

ST PAT'S MATTERS

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

This Wonderful Sacrament

SOURCE
and
SUMMIT
of the
CHRISTIAN
LIFE



Editorial

It seems the year is speeding by on winged feet. It's half past already!

And the same can be said for our lives...slipping away, though not half over for everyone. So it's timely that there is a focus on the Eucharist in this issue and its pivotal role in nurturing our spiritual lives and strengthening our Christian faith.

When you see the faces of the children who made their First Holy Communion featured in *Sacramental Matters*, it will undoubtedly take you back to your own joyful experience, no matter how long ago it might have happened. And Fr Bob's reflection opposite, on the Eucharist, is definitely one to reread often. See also what Ms Fabri, Principal of St Patrick's Primary and Olivia Lee have to say on the subject.

The month of May saw Oz Rosary, a concert for Mothers organised by Choir members and a statue of Our Lady Help Of Christians come to the Cathedral.

In Faith Formation the topic of Intercession, presented by Andrea d'Souza leads into a most moving testimony by Alan, her husband. And attendance at these formation sessions led to Victoria Ikutegbe's candid article about God in her life.

Bernadette Ching writes about an absorbing article about conversion and vocation that happened in her family.

Read about people who serve in ministry and those who have just joined the ranks as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and as SREs.

June Barrett dug into her archives to tell us more interesting facts about 'Patrick' the Cathedral Bell and the priest in whose memory he was cast.

At our request Mindy Mercado and Donna Missio put us in the picture as to their roles on the Parish Staff.

And I'm sure you'll enjoy the articles sent in by long time parishioners, George Abela and Terry O'Brien.

What else is there? Check it out for yourselves.

M Polizzi

THIS WONDERFUL SACRAMENT: THE EUCHARIST and our reception of it brings us into a close and intimate relationship with Jesus.

Below is the reflection Fr Bossini wrote in the bulletin on the Feast of Corpus Christi, (Body and Blood of Christ), the day children of our parish received the Eucharist for the first time. His words about Jesus' great gift are worth constantly revisiting.

There are many ways in which we can be nourished spiritually. Our prayer, spiritual reading, outreach to others in service, our reception of the sacraments all become noble ways for us to grow spiritually. Today we celebrate liturgically, perhaps the greatest means at our disposal, for us to grow in our spiritual lives: THE EUCHARIST. This sacrament, and our reception of it brings us into a close and intimate relationship with Jesus.

The celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ brings us to the very life and core of our faith. The Eucharist is indeed the one sacrament that the Church insists that we celebrate and participate in as **frequently** as possible — even daily. Why? It is like a doctor telling a patient that they must receive the proper nourishment — both in quality and quantity — as often as possible in order to ensure the best for their lives. **In the Eucharist the Church is telling us that here we have a means of nourishing our spiritual lives.**

In our busy lives we can become complacent about the Eucharist, and fail to see it as the **'source and summit of the Christian life'**. The Church reminds us that this sacrament above all the other sacraments is the one that we need to partake of frequently, if not daily: In the Eucharist, Jesus makes an incredible and life giving promise:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.' [John 6:51].

In partaking faithfully of the Eucharist we indeed have the life of Jesus within us. What a tremendous blessing and promise we have in the Eucharist. As we celebrate this mystery — and as we give thanks for the many children in our Parish who will receive the Eucharist for the first time this Sunday — may we recognise the great gift which Jesus gives us in this sacrament. May it truly be the source of everlasting life for us.

