

ST PAT'S MATTERS

A magazine for parishioners and friends of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

Glory and Praise
to
Christ our Saviour.



He has
redeemed us
by
His Death
and
Resurrection.

Editorial

Happenings in St Patrick's Parish since the February issue, have been numerous and varied. The ones featured in these pages touch upon ministry, evangelising, faith and spiritual matters and community building.

Read about The Business Breakfast and be impressed by the choice of the Keynote speaker for the occasion. The event's aim was to strengthen relationships with the local community beyond parish; whereas the St Pat's Day celebration was organised to foster the community within.

Articles about Special Religious Educators and Legion of Mary highlight the work being done in these ministries, and RoseAnna Spaccavento and Christina Gladwin write about their volunteering, as does Somy Skariah who talks about his involvement with Shalom Australia, media ministry.

Jane Perez's input takes us overseas: her story's focus is on Mission to a struggling village in the Philippines. Then there's a mission of another kind: Vince Murtagh and Bob Edgar guide us through the complicated mechanical processes involved in restoring *Patrick*, the Cathedral bell to sound health.

Take a walk down memory lane in "*Out of the Ashes*" and view the image of Easter Vigil 1996 being held in the charred cathedral ruins. Then check out the joy of the five Neophytes welcomed into the Catholic Church at Easter 2018.

The image of Jesus crucified and resurrected on the front cover spells out graphically what our faith is all about: to follow Him we must die to self and live to serve others. Retracing His journey to the Cross in the coverage of Holy Week ceremonies aims to strengthen our resolve to be Catholics, active in ministry and spreading the Good News.

Turn the pages to discover what other features lie within.

But harking back to Holy Week and its conclusion in Easter Joy, I'd like to sign off by urging everyone to act upon the words of dismissal some priests say at the end of Mass:

"GO IN PEACE, GLORIFYING THE LORD BY YOUR LIVES."

ALLELUIA!

M Polizzi

St Patrick's Cathedral BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Continuing on from the success of the inaugural Business Breakfast in 2017, this year's event was held on Friday 16th March, the eve of our parish patron saint's feast day. To remind attendees about St Patrick, tiny shamrock lapel pins greeted them as they sat down at white-clothed tables offering a lavish spread that included orange juice, yoghurt, fresh fruit and pastries — all before the hot breakfast made its appearance!



After welcoming everyone, MC, Bernadette Fabri, Principal of St Patrick's Primary School, went on to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the relationship between the cathedral parish and the Parramatta Business Community. *"As a Church in the hub of Parramatta we find ourselves in the privileged space of being 'home' to a wide variety of parishioners —from young families to seasoned professionals and everyone in between. And so, we at St Patrick's are constantly looking for innovative ways to engage the diverse variety of people making up our local community — this breakfast being one of those ways."*

Ms Fabri then drew attention to the Business

Breakfast being a parish-based philanthropic platform to raise awareness for [Light Up St Pat's 2018 PARTNERING WITH US](#). Launched last year in partnership with Parramatta City Council, the venture aimed to offer a positive, free and safe family experience to the greater community. During the function, attendees received an informative brochure detailing the Light Up St Pat's event, hoping to encourage them to consider supporting this year's projection to be held in July.

Ms Fabri then indicated that St Pat's would donate 10% of ticket sales from the Breakfast to the nearby Jesuit-run Arrupe House which supports refugees and asylum seekers in the Parramatta region. Recognition was given to the "collaborative and selfless efforts of our parish community" as well as to students from OLMC Parramatta and Maronite College of the Holy Family, Harris Park, all uniting to make the Business Breakfast a reality and a success.

Ms Fabri, continuing the vein of thanksgiving, paid respect to the Burramattagal people of the Darug Clan, the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where we were assembled; thanking them for their hospitality, wisdom and guidance, and acknowledging Elders, past and present, as well as the emerging leaders of tomorrow.

Later on, Ms Fabri expressed great pleasure in introducing the keynote speaker Mr Iwan Sunito.



Over one hundred local business people attended the Business Breakfast



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MR IWAN SUNITO

The decision to approach this business man to speak at the Business Breakfast was an inspired one; dare one say his acceptance was providential! He is

- ◆ Co founder, Chairman & CEO of Crown Group Holdings Australia.
 - ◆ Founder and chairman of Sydney Christian Worship Centre, a multicultural contemporary church based in Sydney.
- (Going Google will reveal more details of Iwan Sunito's most impressive achievements.)

For the presentation of his address, **BUSINESS AS A TOOL FOR THE COMMON GOOD**, Iwan came armed with one simple powerpoint, bearing a Scriptural quote: 2 Cor 9:11

*He will make you rich in every way
so that you can always give freely.
And your giving through us
will cause many to give thanks to God.*

This quote encapsulates the Christian Faith ethic that guides Iwan's life and for which he credits his professional success; in the course of his address he referenced it many times.

He immediately clicked with his listeners; his relaxed, sincere delivery was peppered with self-deprecating humour, even though he spoke of the poverty and hardship of his early years in Indonesia, his struggles as a student, and the years of hard work and perseverance as a young business man to build up a property development company. — emphasizing he did not give himself the strength to work hard. **'That was God,' he said.**

So this Christian multi-millionaire, known for his philanthropic endeavours exhorted the gathered business people to be generous with what God has given them and give back to the community — for the common good.



After delivering the vote of thanks to Iwan, Fr Bossini, our Dean and Parish Priest presented him with a book on the architecture of St Patrick's Cathedral, designed by Romaldo Giurgola, the award-winning architect of Parliament House, Canberra, — an appropriate choice for a UNSW graduate gaining a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons) and Master of Construction Management and, in 1992, being awarded the UNSW **Eric Daniels Award for Excellence** in residential design.

What one listener took away from Iwan's address

- The story about the man who was always "too busy" until he saw a beautiful girl then he wasn't too busy for her because he had found a purpose. — So we too need to make sure our busy-ness and our business have an actual positive purpose.
- We have been given financial wealth and success to be able to use for the good of others.
- Iwan's story about being a failure at first and just having the strength and courage to persevere.

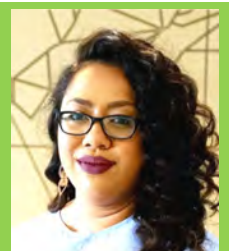


Keen 'Breakfast' volunteers: ↑ Mr Hayman and talented students from the Maronite College, Harris Park, who provided beautiful musical interludes.
↓ Mr Walsh with student leaders from OLMC, Parramatta who served as ushers as well as waiting on tables...and Fr Bob double dipping, photowise.



ACCOLADES FOR OLIVIA

Earlier this year, Olivia Lee became Events Co-ordinator for St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.



Her professional approach, thorough planning, meticulous attention to every aspect of operational procedure ensured the successful outcome of the Business Breakfast, her first event., an impressive achievement for one so young.

Having such a skilled young person on deck augurs well for the future of the parish. Let's pray that other parish youth will be inspired by her to work for the common good of St Pat's.

St Patrick's Day

matters

Another year and another gathering of faithful folk to celebrate the Feast Day of our parish patron saint. It was great to see new faces joining the regulars, although sad to note the absence of some familiar faces.

Over one hundred and fifty turned up to partake of that traditional staple of the Emerald Isle — Irish Stew and mashed potatoes. On the subject of food. Spare a thought for the workers in the vineyard, (sorry kitchen), preparing the mammoth meal: Chef Philip Ciclován began cooking about 1pm, with Dad Neil as assistant. Mum Kathleen came later to assist in mashing mountains of spuds, (sorry potatoes!) ...Would you believe that 60kg of potatoes were peeled and chopped for the mash!! Amazingly the peelers and choppers kept smiling, despite the tedious task. And then there was the expert BBQ Band of Romeo, Martin and Nestor, cooking chicken for non beef eaters.

It was wonderful how many people wanted to help, just stepping in to serve at the buffet for both the main course and then for the dessert, (made even more tempting by the addition of ice cream), as well as helping to clear away, clean up and wash up.

Back to pre-party: thanks to those volunteers who helped set up the hall, whether it was putting out the tables and chairs, greening the tables with cloths and balloons, or cutting lots of shamrocks, or decorating the walls and doors. And thanks to Nitesh Lal for setting up his jumping castle in the cloister for free, as he has done for many past parish events. It's always a hit with the youngsters.

Entertainment: Two dancers and a Piper grandly garbed in traditional costumes truly put the icing on the evening: the girls were delightful, their intricate Irish dancing setting people's toes a-tapping; then the piper with his Celtic airs, haunting nostalgic and romantic. Oh, and there was a little bit of Irish-oriented Trivia to operate the little grey cells, courtesy of Cathy Dearie, co-ordinator and MC for the evening.

It was grand to have Fr Sean come back for St Pat's Day, wending his way from the Blue Mountains. So he increased the evening's priestly presence, joining Fathers Bob, George and Michael. But, can you believe it? The photographer did not get one photo of them.

PS. Cathy Dearie, would have undoubtedly been happy to relinquish the role to Philip when he offered to be chef. She has cooked the stew for the last two years. But did she check to ensure he added the right amount of Guinness to the recipe?

Hats off to everyone who came decked out in shades of shamrock green.



LENTEN MATTERS



During this year's penitential season there was tangible evidence of the spirit of giving as one entered through the doors of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Over the 6 weeks of Lent there was an increasing mound of foodstuffs growing in front of the Cross, symbolising the sacrificial love of the Redeemer.

These donations are the result of the Jesuit Refugee Service Arrupe Community in Grose Street, inviting St Patrick's parishioners to contribute to their Lenten Foodbank program: **6 weeks of Lent—Give 6 Things**

The unfortunate reality is that many refugees and asylum seekers wishing for a better life in Australia, are struggling financially, often finding it difficult to afford basic fresh foods and groceries for survival.

