

# Michael John Richard Sheehan

July 12th 1936 - June 26th 2016



A Requiem Mass and Celebration of a Life.

Montesquiou, France

July 2nd 2016

Dear family and friends,

We welcome you to this service; a celebration of our father's life. He was a most loving husband for fifty seven years, a wonderful father of five and delighted grandfather of twelve.

Dad was born in 1936 in Abbassia, Egypt, where his father was serving in the British Army. They returned to England a year later to Surrey but his father died in 1946 and Dad's early life was unsettled. At ten he was sent away to boarding school.

He had a boyhood passion for aeroplanes which led him to an aircraft apprenticeship at Vickers Armstrong in Weybridge. He quickly flourished and he joined the flight test program of the Vickers VC10 as a flight test observer. He had a great adventure flying all over the world and made many lifelong friends in aviation. He also became a private pilot, no doubt, another boyhood dream.

In 1966, the young Sheehan family - already with four children - moved to Toulouse where Dad joined the Concorde project, developing the automatic flight control system. In Toulouse, the youngest member of the family, Dominic, was born.

We followed the Concorde project back to Bristol with Dad responsible for the avionics on the first flight of the British Concorde in 1969. Mum and Dad's next adventure took them to Cairo, Egypt where they lived for seven years and we joined them in the school holidays. They both embraced the challenges of middle eastern life with great strength and much humor, forging lifelong friendships. Dad, now a Managing Director, held a great respect for his Egyptian colleagues. Many of them aware he was a fellow Egyptian by birth.

As a family we enjoyed many exciting holidays together, Dad driving us north across the Sahara to Alexandria and east to Sinai and around the Aegean Sea by sailing boat.

In 1985 Mum and Dad settled in Northamptonshire, England and Dad joined the College of Aeronautics at Cranfield. Dad retired, and with happy memories of earlier years, they returned to France in 2003 to make it their home again. With great fortune, they discovered Montesquiou and Petit Bourguignon.

For ten years they have enjoyed the beautiful countryside, the friendly village life, many new friendships and perhaps most of all, family gatherings with their grandchildren.

We have been truly blessed to have had him as our father.

Jo, Nicky, Nick, Jeremy and Dom.

### **Journal Of A Soul - Death Is The Future For Everyone**

Death is the future for everyone.

It is the Last Post of this life and the Reveille of the next. Death is the end of our present life, it is the parting from loved ones; it is the setting out into the unknown.

We overcome death by accepting it as the will of a loving God, by finding Him in it.

Death, like birth, is only a transformation, another birth. When we die we shall change our state, that is all.

And with faith in God, it is as easy and natural as going to sleep here and waking up there.

**Pope John XXIII**