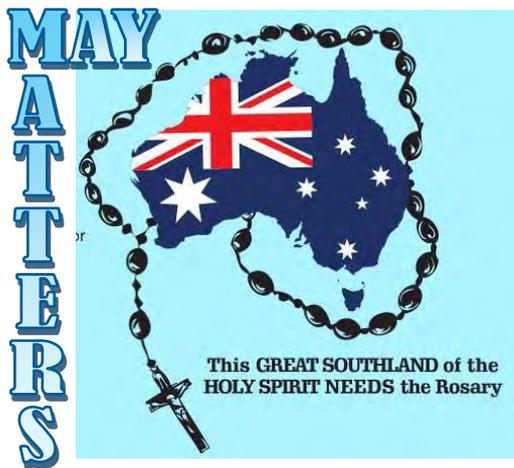
Father Bob concluded with an excerpt from St Thomas Aquinas [1225-1274] from one of his sermons on the mystery and significance of the Eucharist: *'but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift....*

It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. As he was on the point of

leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, he left it as a perpetual memorial of his passion.

It was the fulfilment of ancient figures and the greatest of all his miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of his departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.'





ST PATRICK'S JOINS IN OZ ROSARY CRUSADE

Oz Rosary 53 took place nationwide across our Great South Land of the Holy Spirit on Sunday 13th May, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima.

In these troubling times, with our faith under attack, Australian Catholics turned to Mary praying to her for the future well-being of our nation, our families and our youth.

At St Pat's the OZ Rosary was prayed after 8am Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.



BLUE and WHITE for OUR LADY

After recitation of the Rosary, people moved from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to the hall where they partook of morning tea, themed

blue and white for Our Lady, even to blue and white iced cup cakes!!

Credit to Geraldine & Michael Lilley and Mary Brennan, Legion of Mary members, who were instrumental in the Oz Rosary being held at the Cathedral.

The organisers thank Fr Bob for his support and those who attended the event. They are also most grateful to Adele Ghraiche and her Mom Samia Ghraiche who provided food and support, and Neetha Geo Lima for her willingness to help.



HOW OZ ROSARY 53 CAME ABOUT

It was in November last year, that a group of Sydney people under the patronage of Bishop David Cremin began organizing this event.

They were inspired by people of other nations invoking Our Lady's intercession: On 7th October 2017 on the feast of Our Lady of Victory, (later to be known as Our Lady of the Rosary), well over one million lay people gathered around Poland's borders to pray the Rosary for the protection of their country and to intercede for their young people. Inspired by Poland's event, Italy's Catholics launched a similar initiative on 13th October. Participants were asked to spend the day fasting on bread and water until they prayed the Rosary.

Then last November Ireland had a national Rosary. Called "*Rosary on the Coast for Life and Faith*", it drew over 30,000 participants at 53 venues, the number 53 representative of the [53 Hail Marys in the Rosary](#).

England and France organized their big Rosary events on 28th and 29th April this year respectively. Around the entire coast of the UK groups gathered on beaches, cliffs and in public places to pray the Rosary.

The United States had a nationwide Rosary last December.

And in OZ the faithful gathered at over 250 locations in every state and territory to pray the Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Being Mother's Day it was an ideal day to pray for Our Lady's intercession.

And St Pat's Rosary Prayers were proud to be part of the national crusade.

SEE A PROMOTION ON THE BACK PAGE FOR ANOTHER ROSARY EVENT SCHEDULED TO HERALD IN OCTOBER, THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

More May Matters

THANKS MUM

On the afternoon of May 13th (Mother's Day), some members of St Patrick's Choir gave a concert in the Cathedral, dedicated to mothers.
(In the morning the Oz Rosary honoured Mary, Mother of All.)



Bernard Kirkpatrick, Director of Music welcomed everyone and gave an introduction as to the variety of music the concert would encompass.



The concert began with an organ prelude, *Marche Heroique* by A.H. Brewer, performed by Patrick Newman, the Cathedral's Junior Organ Scholar.

Then along came the male choristers, resplendent and dashing in black suits with red rose buttonholes, to sing *What a Wonderful*

World by George Weiss and Bob Thiele.

The next item, *Sonata in Bb* by GP Telemann was performed by Ivy on flute and Lauren on violin.

Then the men returned to sing the well-known popular songs *Over the Rainbow* and *Bye, Bye Blackbird*. The ladies next took to 'the stage' to enchant listeners with their rendition of a traditional Spanish carol, *A La Nanita Nana*.