Arrupe House Foodbank operates like a mini supermarket, with goods on shelves or in the fridge. The clients can come to shop and choose their own items. Six staple items most frequently requested are tinned diced tomatoes, lentils, and chick peas, tuna in oil, cooking oil and Basmati rice.

Over 320 individuals and families per month access the Arrupe Community Foodbank.

This is such a good cause why not continue your giving beyond Lent's sacrificial boundaries?



Your continued support is vital.

Find us at www.jrs.org.au

Contact us on (02) 9356 3888

Donate at <http://www.jrs.org.au/donate-now/>

or info@jrs.org.au

Reconstruction Matters in the cathedral

For some time there had been concern about the wall cladding behind the Cathedral's choir stalls. Panels were coming loose, thus posing a potential safety hazard.

So early in the year parishioners arriving in the precinct one week day were welcomed by signs on the cathedral doors, warning that work was afoot in the cathedral's interior and therefore access was denied. Visible through the glass doors was a 'mountain of scaffolding' floor to ceiling, extending from the south side up to the organ pipes. This indicated that the intended repair work would be complicated, labour intensive, and most likely costly!



However, on Sundays Masses proceeded as usual, with some alterations: the choir stalls were roped off, the small portable organ positioned in front of the pipes of the main organ and a temporary lectern set up behind the main Ambo.

This new set-up naturally posed problems for the choir at 11am Mass. They had to relocate to the front pews, accompanied by the stand-in organ if required. Another negative about the temporary arrangement occurred whenever the choristers stood up to sing, — people in the pews behind them were prevented from seeing what was happening at the altar.

The biggest question? Would the repairs be completed by Holy Week? Everyone was on tenterhooks (Bernard, our Music Maestro most of all) and apprehension mounted as the most sacred week of the liturgical year drew closer.

A big collective sigh of relief was audible when the scaffolding was dismantled in time and disappeared before Holy Week began. Things were back to normal at the Cathedral. The choir could resume its rightful position to raise their voices in sacred singing.

MINISTRY



MATTERS:

In your ministry take heart in the fact that the One who has sent you into the vineyard is a trusting, patient, just and loving God.

God will always give you the means and the grace to be effective teachers of His word.

All you need to do is trust in Him and His ways.

From Fr Bob's reflection during Mass, on 2nd March .

Catechists: Serving God & Community



Clergy with Catechists of Parramatta Region gather after Mass on Friday 2nd March 2018.

Within the Parramatta Diocese, the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) is divided into six regions. The Cathedral Parish is in the Parramatta Region which includes nine other parishes: Granville, East Granville, Greystanes, Guildford, Harris Park, Merrylands, Parramatta, Toongabbie, Wentworthville and Westmead.

On Friday 2nd March, Catechists from these parishes gathered in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for Mass during which Fiona Clarke, Regional Co-ordinator and Parish co-ordinators were blessed and commissioned for their ministerial roles in the year ahead and then all catechists present, as well. By being present, CCD Director, Cecilia Zammitt showed her commitment to supporting the Parramatta Regional Team.

The Dean, Fr Bob Bossini, principal celebrant, was joined by Fr Paul Marshall from Greystanes and Deacon Galbert Albino. The Mass, ever a sacred experience, was further enriched by aptly chosen hymns sung so feelingly, and without accompaniment.

After the group photo session on the Cathedral steps, everyone gravitated to the Hall. First up, sustenance for the body, followed by presentation of certificates to the Special Religious Educators, for completion of five or ten years of service and for those who had undertaken CCD courses.



↑ Blessing and commissioning of Co-ordinators ↓



Above SREs with 5 years' service. Below: Those with 10 years' service.
St Pat's SREs, Maria Valentin and David Mannall are circled.



**Congratulations to St Patrick's SRES,
(apart from Maria and David),
unable to be present to receive their certificates:**

10 Years of Service: LEO COLEMAN

**5 Years of Service: MARY BRENNAN
EDWARD SAFARDI.**



WITH FR BOB'S PERMISSION, HIS REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

FOR THE PARRAMATTA REGIONAL MASS APPEAR BELOW.

Genesis 37:3-4,12.13,17-28 and Matthew 21:33-43.45-46

On first reading today's Gospel passage it seems that the meaning is quite clear. Jesus is using a parable in order to tell the scribes and Pharisees that they have got things wrong. By mentioning the tenants who killed the messengers of the vineyard owner again and again, even to the extent of killing the son of the owner, Jesus condemns the religious leaders for their hardness of heart in not working with God's will. The outcome then is that the vineyard will be taken from them and given to others who will tend it with greater care.

When we delve more deeply into this Gospel passage we find that it is also telling us something great about our God. It mentions some characteristics of God which are all important to us. The parable speaks of the trust of God. Here God entrusts the care and growth of the vineyard to various tenants. God does not meddle in their affairs. They are allowed to do what they wish in tending the vineyard. Secondly, it speaks of God's patience. Again and again we hear that God sent messengers to the tenants in order to guide, direct and challenge them in their work within the vineyard. And thirdly, it speaks of God's justice. No matter how the tenants have worked in the vineyard, God requires that they be held accountable for their actions. In fact it is their very actions that bring judgement on them.

The greatness of this parable and the story of Joseph from Genesis, challenges us to realise that God can allow good to come from human failure. In Genesis we have the story of Joseph, the favourite son of Jacob. The jealousy, anger and betrayal of his brothers brings about his certain demise: they first throw him into a pit and then have him sold to a wandering group of Arab traders who are heading for Egypt. In fact, God allows this action to come to fruition and eventual good when we encounter Joseph as Egypt's Prime Minister and the one who rescues and saves his brothers when they eventually come to Egypt seeking food. [Genesis 42 onwards].

The Gospel today also tells us that God can bring about good from evil actions, as Jesus states: 'the stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone' [Matthew 21:42]. Jesus' rejection by the leaders that led to his death became the means by which God brings salvation to the world through Jesus' death and Resurrection.

As catechists you have been entrusted to be the tenants within the vineyard of the Lord in order to bring the God's word into the lives of our children in the State Schools. It may be a difficult ministry – one which may not seem to reap immediate benefits. You may even consider your work as being fruitless and ineffective. God allows these seemingly unproductive periods to truly bear fruit. Your presence with the children week after week is a sign to them of your fidelity and love of them. Your presence amongst them in the midst of certain difficulties allows God's word to be planted in their hearts.

In your ministry take heart in the fact that the one who has sent you into the vineyard is a trusting, patient, just and loving God. God will always give you the means and the grace to be effective teachers of His Word. All you need to do is trust in Him and His ways.



SEIZING THE DAY!

Palm Sunday was too good an opportunity to pass up for drawing people's attention to what the Legion of Mary is all about.



So Mary Brennan was on deck for the earlier Masses, while Geraldine and Michael Lilley took the shift targetting 11am Mass goers.

The stands loaded with literature drew curious passers-by to investigate, many selecting booklets to read at home. No payment was expected, but some people still offered to make a donation, which will be used to purchase more books.

So expect to see their presence more often after Sunday Masses as this Palm Sunday stall was to promote the introduction of a 'Book Barrow'.



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LEGION OF MARY?

**FOR INFORMATION
contact**

**Fr Bob Bossini:
8839 8400**

**Geraldine Lilley:
0403 028 096 or**

**Michael Lilley
0415 335 368**



HOLY WEEK: *Journeying in Faith with Jesus to the*



remembering at the Cathedraland witnessing on the streets



**PALM
Sunday**

Hosanna the crowds cried out, waving palms as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, nearly 2000 years ago. They welcomed him expecting an earthly king who would free them from their oppressors. Instead, the faithful of St Pat's gathering to recall that eventful day sang 'Hosanna' recognizing Jesus as a king of love, coming for our salvation, which would be gained by His Passion, Death on the Cross and Resurrection.



Before each Mass the blessing of the palms took place in the cloister, prior to the procession into the Cathedral to hear the full story of Jesus' suffering and death and celebrate Sunday Eucharist.

For 11am Solemn Mass, Bishop Vincent was the celebrant. blessing people's palms beforehand in the cloister. The choir following behind the Crucifix led the procession into the Cathedral, singing the familiar hymn, "All glory, praise and honour to Thee, Redeemer King".

Remember the blessed palm is a "witness to faith in Jesus Christ, the messianic king, and in his Paschal Victory." It is a sacramental and as such should be treated with reverence.



A crowd gathered at the Town Hall ready to walk as followers of Jesus down Church Street to St Pat's for the Youth Mass and promotion of WYD Panama 2019. Following the reading of the Gospel by Deacon Willy, Bishop Vincent blessed the palms, and the procession headed off to the main street.



The spectacle was awash with a multitude of waving national flags and school banners, red-robed clergy bearing palms and a multicultural mix of Faithful, — young, old, families, religious.



The goal? The Cathedral, to celebrate Mass as people of God, remembering anew Jesus' ultimate Sacrifice for mankind.



HOLY WEEK:

Liturgies directing our focus to Jesus.

Tenebrae and Chrism Mass —two uplifting liturgies everyone should resolve to attend.



The Office of TENEBRAE:

26th March, 2018

For about six years now, this centuries old, sacred monastic ritual has been held in the Cathedral on the Monday of Holy Week.

Bishop Vincent, Presider was joined by the Dean Fr Bob Bossini, and Vicar General Fr Peter Williams, as Clergy in Choir, along with Frs Walter Fogarty, John Rizzo and George Azhakath and Deacon Willy Limjap. Seminarians, Acolytes and the Cathedral Scholar formed part of the entrance procession.

