their new faith, in which they are not yet well grounded. In addition to this, they are discontented by the persecution they suffer because of their new faith. Obviously, they are in need of help, and in particular, of clear doctrine to bolster their faith and enable them to cope with temptation to infidelity.

The Gospel reading from St. Mark (10:2-16) brings us the importance of the sacrament of marriage. Through His exhortation, Jesus wants us to understand that divorce is not acceptable in the plan of God. It is important that we recognize again that Jesus was arguing against a culture in which divorce was easy and not challenged, which is very similar to the modern scenario in which we live. For Jesus, marriage is clearly a gift from God. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Marriage is also about having children. Not just for coming together and living together. Progeny is an important aspect of marriage. Nowadays some people are going against the plan of God envisaged for man and woman. We people who live and understand Christ's values have an enormous task of evangelization to do in our modern world. Even simply to state the truth about how our Holy Scriptures and our Christian tradition see marriage is highly offensive to many people. Our challenge is first to live the teachings of Jesus and the Church and then to speak fearlessly about God's plan for marriage and children. Let us walk with the Lord.

**Chamber meeting scheduled**

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting will be held October 7, 2021, at noon at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building. Lunch will be catered by Upper Place Concessions for \$10 per person. Lunch will consist of a

choice of a ham or turkey bagel sandwich with pasta salad and brownie. RSVPs with bagel choice are required by Monday October 4. Contact [heppnerchamber@gmail.com](mailto:heppnerchamber@gmail.com) or call 541-676-5336 to RSVP.

**Live Music by Frank Carlson**  
**Saturday, October 2nd**  
**Dinner - 5:00 pm**  
**Pork Loin, Potatoes & Salad**  
**Music from 7 to 11**

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