An interlude ensued, during which Fr George blessed all mothers present.

Next male and female choristers combined to perform *Magnificat* by Francesco Durante, accompanied by Bernard at the organ, Xiaoyan on cello, Tess, and Robert on violin.

An organ postlude performed by Bernard brought the concert to a close.

Afterward, audience and performers mingled over afternoon tea in the hall.



A variety music concert dedicated to mothers

MUSICIANS

ORGAN

Bernard Kirkpatrick
Patrick Newman

FLUTE

Ivy Wallace

VIOLIN

Tess McLennan
Robert Van Gend

CELLO & PIANO

Xiaoyan

SINGERS:

TENOR:

Harley Aw
Richard Heagren-Gibbs
Johanne Perera
Tim Wallace

BARITONE:

James Landon
Peter Nguyen
Robert van Gend
Samuel Verceluz

BASS

Martin Graham
Eric Grella

SOPRANO:

Claire Cook
Alyssa De Luna
Natasha Hilliker
Therese Horsfall
Maria Oei
Lauren Stephenson
Perpetua Yeo

ALTO:

Tess McLennan
Krishmalie Perera
Katherine Turnbull
Bianca Thio
Ivy Wallace

Our Lady Help of Christians

More May Matters

Since taking up the role of Dean and Parish Priest here, it has been a goal of Father Bob's to have a statue in honour of Our Lady Help Of Christians placed in the Cathedral. This desire is obviously linked to Father's strong devotion to Our Lady and to his time in the Salesian Order founded by St John Bosco, who was committed to spreading devotion to Mary under this title.

So, Fr Bob's dream became reality when a statue of Our Lady under this title, Help of Christians, was placed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in May. (Our Lady's statue stands in the niche where St Mary Mackillop's statue originally stood before being relocated to the chapel at the right of the Altar.)

On May 24th, the Feast Day of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, before 12:30pm Mass, Fr Bob blessed the new statue, which was donated by a very generous person who wishes to remain anonymous.



ABOUT MARY'S TITLE AND ST JOHN BOSCO

The tradition of this advocacy of Mary goes back to the sixteenth century when Europe was in danger of being overrun by the Turks, and Pope St Pius V asked all of Europe to fast and pray the Rosary to Our Lady Help of Christians, for the defense of Christendom. Against all odds the Christian forces were victorious against the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto on 7th October, 1571. For this reason this date was chosen as the Feast Day of the Holy Rosary, when in 1573, Pope Pius V instituted the feast in thanksgiving for the decisive victory of Christianity over Islamism.

Near the end of the 17th century, Emperor Leopold I of Austria took refuge in the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Passau, when 200,000 Ottoman Turks besieged the capital city of Vienna. However, a great victory occurred, thanks to Mary Help of Christians: on September 8th, Feast of Our Lady's Birthday, plans were drawn for the battle. On September 12th, Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, Vienna was finally freed through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians. All Europe had joined with the Emperor crying out "Mary, Help!" and praying the Holy Rosary.

In 1809, Napoleon's men entered the Vatican, arrested Pius VII and brought him in chains to Grenoble, and eventually Fontainebleau. His imprisonment lasted five years. The Holy Father vowed to God that, if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honor of Mary. Military reverses forced Napoleon to release the Pope, and on May 24th 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome. Twelve months later, the Pope decreed that the Feast of Mary Help of Christians be celebrated on 24th of May.

St. John Bosco (1815-1888) was a dynamic priest who founded the Salesian Order in Italy in 19th century. His many prophetic dreams, from age nine, guided his ministry and gave insights on future events.

In one dream, the Pope of those days anchors the 'ship' of the Church between two pillars, one with a statue of Mary (Auxilium Christianorum or 'Help of Christians') and the other with a large Eucharistic Host.

St. John Bosco wrote about his congregation, the Salesians:

"The principal objective is to promote veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Mary, Help of Christians. This title seems to please the august Queen of Heaven very much."