Tenebrae, latin for darkness or *shadows*, was applied to the night and early morning services of the last three days of Holy Week. In medieval times it came to be anticipated on the preceding evenings.



The Cathedral Schola led the singing. In addition to the psalms and readings, Lamentations from Jeremiah were chanted three times, each being followed by a responsory,

The most conspicuous feature is the gradual extinguishing of the fourteen candles on the Tenebrae until a single candle, symbolizing the Lord remained.

The Christ light was then taken from the Cathedral and for a brief time all present remained in darkness, to reflect upon the mystery of Christ's death and the apparent victory of darkness and evil in our lives. But a sudden, loud noise (strepitus), symbolising the earthquake at the time of the resurrection, broke the silence.

With the Christ Light restored atop the Tenebrae hearse, all prayed briefly before departing in silence.



CHRISM MASS

Priests and people from all parishes of the Parramatta

Diocese, made the annual 'pilgrimage' to St Patrick's Cathedral for the celebration of this Solemn Mass on March, 28th.

All the usual liturgical elements took place, but with special additions pertaining only to a Chrism Mass.

1. THE RENEWAL OF PRIESTLY PROMISES to Bishop



Vincent; one being the resolution '*to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching following Christ.....not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls.*'

The Bishop then exhorted the people to pray for our priests and for him, that they would remain faithful in following the Lord, in their ministry as shepherds and servants of all.

2 CHRISM RITE: The oils to be used throughout the diocese



for celebrating the Sacraments were brought to the Bishop, surrounded by his presbyters, to be blessed (Oils of the Sick and Catechumens), and

the Sacred Chrism, for blessing and for consecration. Chrism is used for anointing in Baptism and Priesthood.



3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY OILS: What a grand sight to behold — the calling forth of priests, and parish representatives to receive the Holy Oils from Bishop Vincent on behalf of their communities; then the long file extending from the Sanctuary into the



Blessed Sacrament Chapel; the procession out equally as impressive as the vision of that of servers, acolytes, seminarians, deacons, priests and bishop processing in. Unforgettable!

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM:

Beginning on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, The Triduum reaches its pinnacle in the Easter Vigil and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

CELEBRATION OF THE TRIDUUM IS THE CULMINATION OF THE ENTIRE LITURGICAL YEAR.

IT ENCOMPASSES THE MOST PROFOUND AND PIVOTAL MYSTERIES OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

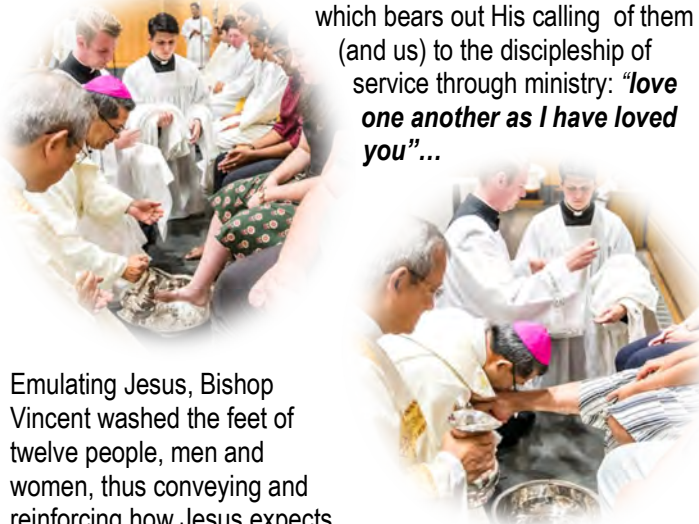
HOLY Thursday

SOLEMN EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

At this Mass we are drawn to focus on three important actions of Jesus, that are fundamental if we want to follow Him.

THE 'MANDATUM' The Great Commandment.

Jesus, is Master, yet humbles Himself to wash the feet of His Apostles — the ultimate act of service which bears out His calling of them (and us) to the discipleship of service through ministry: ***"love one another as I have loved you"...***



Emulating Jesus, Bishop Vincent washed the feet of twelve people, men and women, thus conveying and reinforcing how Jesus expects us to live — as servants of all.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST AND PRIESTHOOD:

At His final meal, Jesus makes the Apostles sharers in His Passover: As a pledge of His love, He offers the bread and wine as 'my body, given up for you' and 'my blood, poured out for you' entreating them to 'do this in memory of me.' thereby instituting them as priests of the New Testament.



Let's us remember always, that whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, it is the memorial of Jesus' death and Resurrection.

After Holy Communion the Blessed Sacrament was taken in solemn procession to the Altar of Repose, in the cloister for people to "watch and pray" with Jesus, reflecting on His Agony in Gethsemane and His impending, ultimate sacrifice on the cross for love of us.



GOOD Friday

"IT IS ACCOMPLISHED"
and bowing His head He gave up His Spirit

And so the faithful came on this most sacred day to relive the supreme sacrifice of our Redeemer.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Like last year, we walked with Jesus to the Cross in the Cloister using those of Pope Francis, with Credo Youth members doing the meditations and prayers.

SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION:



At 3pm, the Bishop and ministers entered the cathedral filled to over-flowing with silent mourners. The Altar was revered,

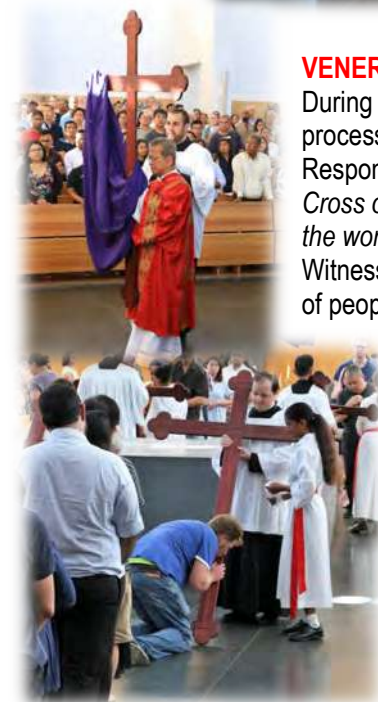
Bishop Vincent prostrating himself as a sign of total submission to the power and grace of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The Passion was sung, with Bernard Kirkpatrick taking the narrator's role.



VENERATION OF THE CROSS

During the unveiling of the cross being processed by Deacon Limjap, the Responsory, *'Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the Saviour of the world.'* was intoned three times. Witnessing to their faith, four long lines of people edged slowly forward to reverence the Cross.



Then the reserved Sacrament was brought from the Tabernacle for Holy Communion. Note that preparation for its distribution is carried out on the opposite side of the altar to when Mass is celebrated. The commemoration began in silence; and in silence it ended.

Calvary is truly the greatest moment of God's love for us. Fr Bob

THE EASTER VIGIL: Centre of The Sacred Paschal Triduum

It happens every year: People arrive at the Cathedral on Easter Saturday expecting to attend a 'normal' Vigil Mass. But they are in for an unforgettable, visually beautiful, faith-strengthening, though lengthy, liturgy. That's if they choose to stay the course.

1. The SERVICE of LIGHT:



People gathered in the Cloister to witness the blessing of the new fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle. Beforehand, the Bishop cut a cross in the wax with a stylus, then he traced the Greek letters 'alpha' above the cross and 'omega' below and 2018 between the arms of the cross. Next

he inserted 5 grains of incense into the candle, to represent the five glorious wounds of Christ. Lighting the candle from the new fire, the Bishop prayed,

***May the Light of Christ rising in glory
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.***

As the Paschal (Easter) Candle was processed into the Cathedral, altar servers lit candles from its flame, in turn passing on the light to illumine the Assembly's candles.



Then Bernard Kirkpatrick sang The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet), which invokes God's blessing and traces the salvation history of His people, praising the candle as a burnt sacrifice representing Christ as the Morning Star.

2. LITURGY of the WORD:

This year four Old Testament readings —two from Genesis, Exodus and Ezechiel —were proclaimed in darkness, before the cathedral became a blaze of light for the joyful singing of the Gloria, reading of the Epistle from St Paul, 6:3-11. and of the Holy Gospel from Mark 16:1-7

3. CELEBRATION of CHRISTIAN INITIATION:

As the Litany of Saints was chanted, the five adults wanting to become Catholics were led in procession, to the Baptistry, where the water of the font was blessed by the lowering of the Paschal Candle into it.



Waiting for Initiation: The Catechumens renounce sin and make their Profession of Faith



Walking through the font to the Bishop, each person knelt to receive the blessed water of Baptism.



Back in the Cathedral, the five now clothed in white, signifying their new life, were given Baptismal candles, (the Light of Christ) by their Godparents.



Next, the Bishop with Laying on of Hands, and anointing with Chrism sealed them with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.



In receiving First Eucharist initiation into the Catholic Faith for the five was completed.

WELCOME NEOPHYTES!

**CHRIST
OUR
LIGHT.
THANKS
BE
TO
GOD**



The Journey for the five Neophytes welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil started with attending **RCIA sessions, (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**. Up until Pentecost they will continue to meet weekly for the period of Mystagogy,

Originating from the Greek language, "mystagogy" means "*learning about the mysteries*". It is an initiation into God's self revelation; a process of growing in the faith through prayer, learning and practicing with other believers, bringing the realization that joining the Catholic Church is truly a lifetime commitment.

Jubilant Neophytes



After the Easter Vigil Bishop Vincent joined the Neophytes for a photo on the Cathedral steps. Our congratulations to

Sreejitha Appanakuzhy, Sonia Parada, Tiffany Karlyokie, Negar Zarei, and Majid Yousefi

There followed a welcoming supper in the Cathedral Hall. After cutting of the congratulatory cake, Fr Bob presented the euphoric new Catholics with certificates acknowledging their Initiation.

