



REMEMBERING
Maria Cardoso

May 9, 1941 - May 24, 2026



It is with deep sorrow, but also with profound gratitude for her life and witness, that we announce the passing of Maria Alice Cardoso on May 24, 2026, at Mariposa Gardens in Osoyoos, British Columbia, at the age of 85.

Maria was born on May 9, 1941, in the small village of Lomba on the island of Flores in the Azores, Portugal, to Anna and Constantino Sousa, their only child. She carried her Portuguese roots proudly throughout her life, especially her deep love for the music and culture of Portugal, particularly traditional Fado music, which always held a special place in her heart.

In 1973, Maria and her family made Osoyoos, British Columbia their home, where she became known as a woman people were naturally drawn to. She possessed a rare counselling heart. Friends, family, neighbours, and even strangers often came to Maria because she truly listened — with compassion, wisdom, patience, and without judgment. Sometimes her greatest gift was simply being a safe place for others to be heard. She loved people deeply and made everyone feel valued.

Maria was a devout Catholic whose faith anchored every season of her life. She had a special devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and remained active in the prayer groups at St. Anne's Catholic Church. Her faith became even more radiant through suffering.

In 1984, following a serious accident on the family orchard that left her paraplegic, Maria faced immense physical challenges. Yet her disability never defined or defeated her. Determined and resilient, she learned to continue living life fully — driving, travelling, managing her home, caring for her family, and finding ways to overcome every obstacle placed before her. Though she lived with daily pain, many people never realized the extent of her suffering because she carried it quietly and

with remarkable grace.

Maria often spoke of offering her pain and suffering for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and for the conversion of souls. What many would have seen as limitations, she transformed into a spiritual offering. Her suffering became a sword of prayer, love, and sacrifice.

Above all else, Maria loved her family.

She shared 64 years of marriage with the love of her life, Mario Luis Cardoso. Together they built a life rooted in faith, perseverance, and devotion to one another. Maria was a deeply loving mother to her only child, Elizabeth Sutcliffe, after enduring the heartbreak of two miscarriages before Elizabeth's birth. She also dearly loved her son-in-law, Angus Sutcliffe, and her two beloved grandchildren: Corporal Mason Sutcliffe, who proudly serves in the Canadian Army, and Natalie Sutcliffe.

In the final years of her life, Maria suffered from Alzheimer's disease and active dementia. Yet even in this difficult season, her dignity, value, and humanity never diminished. She remained deeply loved and surrounded by family until her final breath.

Her last 48 hours were an extraordinary gift. After long periods of limited responsiveness, Maria became peaceful, alert, prayerful, and interactive once again. She spoke, prayed, and engaged lovingly with those around her. Surrounded by the people who loved her most, she experienced a peaceful and holy death. Her light simply faded quietly and gently as she fell asleep and entered eternal rest.

Her family recognizes this grace-filled passing as a profound blessing.

Maria's life stands as a beautiful reminder that every human life has immeasurable value — not because of ability, productivity, or health, but because each person is created in the image of God. Even through disability, suffering, and dementia, Maria remained worthy of love, dignity, care, and presence until the very end. Her life and death were both powerful witnesses to the beauty of unconditional love and the sacredness of every human life.

Prayers for Maria will be held at 7:00 pm Sunday, May 31, 2026 at St. Anne Catholic Church in Osoyoos, with the Funeral Mass to follow at 10:30 am, Monday June 1, 2026 at St. Anne Catholic Church in Osoyoos.

"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace."