On 9th June, 1868, St. John Bosco dedicated the mother church of his congregation at Turin Italy, to Our Lady Help of Christians. The Salesian Fathers and Sisters have carried the devotion to their numerous establishments world wide.



Under the title of Help of Christians, Mary was chosen as Patroness of Australasia by the First Provincial Synod, convened by Archbishop Bede Polding, OSB. in Sydney in 1844.



Bede Polding (1794-1877) was the first Roman Catholic Bishop and then Archbishop of Sydney, Australia.

The fledgling colonies needed Mary's help at that time, as does our nation to this very day.

**MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, PRAY FOR US.
We are helped through her powerful intercession,
and through the example of her life that we find in the Gospels.**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger" and he who believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35



A DAY TO TREASURE
These are the happy faces
of the excited children
soon to receive Holy Communion
for the first time.



HOLY COMMUNION
is the second Sacrament of Initiation
into the Catholic Faith,
Baptism is first, Confirmation the last.



receiving Jesus

with joy & respect



Photos adapted from those of Alphonsus Fok,

Meg Gale, Sacramental Coordinator reports



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday 3rd June, at the 9.30am Mass we once again gathered as a parish community to give thanks to God as the 54 children who had been preparing through the sacramental program since October last year finally came to receive Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist for the first time.

In his homily Fr Bob reminded the children that Jesus is a gift and that just like we remember and are grateful for the gifts we receive at birthday or Christmas, so we should remember to come often and receive the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. We were once again blessed that the talented St Patrick's Primary Choir, led by Mrs Venitia Rodricks, was able to join us and lead the congregation in singing the hymns chosen specially for the day. After the Mass and the traditional group photo, taken on the stairs to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the children with their families and friends gathered in the cathedral hall where Fr Bob presented their First Communion certificates.

Throughout preparation for First Communion our candidates have not only learnt about the Blessed Eucharist but have also prepared for and made their First Reconciliation and completed sessions which taught them more about Baptism.

Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers as they learn more about and grow stronger in their faith, praying that in a few years they will continue their journey to completion of the Sacraments of Initiation with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Comments from Parents re Preparation Sessions:

"I learnt a lot that you don't really understand or have such a deep respect for until adulthood, and to know that there are others who are also active with the Holy Spirit in their lives to volunteer with such dedication is great to see!!" Jac

"We just wanted to say thank you to all the team for your efforts in preparing us and our children for the sacraments. You all did a terrific job coordinating such a large group." Aileen

UPCOMING PREPARATION

We will continue this year's sacramental program with the Sacrament of Confirmation and are currently taking registrations for this sacrament. Children 10 years or older who have made their First Communion are eligible to register for preparation for Confirmation. Sessions will commence with a parent session on Tuesday 24th of July; this session will look at the theology of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The team at St Patrick's continues to support St Oliver's Parish at Harris Park and we will again welcome children from St Oliver's Parish and School to the preparations sessions here at St Patrick's Cathedral.

The children who complete their preparation will receive the Sacramental of Confirmation on the Friday 24th of August.

St Patrick's Sacraments of Initiation team thanks the parish for their ongoing prayers for our ministry and the children we are instructing.

SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR FOR CONFIRMATION 2018

- Confirmation 1** 7:30 pm Tuesday 24th July 2018
- Confirmation 2** 7:30 pm Tuesday 31st July 2018
- Confirmation 3** 4:30 pm Saturday 11th August 2018
- Practice for Confirmation** 4pm Saturday 18th August 2018
- Confirmation Ceremony** 7pm Mass Friday 24th August 2018

Our First Holy Communicants need the prayers of the Parish Family as they continue their Sacramental Journey