Official photographer, Alphonsus Fok took a happy snap of the Neophytes, with Fr Bob and RCIA Team members: 1&2, John and Diane Starkey 3. Anna Bui, 4. Deacon Wilfredo Limjap, 5. Kerry Giumelli, 6. Harley Aw.



was it the Voices of Angels we heard?



No, it was the exceptionally talented members of St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, who, led by their Director, Bernard Kirkpatrick sang so sublimely at all the Holy Week Liturgies.

Their 'heavenly' voices filled the cathedral void in praise and worship of the God who had seen fit to bestow this musical gift upon each one of them.

We thank God for the blessing of their presence in our Cathedral Parish.



Remembering matters

OUT OF THE ASHES: BY MADELINE LESLIE

We owe a debt of thanks to Carolyn and Vince Murtagh for this submission. They are both keen bushwalkers and recently Vince was trolling through back issues of the club's magazine, *The Waysider*, when he came upon Madeline's article featured below.

The Murtaghs wondered if it would be worth publishing in *St Pat's Matters*.

Well here it is, a little flashback to the 1996 fire, comments about some of the new building's amazing architecture and artworks and musical preparation for the Cathedral's dedication in November, 2003.

Carolyn, in her eighth year as a Cathedral chorister, has only known Bernard Kirkpatrick as the Director of Music. For the dedication of the new Cathedral, the choir, of which Madeline was a part, was under the direction of Ms Anna Kleibert.

I remember very clearly, sitting in the bus on the way home from work and looking across Prince Albert Park to see St Patrick's Cathedral at Parramatta burning!

It was February 1996. Incredulous! How could such a thing happen??

The cause was even more incredulous than anyone could have imagined!

What followed was the galvanizing of the Parish and Diocesan community. Firstly, in preparing a place for Worship in the abandoned school next door,** secondly, in gathering ideas on how the rebuilding should take place and thirdly, raising funds to bring the plans to fruition.

At the Dedication of the new St Patrick's Cathedral on 29th November 2003, one could be forgiven for thinking that Bishop Kevin Manning was almost grateful to the culprit for giving the Diocese the chance to start again — fresh — bringing the Church into 21st Century.

The past was not forgotten with the restoration and rebuilding of the old sandstone Cathedral as an impressive Entrance, (to the) Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Baptismal Font.

If you're wondering why this event should be recorded in 'The Waysider', I can only answer that some bushwalkers get up to some pretty interesting things when not bushwalking.

Gordon Inglis (of Guntawang fame) was the expert called upon to oversee the restoring of the stonework. The result is breathtaking and I have heard so many people comment on how wonderful the old Cathedral looks. It will always be a monument to Gordon's expertise.

I became involved when I saw a notice in the local bulletin asking for singers to form a special choir for the event. (dedication of the new Cathedral). Six months of rehearsals was needed to learn all that was required. New music was specially written and it was an integral part of the Liturgy. It was a wonderful experience hearing the 4, 6, and sometimes 8 part harmonies wafting through the building — the acoustics being an important part of the design.

Last but not least, resplendent in gold and bronze coloured vestments and featured in the Official Party was our own Fr Peter Blayney. Peter's role was Assistant to Cardinal Cassidy in the Papal Delegation.

Even though the "bulk" of the new Cathedral seems to be awkwardly attached to the old, it is worth a look if you happen to be in the area. It is full of light and features panelling and pews from Tasmanian woods and a huge granite block of stone from China for the Altar. The main focus is the

commanding Crucifix at the front, and the huge Crown of Thorns suspended over the Altar. "We preach the Crucified Christ" explained Fr Kevin Walsh, Dean of the Cathedral.

It was a really wonderful experience participating in the opening ceremony and the First Mass the following day — meeting new people, learning new skills - but gee! am I glad to be getting back to Bushwalking.

THE WAYSIDER No 303 March - April 2004

** The abandoned school Madeline mentions was the Marist Brothers High School actually vacated in 19994, marking the end of an era.

KNOWLEDGE *The Crown of Thorns* matters ...or is it?

Madeline's mention of *The Crown of Thorns* in her article, offers the opportunity to educate people about Robin Blau's sculpture.

The purpose of the Aureole is to create a strong visual focus at the centre of the huge cathedral void, directing the gaze of parishioners to the Altar as the focus of the Mass.

"The relationship of the Aureole and the Altar is one of



unspeakable power through the calling down of the Spirit in the Eucharistic prayer, when the Spirit penetrates the Host, infuses and transforms the elements."

The Aureole, a curved three dimensional circular form suspended above the altar resembles a halo of light through curving, bending and intertwining stainless steel rods.

The sculptural form of the Aureole may also be read as a figurative "crown of thorns", with extensions emerging from the rods of steel as gilt thorns on a vine or branch: this is the perception of most people on first glimpsing Robin Blau's "halo of light".

JANE PEREZ was just one of the many volunteers who helped at the High Tea Fundraiser, brainchild of Fr John Paul Escarlan, featured in the last issue of *St Pat's Matters*. Jane ended up seeing the funds raised on that occasion put to good use on distant shores. She writes about that mission experience.

When Fr JP first mentioned the idea of a Mission trip to the Philippines to build a chapel, visit orphanages and schools, I did not think twice about going. I thought it would be a good opportunity to reach out to people in need, and to delve into a world unknown from a 'first world' perspective. To learn about their everyday joys and struggles. I looked forward to the challenge of stepping away from the 'instant' society to one where I would be reacquainted with the simplicity of life – where the speed of internet would not matter, the traffic getting to work daily not an issue, the microwaves, TVs, laptops, coffee machines, ipads, mobile phones would not be part of our everyday existence! I was also happy to be able to bring my children, Jerick and Jacqui to our homeland, to immerse them in its culture and traditions first hand. Of course, that experience means being exposed to an environment very different from our lives of abundance and affluence here in Australia.

Eleven of us who embarked on our journey — for some it was the first time they'd stepped foot on an airplane, for some going away without family, but for all, it was a first spending the summer vacation doing Mission Work.

We landed in Cebu, greeted by the warm humid air, the sound of jeepneys and tricycles and thousands of cars at 6pm peak hour traffic struggling to head homeward. Since our airport transfer was barely making 20km/h, we were able to observe the passing sights: jeepneys packed to the brim, with passengers, even hanging onto the backs; ladies, handkerchiefs cupped over their noses so as not to inhale pollution from the exhausts of the thousands of cars on the roads. Lanes meant nothing as vehicles jostled for any available space; and seatbelts were deemed unessential as vehicles squeezed in as many passengers as they could possibly fit.

It was past 6pm; yet to our surprise, some children as young as three were walking by themselves, some even running around playing with other children. I saw a boy not more than five, dressed in torn clothes, shoeless, cradling a toddler, his younger sister, feeding her some corn. A little further on, was a small makeshift shelter with eleven people huddled around a small TV. Another family was eating dinner on a table made of crate boxes with cardboard as the tablecloth.

"Welcome to the Philippines!" I heard someone shout. This was to be our home for the next fourteen days.

Being confronted by the poverty, injustice and disparity of wealth in this place, made us even



more determined to immerse ourselves fully in the *YOUTH IN MISSION* challenge.

Day One: We had our first experience of the jeepney mode of transportation travelling with Fr JP to visit our first orphanage. This was where we saw very young children barely able to read, lift their voices with joy and passion at Mass. Their love for Jesus was very touching. These children, whose parents could not care for them or had just abandoned them, reminded us, that even if you have nothing and no one, Jesus is there for you.

We came across many children and youth on our trip. We spent a few days painting rooms in St Mary Mackillop School, at Santa Fe, Cebu, while students were away practicing for their presentations at the local Fiesta of Santo Niño. Many children came to just watch us, bewildered that foreign visitors would happily come to paint their classrooms and chairs. Some were courageous enough to pick up paint brushes to help. Their smiles turned to laughter and soon we were exchanging life stories despite the language barriers.

At Poo Elementary each of us had a chance to take a class and interact with the students, who were interested to know about life in Australia. Then one student told us how he wakes up very early to go out on his parents' fishing boat to catch food for the family; then he walks many kilometres to school. You can imagine how amazed he was to learn that children in Sydney have free travel to and from school! Another boy declared that he will stay in Santa Fe all his life because he is too poor to leave. How their outlook on life was brightened by hearing that people, despite humble beginnings, can successfully complete their studies. They no longer felt defeated, being told that through education and hard work, the knowledge they gain will enable them to make wise decisions when confronted with life's difficulties and believing that God will be with them on life's journey.