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Thomas John Aguilera</i> | <i>Grace Weyatta Fahnbulleh</i> | <i>Vince Carlo Nanales</i> |
| <i>Jaynie Juno Alwin Prabaharadhas</i> | <i>Sean Yixiao Feng</i> | <i>Val Francis Nanales</i> |
| <i>Connor Peter Au Andrew</i> | <i>Dean Garnica</i> | <i>Ellen Nikolakopoulos</i> |
| <i>Jazmin Marie Asinas-David</i> | <i>Magdalena Lillian Sophia Gilchrist</i> | <i>Chloe Julia Oliver</i> |
| <i>Dalvin Tawanda Banza</i> | <i>Lili Huang-Hackiewicz</i> | <i>Carl Bennet Ong Chua</i> |
| <i>Emma Barrientos Salazar</i> | <i>Mathieu Huang-Hackiewicz</i> | <i>Sheoni Ramaya Wellambage Perera</i> |
| <i>Rafaella Bautista</i> | <i>Olivia Jahshan</i> | <i>Estelle Sophie Perrett</i> |
| <i>Jacob Luc Orcena Bernardo</i> | <i>Alisha Lahela Katafona</i> | <i>Carmela Jean Poblete</i> |
| <i>Isabella Bousimon</i> | <i>Nyagua Esther Koima</i> | <i>Noah Francis Reyes-Mangabat</i> |
| <i>Amanda Margaret Buenaventura</i> | <i>Feima Ruth Koima</i> | <i>Laura Rosa</i> |
| <i>Brian Chen</i> | <i>Aireen Aurelia Kwa</i> | <i>Olivia Rita Saab</i> |
| <i>Amelia Adelle Coles</i> | <i>Weyata Emily Lamin</i> | <i>Maria-Kayla Talisayon</i> |
| <i>Ysabel Cion Daelo</i> | <i>Takeshi Liu</i> | <i>Mikaela-Kristen Talisayon</i> |
| <i>Tara Kamelya Di Chio</i> | <i>Gabriel Magtanong-Santos</i> | <i>Amariah Rose Tamara</i> |
| <i>Zara Mae Diuico</i> | <i>Amyllia Regina Maneze</i> | <i>Madden Jarryd Thai</i> |
| <i>Elio Encarnacao</i> | <i>Emmanuel Missak</i> | <i>Caitlin Rosario Velasquez</i> |
| <i>Meagan Angeline Erive</i> | <i>Oscar John Morgan</i> | <i>Lovely Angel Wong</i> |

THOUGHTS ON THE EUCHARIST AND FAITH SHARED

While Fr Andrew Bass was Administrator of St Pat's four years ago, he invited Olivia Lee, now Parish Events Co-ordinator, to pen a series of reflections on the seven Sacraments for the weekly Sunday Bulletin.



Olivia's "Snippet" about Holy Communion slots in perfectly with the feature on the children who made their First Holy Communion recently.

It would be interesting to know if Olivia, now four years on, would approach her treatise any differently.

Snippets of Sacraments: Holy Communion – The Bigger Picture

Flicking through old photos is always a great family past time; nothing gives people greater pleasure than to look back on bad fashion choices, laugh at a face caught off guard, and ponder the rise of the mullet hairstyle.

There's always an odd tension in our hearts when we look at old photographs though.

Part of us wishes we were back there in that exact time and place, part of us hopes to re-live similar memories with people we love, and part of us recognises how thankful we are for life at this exact moment. One photograph, in one moment of remembrance, draws together a lifetime of love from the past, present, and future.

In the Cathedral there are no photos, but we don't need any.

Whenever we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we don't commemorate Christ's acts in salvation history as if we were looking at a photograph — longing for someone who isn't here.

We bow our heads, close our eyes, and kneel, because we are in the true presence, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, of the same God who loved us enough to die for us so that we may be one with Him.

This oneness is what makes the Eucharist the source and summit of the Christian life, because when we truly and deeply love someone, we want to be identified as one with them.

Think of married couples, families, or even dear friends. Often, they speak of their relationships as if everyone involved was one person — "we believe this", "we only support the Eels".

Love craves unity.

Our God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and constancy, asks us to come into this Holy Communion with Him so that we may abide in Him and He in us; so that we may be everything He is, to one another.

It is the purest expression of love: Christ died for our sins, rose for our hope in eternal life, and makes Himself present every day in the Eucharist: One Sacrament, in one Mass of remembrance, drawing together a lifetime of love from the past, present, and future.

We don't need a camera to capture the memory of the moment, when the moment is continuous, and the one we love is always there.

Olivia Lee, 23, Campion College

Ms Bernadette Fabri, Principal of St Patrick's Primary has allowed us to share the following extract from a recent school newsletter.



Her memories of her First Holy Communion and family life segue into words of advice to parents as their children's first educators in the faith.

I know many Catholic adults remember their First Holy Communion. I certainly do.

Like these children I was just 7 or 8 years old, and unlike today, our lessons were solely held within the school day with very little parent involvement regarding extra catechesis.

Looking back I feel I was so lucky that our mother regularly embedded our faith into our daily lives. Attending Mass every weekend, it was just natural that one day it was to be our turn to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We witnessed our parents receive communion every week, regularly receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and enjoyed the gathering of family and friends outside St Anthony's Girraween.

Faith that is only experienced at the school level cannot possibly have the same impact as that which is lived and spoken about daily at home. The Catholic school plays a very important part in faith development. However for faith to be sustainable and enduring, it is best nurtured in the home first. I have often repeated an idea shared by a parish priest years ago when he surmised: *'if faith is only experienced at school then there is the likely danger, that the student takes off their faith when they take off their uniform'*.

It is this key principle which recommends that children's learning about the sacraments is best achieved through a Parish-Based, Family-Centred approach. I know that all parents want their children to one day grow up to be kind, forgiving, generous, compassionate adults who will behave as good citizens in service of community. They want their children to be happy and have a love of God and one day, God willing, to have their own beautiful families. Who knows they may even send them to St Patrick's Parramatta.

Children are learning to become these adults, now, from you, their parents and family. If we wish them to attend Church regularly and receive the Eucharist every Sunday we need to be demonstrating that now by taking them to Mass and by showing them what it looks like to be an adult Catholic who is active in their faith. We pray that over time we will see them actively choosing this life, while we watch with great satisfaction of a job well done.

Can I ask you all to keep in your prayers all the children who made their First Holy Communion this year and to pray that their families will continue to gift them with a faith that is true and active.

May God continue to bless you in your role as parents and grant you wisdom, patience and hope in this, our next generation. God bless you and your family.

Turn to page 21 for JACOB BARNARDO'S story about making his First Holy Communion.

STAFF MATTERS

If you've had occasion to visit the parish office on some matter, nine out of ten you would have been greeted by this smiling, softly spoken, respectful lady pictured at right. Her name? Donna Missio. Recently, when I asked her to write a brief 'biopic' for *St Pat's Matters*, I was amazed to learn she has already been on staff for a year! Just shows how seamlessly and rapidly she has slotted into the staff scene.

When you read her article below, you will realize how fortunate we are to have such a person working for the parish.



My name is Donna Missio and I am the receptionist in the Parish Office. I have been asked to write a small introduction about myself.

St Patrick's Parramatta is very familiar to me as both my husband, John and I grew up in North Rocks and attended St Patrick's Primary School and completed our Sacraments at St Patrick's. I attended OLMC (Our Lady of Mercy) and John attended the Junior Marist School and then Marist Brothers, Westmead.

We married at St Monica's North Parramatta in 1987 and then moved to Oakhurst and joined the Good Shepherd Parish at Plumpton. Our family has been part of the parish at Plumpton for over 30 years and have been involved in various ministries and groups including Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Antioch, Choir, Youth Choir, Playgroup and SRE. John has been an acolyte for over 10 years and I have been a Minister of Communion for over 20 years. All of our family participated in World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney; and one of our daughters was sponsored by our Parish to attend WYD in Poland in 2016 and our youngest daughter will be attending WYD Panama in January 2019.