We became acquainted with the local youth after daily Masses and festivities for the Fiesta for Santo Niño, organising clinics for Ultimate Frisbee, and playing games by the beach. We also collaborated with the youth of Sto Niño Parish to feed children in a neighbouring community. This was quite overwhelming for most of us, being confronted by impoverished, hungry children, some naked, some with open wounds, swarming with flies, on their legs. Many homes had no running water for them to wash their bodies, let alone their wounds, and

definitely no first aid kits to disinfect or dress them. What do they care about their wounds when their stomachs are screaming from hunger? This was again the case when we fed street children outside the Cathedral in Cebu — homeless, desolate children, who had not had a wash or clean clothes, or known someone's care or even a good meal for a very long time. A meal from Jollibee of a cup of rice with a leg of fried chicken, gravy and a glass of soft drink disappeared into starving tummies in less than three minutes. I struggled to hold back my tears. A small child hung on to my shirt and had his eyes on that Jollibee box as if it was the only possession he had in the world. It probably was. How can one remain unchanged after all we had witnessed in our time here? Through these confronting experiences we were reminded of the ministry of presence. These people with so little appreciated the fact that we spent even a few minutes with them — to talk, smile, look with loving eyes, to show empathy for their struggles and that for a short time we can relieve their destitution just a little. It costs nothing to reach out and let them feel that they matter. We may have shared a meal with many of these people but as I write this, months after the Mission trip has ended, my mind is still bombarded with the faces of the people I encountered. Why do the memories move me so? Mother Teresa said that the hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread. For me, that was the Mission's most profound lesson.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported this Mission and shared your financial gifts. We started to build Santa Cruz Chapel, — almost finished, now — a beautiful edifice of faith, built through love, friendship and family spirit. Thanks to schools who donated funds for their Filipino counterparts, one school has said goodbye to its plywood walls. Now it has cement walls; so the classrooms will no longer be flooded or washed out on rainy days. We distributed bags of rice to needy families, who extend their gratitude to you. Those who journeyed with us in thought and prayer. Know that the smile of the one year old girl who learnt how to hold a spoon and blow her porridge to feed herself, was for you; the glance of the abandoned child being wheeled on a wooden makeshift cart because she had lost her legs, was one of gratitude for your caring.

Mission is not just about doing things for or giving things to people. It is a reminder to always be a presence in other people's lives — to listen, to share. It wasn't only about changing the lives of those we fed, or taught. It was about how my life has changed because I had met them. We may have painted their walls of their buildings, but they painted our hearts. We walked along the shores there to greet the sunrise, but the most glorious one I saw was the sunrise in the faces of the children.

Our group and youth of Santo Niño parish with children of Barangay Okoy helped in the Feeding Programme.



Painting classrooms in St Mamry Mackillop School



Feeding children in Barangay Okoy village



Feeding children : Jane, centre with daughter Jacqui

Mission workers dug and laid the cement foundations for the chapel: ➡ The walls, flooring, painting and finishings were done post Mission with the funds raised at the Cathedral High Tea, and from other sources plus private donations.



PRIESTLY MATTERS

A case of 'déjà vu'

Fr Gitau Michael returns to St Pat's

Back in August 2014, Fr Michael was appointed to St Patrick's Cathedral as assistant parish priest to the Dean, Fr John McSweeney.

At that time, he gave us a nutshell biopic via the weekly parish bulletin (see below).

However, parishioners barely had time to become acquainted with him before he was whisked away, transferred in early November to St Bernadette's Castle Hill. People joked that the presbytery had a revolving door, because around the same time Fr John went to Stanhope Gardens as parish priest replacing Fr David Hume, who had died suddenly. So in February, this year, it was a case of déjà vu when Fr Michael returned, again as Assistant Parish Priest, to replace Fr George Azhakath.

So Fr Michael let's hope that this time around, your sojourn with us will last years and years!

Fr Michael's brief biopic from Parish Bulletin 31/8/2014

HELLO FROM FR MICHAEL

Dear Parishioners,

My name is Fr Michael Gitau Gathuku and I have been appointed Assistant Parish Priest at St Patrick's Cathedral. I thought it timely to give a bit of background as to how my journey has led me here.



I was born in Kenya, August 1964. I attended both my primary and secondary education in Kenya finishing in 1984. In 1987 I joined the St Mary's Major Seminary for a 'spiritual year' before proceeding to Apostle of Jesus Major Seminary and St Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary for my philosophical and theological studies. I graduated in 1994 with Pontifical Urbanians Affiliate University. I was ordained Deacon in May 1994 and a Priest in July 1995.

In my entire life as a priest I have worked mainly in parishes. 3 years as an Assistant Priest and 15 years as a Parish Priest in the Catholic Diocese of Eldoret in Kenya. I have also assisted mostly on education matters in Catholic schools.

I would like to thank Bishop Anthony Fisher for this appointment, Fr Peter Williams and Fr Chris de Souza for their assistance with the many requirements to be fulfilled in being able to work in the diocese. I would also like to thank the parishioners that I have so far met for their warm welcome and to the Cathedral staff who have made me feel very welcome.

I look forward to meeting all the parishioners in the next few weeks.

My sincerest regards, God Bless,
Fr Michael.



The group at the Palm Sunday Lenten Reflection. Spot Fr Bob, Fr Rizzo and Fr George, the excellent presenters for the sessions.

James, from a Christian denomination (branch of Protestantism) asked me last January *"Is it true that Catholics are not allowed to read the Bible?"* "Ha? Who told you that?" I asked. *"The Catholics attending our weekly Bible study sessions,"* was his reply.

I can't figure out why many Catholics read articles and books and watch videos of different religious denomination and end up confused. Some Catholics recently have been forwarding Facebook posts saying St Paul and St Luke are two of the twelve apostles (Luke 6:12-16). Aside from not knowing the scriptures very well, many Catholics are ignorant of what Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur mean, or what the Catholic Magisterium is, or are even unaware of an important fact that it was Jesus who instituted the sacraments.

In the past I have attended home Bible study conducted by well-meaning Catholics, where people just share their own interpretations of Scripture. This often ends in arguments or worse, confusion about the Scripture they are trying to understand.

I look forward to every **Live Christ Share Christ** (LCSC) Formation session. It is Bible-based. For Lent 2018 each presenter — Fr Bob Bossini, Fr John Rizzo, Fr George Azhakath, Fr Shaun and Fr Michael Gitau, — 'dissected' the Scriptural passages helping us to understand the why, how, who, what and when of what is written.

LCSC also includes worship and fellowship. There have been times when sessions finished at 9pm and on occasions people were still in the hall

chatting away when I left at 10:15pm.

In the first session Fr Bob gave an exceptionally detailed overview of Mark's entire Gospel. He gave us the background influencing Mark's historical, straightforward style. Jesus was abandoned, betrayed, denied, by His friends and followers until the end as the Gospel of Mark was written during Emperor Nero's reign, when Christian communities were persecuted and martyred. Mark's Gospel is also directed to the Gentiles.

Fr Bob told us that St Peter was mostly the source for Mark's Gospel as they were close.

I found Fr Bob a font of knowledge. Every time he is the presenter I bring heaps of paper to take notes as he imparts so much information.

What I've learned from Father Bob has helped me to understand the Bible and to grow in faith and understanding of Jesus.

Fr Rizzo's expert presentation of "The Passion of Jesus" according to Mark's Gospel, was powerfully and passionately delivered. He showed videos, played music and talked fearlessly and with authority about what happened to Jesus. He ended saying *'welcome to the 21st century as history is repeating itself now.'*

His presentation on *"Cleansing of the Temple"* John 2: 13 to 25, was reflective and inciteful. He compared our bodies with the temple cleansed by Jesus of robbers and cheating merchants; our bodies are temples of Christ and we should let Jesus cleanse them through His gifts to us — the sacraments and Holy Mother.

Our new assistant parish priest, Fr Michael Gitau, gave a very reflective presentation on the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus. (John 3:1-23).

Do you know what Jesus said when Nicodemus asked how can he enter into his mother's womb to be born again? Fr Michael explained the significance of the expressions "living in the light" and "darkness" to our present lives. We all know God the Father sent His only begotten Son to save us, but Why this method? You see, even human parents would be willing to die for their only child. God did more, He gave up His only begotten Son to show how much He loves us as it is easier for God the Father to come down to sacrifice His life for us.

Fr Michael also explained why we need to be baptised with not only water but also with the Holy Spirit to be truly Catholic/Christian. He spoke about the book, *"Left to Tell"*, the story of a survivor of the Rwandan Holocaust.

I found Fr Michael's talk profound and touching. I left feeling blessed that God loves us so very much.

Fr George presented *"The Grain of Wheat"/"The Hour of the Son of Man"* John 12:20-36

He made reference to the wedding feast of Cana where Jesus said to our Holy Mother, *"My hour has not come yet"*. Then he enlightened us as to what event triggered Jesus to say, *"the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."* Just one sentence that triggered the passion in John 12:20-36.

Cont'd next page

On the matter of volunteering...

from RoseAnna Spaccavento

Ever wondered what the choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral Choir do during the week? Some are students completing courses at various universities and colleges, while others work in offices, healthcare, workshops or are retired.

My name is RoseAnna Spaccavento. As well as being a chorister with the Cathedral Choir — for almost 9 years now, — I am also a volunteer! I volunteer with **Co.As.It** Italian Association of Assistance in Leichhardt, with their Community Visitors Scheme (CVS). I became involved with this service after being made redundant from work in the community sector, working with the aged and their carers.

It was during Volunteers Week. There was a pop-up kiosk at my local shopping centre. Two ladies from an organisation called Leep were giving information about volunteering and recruiting people. I approached their desk and started talking about aged care and how I was still interested in being involved. The next thing I knew I was recruited and completing forms. The ladies then asked if I spoke a language other than English. I said that I also spoke Italian. They were pleased with this information as they required volunteers that had a second language. They asked for permission to pass on my details to Co.As.It and said a Co-ordinator would contact me in due course.

It is now approaching my fifth year volunteering. I visit elderly Italian people with dementia at their place of residence. These visits could either be in their own home or at an Aged Care facility.

I feel uplifted when I see my clients' faces light up upon my arrival at their place of residence. They tell me they enjoy both the visits and the companionship. One lady still makes the traditional home style Italian meals; I ask her for recipes on how to cook the dishes. There are times that she even demonstrates how these are done. I believe she feels useful and still has a purpose in life.

While doing my volunteering, visiting these two wonderful ladies, I am reminded of a small passage in St Matthew's Gospel 25:39-40 when Jesus says,

'When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

from Christina Gladwin

I am delighted to be a part of the St Pat's community and to be needed to help out in any way I can.

I have been attending St Pat's now for just over two years since relocating from Casula and All Saints Parish in Liverpool and am now a happy resident of North Parramatta.

What prompted me to join the Hospitality Group?

When I went for my first morning tea, I was quite impressed by this congregation get-together to have a cuppa after Sunday morning Mass and a chance to connect with people of the parish community. Most of all, I was impressed by the volunteers who form the Hospitality Group and who give up their time to be of such great service. At the time they were asking for volunteers, so I put my hand up as I wanted to be part of this great group.



That's Christina, at left, on duty in the Cloister Café. With her is Esther Leon, long time member of the Hospitality Group. Why not emulate Christina's actions? Become a member of "this great group" and at the same time render service to the parish community.

Interested in Volunteering?

Contact Donna, Parish Office Receptionist on 8839 8400. She can direct you to the Hospitality Group Co Ordinator.

LIVE CHRIST SHARE CHRIST from p16

A couple of points that Father drew our attention to:

The significance of the expression, *Son of Man*. Fr George suggested we cross reference it with Daniel 7:13.

Also to note what people wrongly expected the Son of Man/Messiah should be. (verse 36.).

And to reflect upon the meaning of "hating" your life to save it.

We thirst for God's Word:

God's Words can heal and change our lives. We thank God for our priests who work tirelessly to evangelise His flock, and for the volunteers who sincerely work to serve God without expecting anything in return. We hope the people who attended had insightful Lenten encounters with Jesus in the weekly LCSC formation and worship sessions during Lent.

Thank you everyone who support LCSC especially those who have invited friends

and family. We were 10 regulars, then 15 then 23 and this year we are 40 regular attendees, even reached 90 sometimes. To God goes all the glory.

We are proud to announce that LCSC Australia is now happening in Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere, in St Francis Xavier Parish in Victoria and also in some parishes in Western Australia.

Should you wish to find out more or to subscribe to notifications, please email LiveChristShareChrist@gmail.com

FLASHBACK TO 2012 FROM BOB EDGAR

For this article I have revisited a piece I wrote for *St Pat's Matters* in 2012, detailing restoration work done on the cathedral bell then.

'Patrick', as our bell is known, is over 100 years old and, as may be expected, it has suffered some serious wear and tear which makes it difficult to swing and will eventually stop the bell altogether. Fr. Wim was approached earlier this year by my good friend Malcolm Brady about repairing the worn parts. I was standing nearby and was immediately drafted. Malcolm is a retired engineer and enthusiastic campanologist being active in many of Sydney's iconic churches. He has also had a hand in designing and constructing more than a few bell installations in church towers around the state.

The first part of this project was to obtain a new rope from the UK. These are a specialised item and cost several hundred dollars. The sallee, the thick, fluffy "grip" on the end of the rope, was ordered in Irish colours to honour St Patrick.

The bell swings on two gudgeons and as those with any mechanical knowledge will appreciate these need to be parallel and on the same plane. Patrick's are not. The clapper also should swing sweetly on its pivot pin up inside the bell. The wear on Patrick's pivot pin amounts to about 4mm resulting in the clapper swinging side to side as well as back and forth.

The work is being carried out on a voluntary basis and will be ongoing for a couple of months, I expect. Apologies to all for the temporary absence of our beloved bell. After a planning visit to assess materials and equipment required, and to take measurements and photos, the first stage was to remove the clapper. Michael Lilley was on hand to help with knocking out the pin and lowering the 40kg plus item to ground level. As at late October the clapper is in Malcolm's workshop for machining of a new pivot pin and a new eye bush. A temporary clapper has now been hung with the help of Vince Murtagh and while nowhere near a perfect fit it will still be able to swing and make a noise. Who would have thought that there are people in Sydney who keep a spare clapper laying around?

Next stage will be to lift the bell to remove the gudgeon and bearing block on the Eastern side. This is the more accessible one. The bell weighs in at 17cwt. I know there are only a few people in the parish who know what a cwt is. For the rest of you 17 of them equates to 864kg. A chain block is used to lift one side of the bell while the worn parts are removed,



(we've had a trial run), and taken off to the workshop for machining. We don't have spare gudgeons or bearings available so, as much as possible, we will have materials and processes planned in advance to minimise downtime. On the western side is a large half-wheel which has the rope attached, this will take a little more time to dismantle but the bearing arrangement is the same as the eastern side. Some more modern materials may be used but care will be taken to preserve the overall historic fabric of the bell. It hails from Dublin by the way.

.....BOB FAST FORWARDS TO FEBRUARY 2018

The project to do repairs to 'Patrick' has taken more than a few months and seen out several deans of the Cathedral. The delay has been down to availability of personnel, materials and other projects getting in the way. Malcolm sold his house at Eastwood in the middle of it all and had to re-establish his well equipped workshop at Blackheath. There have been many trips up and down those ladders 17m above the old choir loft, hoisting tools and equipment up and down, taking measurements, relaying them to the workshop and translating them into a manufactured item. So now the bell swings on brand new gudgeons in modern self aligning roller bearings. The personnel involved at various times were Malcolm Brady, Engineer and Campanologist, Vince Murtagh, Gofer and Photographer, John Cooper, retired Mechanical Engineer, Max Wallace former Mechanic and myself, Fitter and Turner.

It was a great project to be involved in and it was even better to get the thumbs up from our resident bellringer Paul Mousley. His task is so much easier, that in fact he has had to alter his technique to accommodate the much freer movement.

I hadn't realised that the bell is not just important for St Pat's parishioners but also for people who live and work in the area and who rely on and enjoy the ringing of our lovely bell. After all, what may be the Angelus for some is lunchtime for others; — All part of the fabric of our great city. It's a terrific project to be involved in and I look forward to a celebratory ringing of the finished product.

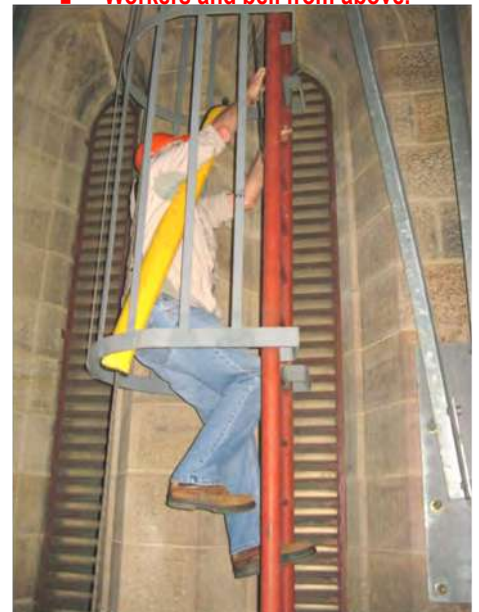
As an aside, when the bell was reinstalled following the 1996 Fire, it was placed higher in the tower to leave space for a peal of 8 bells to be installed at a later date. I've heard that just such a peal is soon to be available for sale.

Wait for it!

Next issue, more about **Patrick** — the Latin inscription he bears and some other titbits to whet your historical appetite.



↑ Workers and bell from above.



↑ Going up. ↓ Long way down



MORE DETAILS ABOUT PATRICK'S LIFE SAVING SURGERY

VINCE MURTAGH continues the story about THE ANGELUS BELL

The bell at St Patrick's carries Latin inscriptions saying it was made by Matthew O'Byrne in 1904, a memorial to Monsignor Rigney. During last year Paul, our main bellringer, was having to work hard with it because the bell's bearings and gudgeons (axles) were badly worn. It is a tribute to him that parishioners probably did not even notice.

Bob Edgar is friendly with a retired civil engineer, Malcolm, a bell-ringer and a man with a well-equipped workshop. Fortunately Malcolm has a background of (voluntary) design and hands-on work on new bell installation and upgrade work including St Mary's Cathedral, St Benedict's Broadway, St Leonard's Naremburn and a Russian Orthodox Monastery in the Monaro District south west of Cooma. Coincidentally, when the new St Patrick's Cathedral was being built he provided technical advice to the architect on the positioning and support of the old bell so that space was allowed for a future peal of change ringing bells.

He agreed to work with Bob on the repair and enlisted others to assist (John and Max, both engineers, and Vince as a gofer). The problems were extensive. The old gudgeons were both badly worn and bent, making the bell very difficult to ring and at risk of seizing solid in the near future. There was a real risk of one of the old gudgeons fracturing with consequent cracking of the bell or the cast iron support frames!

Some years ago Malcolm had repaired the clapper of this bell, so he and his coopted assistants had some idea of what was involved in lifting the bell to do the work. But no one could recall details of the suspension system so that had to be devised first. Any mistake could send the 850 kilogram bell and the 300 hundred kilogram headstock through several floors to the ground below. Access to the bell is by two sets of near vertical ladders and every tool had to be carried up. If any tools were left behind in the car, someone had to make an extra round trip. Good exercise?

For good measure, the steel mesh floor meant that if anything dropped it might continue to the bottom of the tower. Measurements were made, checked and double-checked, because the fine tolerances required much careful machine work before tackling the actual replacement. Because the bell had to be rung each day for the Angelus, all measure

ment details were recorded at Parramatta to be used at a home workshop at the other end of the Diocese.

A major challenge was the machining of new gudgeons (axles) to replace the bent, badly worn original ones. Size differences



with the new commercial mountings (called plummer blocks) meant some cunning design was needed to fit them to the cast iron frames from which the bell is hung. This was achieved with steel adaptor plates matching the old and new bolt holes.

To allow the original nuts to be re-used, the machining required precise cutting of 44 mm diameter (1.75") threads to fit the inner threads of the nuts. Of course, these nuts remained on the bell assembly and the worn pieces were not available for comparison during machining.

As the available lathe was a small 1941 American machine, each gudgeon thread took some 6 to 8 hours to machine. Add another 3 to 4 days of machining by the three engineers, for carving each of the gudgeons to shape from a large billet of steel. The British Standard for Imperial threads (not Metric) was used as a reference for sizing the new screw threads. It must have been adhered to by the bell foundry back in 1904: the original nuts fitted perfectly on the new screw threads.



There were unexpected problems in the tower. One visit was aborted because of slipping in the chain block supporting the bell. Also, work had to pause each midday to allow the Angelus to be rung. Not in the normal way with the bell rope, of course, as the clapper was swung by hand. Ear protection was a must for the workers clustered around the bell, and a pronounced resonance tone continued for

minutes after the final ring. A marvel of design by the original Irish bell founders, when you consider the mass of metal producing the sound.

Next visit, the replacement chain block was jamming while the bell was suspended. A lunchtime visit obtained a new one but that problem lengthened what should have been a short day. In the afternoon the array of chains and slings held the bell while the old bearing mounts were removed and the newly machined ones installed (temporarily) to check what final fitting adjustments were needed. More machining work for Malcolm, and more pressure to complete the job. The bell remained silent for the first week of February.

February 7, the final installation of the bright new bearing assemblies. And late in the afternoon the working party were mightily relieved — everything fitted. All



that remained was the slow removal of tools from the upper room — and a trial ringing of the bell. A note was left for Paul, warning him to ease into the ringing until he became used to the smooth action. Too much force could cause damage to the bell, NOT something that would please Fr Bob.

As for all his projects, Malcolm's time and use of workshop machinery were free of charge. A rough idea of the value of the 5 volunteers' donated time for machining and installation work is \$12000. Instead, the project cost the Parish less than \$600.



Hard at work:
Bob Edgar,
Malcolm Brady
and
John Cooper,
their skills
challenged
in making
Patrick
safe and well
again.

Being Aware Matters

Have you heard about Shalom World?



In case you haven't, for Somy Skariah, putting St Pat's parishioners into the picture about Shalom World's launch in Australia back in January matters greatly.

He wants to make us aware, "with great happiness", that **Shalom World Australia** has been blessed to now be broadcasting in Australia to share the Peace of Christ.

To enlighten you, below Somy shares Joseph Younes' article from Catholic Outlook on 8th February about the organization's launch.

On Friday, January 26, 2018, **SHALOM WORLD Australia** was officially launched by Shalom Media Australia's patron, H.E. Julian Porteous, Archbishop of Hobart. This new television channel, under the purview of Shalom Media, a Catholic media ministry, will broadcast 24/7 high-definition, Catholic content that is faith-filled, virtue-building, character-based, and family-friendly.

SHALOM WORLD Australia supplements the pastoral efforts of the Church to spread the Good News of the Gospel. With great support from Shepherds across Australia, **SHALOM WORLD** offers programming that is a spiritual banquet for all ages. Many productions have already been completed with religious and lay Catholic preachers, as well as main-line ministries in the country.

At the launch ceremony, Archbishop Porteous spoke about the peace that is sought by many, and how the launch of **SHALOM WORLD Australia** at this moment will surely play a vital role in the spiritual nourishment for the people of this nation. **SHALOM WORLD Australia** can be viewed on various platforms for free including all the latest Smart TVs and connected TVs such as Apple TV, Roku, Xbox One, and Opera TV. The **SHALOM WORLD** app is also available for free in the App Store and Google Play. In addition, **SHALOM WORLD** can be viewed online at www.ShalomWorld.org

By now, four original 9PM series talks already feature Australian preachers, including

- ♦ Robert Falzon (Mondays, 9PM AEDT) of Men Alive Australia;
- ♦ Mark Doyle (Tuesdays, 9PM AEDT) of Net Ministry Australia;
- ♦ Sister Hilda Scott (Fridays, 9PM AEDT) of Jamberoo Abbey, Wollongong;
- ♦ Alan Ames on **THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS** (Wednesday, 9PM AEDT).
- ♦ **SHALOM WORLD Australia** also features the ministry stories of Men Alive, Net Ministry Australia and Ignite Youth apart from the religious congregation of the MGL.

For promoting vocations in the faith, **SHALOM WORLD's** original series, *Vocare*, features priests and religious who share their vocation stories. During the next several months, many more religious and lay preachers from Australia will be featured on **SHALOM WORLD Australia** through its numerous original productions, truly making this a channel for the nation. The ministry is also looking to partner with many more Australian Catholic ministries and communities in the upcoming months.

SHALOM WORLD is already available across North America and Europe and has followed the lead of the Holy Spirit to launch this channel in Australia. The ministry hopes to evangelize to the whole continent and bring the peace and joy of Jesus Christ into the hearts of the people of this great nation.

Shalom Australia welcomes you to watch and share the good news in this effort. Contact for further details at australia@shalomworld.org

With thanks to [Shalom World Australia](http://www.ShalomWorldAustralia.org).

Somy shares:

How I became involved in Shalom's Mission



My involvement with Shalom started back in 2014 when I attended a retreat conducted by the Shalom Team in Toongabbie.

During the retreat I came to realize the GOD we worship is real and can be experienced. I could feel the touch of God and His anointing.

The event gave me a deep thirst to attend Mass more often and become involved in ways to serve the Lord.

As a consequence, I joined the acolyte ministry in 2015 seeing it as an opportunity to be closer to the Living God.

When **Shalom** expanded its work and conducted **Mission Fire** across Australia, I was happy to be part of it and have been helping to organize the events.

Shalom Media being a media ministry has focused to reach out to the people through printed media such as Shalom Tidings and Shalom TV (Shalom America at that time).

Through the sharing of the Mission Fire programs many have taken Christ's pain for the Lost Souls to their hearts and have joined Shalom's work spreading the Gospel message.

At Mission Fire 2015, National Coordinators were prayerfully chosen and given different roles. I have been working as Shalom World Coordinator since then and have been involved to reaching out to parishes, sharing the vision of **Shalom**.

There are many volunteers willingly spending their time and effort in the various ministries such as outreach, production, communication, intercession etc,

Shalom's purpose is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who are not yet aware of Him and who are going through different and difficult paths of life.

With the blessings of the Archbishops and Bishops, Shalom Australia TV has become a reality and is now broadcasting in Australia.

Take a look at www.shalomworld.org to see how the internet is being used as a powerful and positive tool for evangelization purposes, spreading the Gospel and providing Faith formation.

** Somy has been serving as an Acolyte at St Patrick's Cathedral since mid 2015.



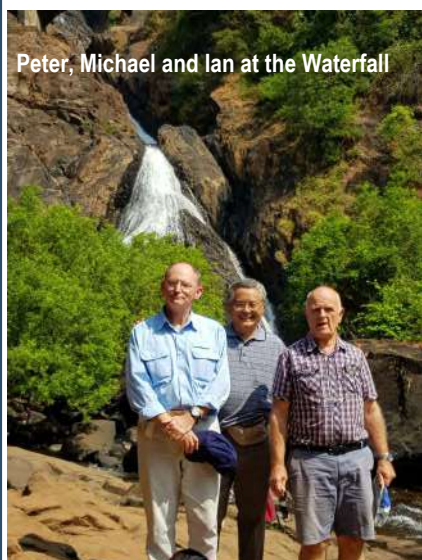
PARRAMATTA CATENIANS GO TO INDIA!

**Michael Tan
Circle Secretary
reporting**

Earlier this year, three members of the Parramatta Catenians — President Peter Murney, Membership Officer Ian Goldthorpe and I — visited India from 10th February to 25th February on the occasion of the first Indian National Catenian Conference in Goa as well as the first International Joint Meeting between the Parramatta and the Andheri (Mumbai) Circle.

We were warmly welcomed by the Indian Catenians, especially Eugene Das, who is not only a member of the President of the Andheri (Mumbai) Circle but also a member of the Parramatta Catenians.

Many friendships were made on this trip, and the Parramatta Catenians look forward to welcoming our Indian brothers and their families when they visit us in Parramatta.



Peter, Michael and Ian at the Waterfall



Apart from attending meetings we were able to visit many historic sites as well as places of great natural beauty, like Doodsagar Waterfall, which marks the boundary between the Indian states of Goa and Karnataka.

↓ Eugene Das welcoming Peter, Ian & Michael to the Goan Catenian Conference.



Back in Australia, Peter Murney welcomes Joe Allan, the newest member of the Parramatta Circle. of Catenians. ➔

Email me on parrasecretary@yahoo.com.au for information about the Catenians.



***The Catenian Motto:
Strengthening family life through friendship and faith.***

Credo Youth Matter



2018 has been designated as the Year of Youth.

So let's take the chance to commend the Credo Youth Ministry Leaders in their continued efforts to engage the young people of the parish to join up.

Above they are waiting in the cloister to be readers at the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

They also rallied at the Town Hall on Palm Sunday afternoon for the procession to the cathedral, ready to witness to their Christian Faith, enroute.

Captured at right are Mauritian flag bearers Stacie and Rachel and below Gen and Junior Credo Leader, Mel in cheesy mode for the photo. Other Credo youth chat in the background.



And that's Stephanie, at right, after the Youth Mass on Palm Sunday at one of the stalls promoting WYD2019 in Panama. She is on the organising team for the event.



Sharing matters

JANELLE READILY ACQUIESCED WHEN ASKED TO SHARE HER COMMENTS ON TENEBRAE AND MEDITATION



THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

A fellow meditator suggested that I should come to the Office of Tenebrae, which was to take place on the Monday of Holy Week. Being my first time attending, I was not sure what to expect. As the bishop, clergy and choir entered the cathedral in their traditional robes, I immediately knew I was in for a special experience. A blanket of goosebumps could be felt as I witnessed dedicated parishioners and clergy to be equal children of God. As psalms were sung and candles extinguished, the cathedral was dimmed. The angelic voices and the ambience within the cathedral created a huge sense of serenity for me. There were several moments where I felt I was the only person there, just myself and God. As I listened to the prayers, I realised the true meaning of this time of repentance during Lent, as a humbling and comforting time. The experience of Tenebrae was the perfect way to begin Holy Week.

A suggestion from the editor:

If you have never attended this liturgy, you are encouraged to do so during Holy Week, 2019.

It's an experience, not to be missed. You will most certainly find the liturgy spiritually uplifting and prayerful, further enhanced by the soul-stirring chanting of St Pat's gifted Cathedral Schola.

MEDITATION

I have been attending Christian Meditation for over two years. Having experienced other forms of meditation, I felt like something was missing. My experience with Christian meditation at the cathedral has opened my heart and mind to that missing

piece of the puzzle — spirituality. For me, this means the inclusion of God in my "quiet" time.

Through the Christian meditation I have a new sense of calmness which I feel is renewed on a weekly basis.

The words and prayers we have heard and spoken in the group have truly supported me in some very sticky situations I have experienced. A word here, a phrase there has encouraged me to look at things in a different, more positive way.

I have come to realise that the way I see things today, since starting meditation, can be attributed to sitting in silence with God. The period of silence and prayers my fellow meditators and I share has created a very special bond with God, as well as each other. I truly feel comforted, calm and at peace as I leave Christian meditation every week.



Fellow meditator, Terry & Janelle holding the prayer cloth bearing the meditation mantra **MARANATHA**, meaning COME LORD JESUS

COME! BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.

Join Janelle and the other meditators on Tuesday mornings in Murphy House, beginning at 9:30am.

For more information, phone the office on 8839 8400 or Patti on 0447 622 428

Good Friday Walk



pancakes for 1500 pilgrims!



Hats off to the stalwart army of volunteers who labored in the hall from 3am preparing breakfast for the pilgrims tackling the Good Friday Night Walk. It began at St Patrick's Blacktown at 10pm. They visited four churches enroute acting out two Stations of the Cross in each church. Around 6am Saturday morning, the weary walkers began arriving at the cathedral, glad to rest and elated at making it. During their brief respite on the cloister lawn, they undoubtedly craved sustenance, But before a breakfast of physical food, spiritual nourishment was dispensed in the cathedral, viewing the drama of the last two Stations. To appreciate the logistics of preparing pancakes and serving 1500 people, you had to be there! In the next St Pat's Matters a detailed coverage of the Stations Enactment in the Cathedral will be featured.

Praying

Reminding you of Meg's Request: to keep praying!



As Sacramental Coordinator, Meg and the Team are in the last stages of this year's Sacramental Programme which is preparing approximately 50 children for making their First Eucharist on 3rd June, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

During May the children and their parents will attend the last two sessions to develop their awareness of the significance of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the second stage in their initiation into the Catholic Faith. The final meeting, 26th May, will be a practice for the real event, receiving Jesus for the first time.

So, if you took one of Meg's pray cards earlier this year, keep praying for the child name there. Even if you did not take a card, you are urged to pray for all the children, as they continue their sacramental journey. And pray for their parents, too, that as their children's first educators in the Faith, they will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to continue their vital role.



A Novel Prayer Approach.

What's the occasion? What's inside the box?

It's the Business Breakfast held in the Cathedral Hall the day before St Patrick's Day, this year.

Inside the box was a little 'memento' of the occasion. Seen here are students from Our Lady of Mercy College distributing the boxes to guests as they departed. (Parishioner Patti Murphy just happened to be in the right spot to pose for the photo!)

The parting gift was the brainchild of Olivia Lee, Events Coordinator. Upon opening the box the recipient would espy a "cute" little cupcake to consume, but not before reading the message written on top: it was a "mini prayer", words taken from the beautiful prayer, *St Patrick's Breastplate*. Three simple exhortations: **Christ be within me, Christ with me, Christ beside me.**

**A pithy, yet powerful prayer of petition.
Maybe a good one to say at the beginning and ending of each day.**



a matter of restoration:

CATHEDRAL ANGEL ADMITS HAVING FLIGHT PHOBIA

In a brief statement to St. Pat's Matters in February, our beautiful Nativity Angel, Gloria indicated that, had she known of her aviation phobia, she would never have accepted the elevated position of Christmas Herald.

Both Archangels Michael and Gabriel came to her defence, stating that Gloria is a most amiable and gentle creature, who would never knowingly jeopardise the safety of The Holy Family.

One year ago, a tragic incident occurred post-Christmas 2016, when Gloria lost concentration whilst on duty above the Cathedral crèche, plummeting to the granite floor below.

Having sustained serious injury, including fractured skull, decapitation and crushed right hand, specialist surgery was performed once Gloria gained strength. Head and neck repairs proved successful, and her new hands are both delicate and expressive.

Church authorities sensitive to Gloria's phobia have promised that while retaining her coveted position, she now needs only to stand in order to announce with joy the Birth of Our Lord, a role she fulfilled admirably at Christmas 2017.



↑ Gloria asunder ↓



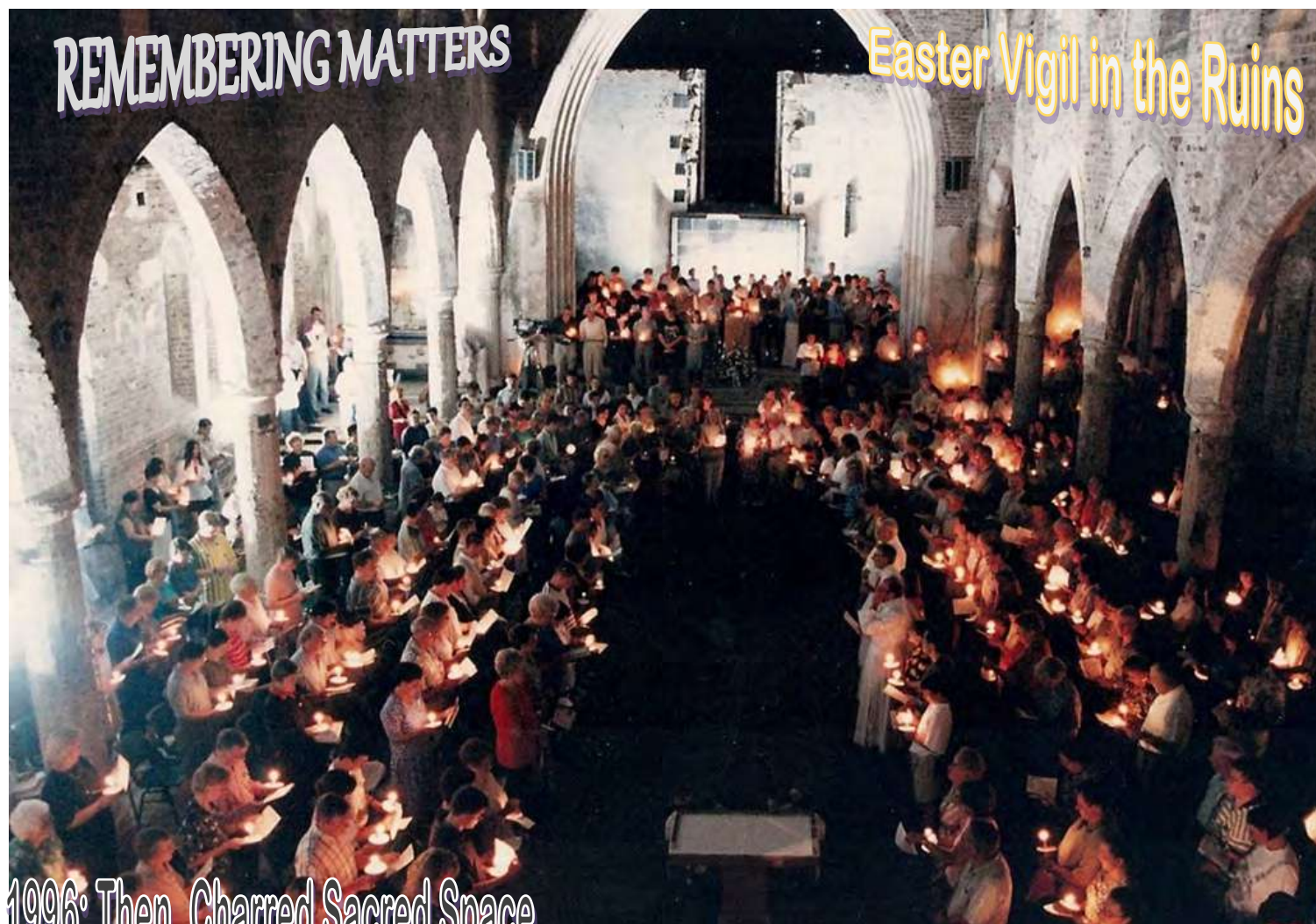
Gloria restored to full beauty. ➡



Restoration Corner: *Kathleen of Araluen*
Photography: *Philip Ciclovan*

REMEMBERING MATTERS

Easter Vigil in the Ruins



1996: Then, Charred Sacred Space



2018: Now, Sacred Space resurrected from the ashes.