John and I have four children, Brendan, Lisa, Brianna and Jessica. We are looking forward to the wedding of our eldest son in July. Our eldest daughter joined our 9.00 am Choir where she met her husband, Eleazar. They married in 2011 and we are now very proud grandparents to our three granddaughters, Eliza, Serena and Mia. Our two youngest daughters still live at home with us.

I completed training as a secretary at St Joseph's Business College in Leichhardt and my first position was as a junior legal secretary at Carroll & O'Dea, Solicitors. I eventually became a secretary to one of the partners and left the firm to have my first child. When my children were young I became more involved with Parish as part of their SRE team. I was also involved with the Parent Group at my children's school. I returned to work in a casual position at St Agnes Catholic High School, Rooty Hill and Loyola Senior High School, Mount Druitt. I worked in a variety of roles at St Agnes eventually working full-time as enrolment secretary and receptionist.

After eleven plus years at St Agnes, I decided to look for a position with more flexible hours. I was also hoping to be able

to work in Parramatta as John works here.

I began working at St Patrick's in June 2017. My role includes greeting visitors to the Parish office, answering the telephone, data entry, photocopying, answering initial enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings, and funerals; and assisting Pat and Mili. I am extremely fortunate to have been welcomed into the Parish Team by our priests, Fathers Bob, George, Sean, and Michael, along with other staff — Mili, Pat, Meg, Chris, Bernard, Deacon Willy, Jenny, Chadia and Michael — and all the lovely parishioners who contribute so much to our Parish.

What I enjoy most about working at St Patrick's is the people I work with, including our volunteers who are so generous with their time and gifts. My first real introduction to St Patrick's was "*Light Up St Pat's*" in July last year. All of my family enjoyed the captivating images and beautiful music from the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir. I was able to appreciate it even more having seen all the hard work that went into making it such a successful event.

I have also enjoyed attending the ***Live Christ, Share Christ*** Formation evenings organised by Marietta and Michael Guillema. I feel very privileged being present to hear Fr Bob, Fr John Rizzo, Fr George, Fr Sean and Fr Michael as guest speakers, whose talks have not only increased my knowledge, but also helped me grow in faith. — an unexpected bonus of working here at the Cathedral.

I was also able to attend some of this year's Holy Week liturgies at St Patrick's, including Stations of the Cross and Veneration on Good Friday. Experiencing the Office of Tenebrae for the first time was sublime.

I also look forward to the regular *St Pat's Matters* publications. This wonderful magazine has helped me to learn more about the Parish and the various groups, events and parishioners.

My family moved to Marsden Park in 2016 and is now involved in the start of the new Catholic Faith Community of St Luke's. Growing up in North Rocks my father and my husband's father met when Fr Eric Burton was establishing Christ the King parish.

In many ways I feel that I have come full circle over the last couple of years, returning to St Patrick's and being able to grow in my faith and friendships through working at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.

Mother Teresa: Words of Wisdom:

What blood is to the body, prayer is to the soul.

Unless a life is lived for others, it is not worthwhile.

Love begins by taking care of the closest ones -- the ones at home.

INTERCESSION – OUR CALLING

Presenter: Andrea D'Souza

The Catholic Church world-wide stresses the need for intercession and that's visible in every Mass as we pray for the needs of the Church. As the body of Christ, we are called to pray and intercede for one another. At times we might feel unworthy of this call, and particularly of God's love, because of our sinful lives. But there are few attributes that can help us get closer to understanding God's Will - and eventually make us 'good' intercessors.

It all starts with personal holiness. An intercessor needs to develop a relationship with the Lord and live in communion with Him and his people. He must also hunger for God's Word – reading the scriptures, pondering them, discerning God's Will by waiting on the Lord, and then acting on the Word. An attitude of humility and thanksgiving is the key, so we can thank the Lord even before the work is accomplished because we trust in Him (Philippians 4:6-7).

Often ignored, fasting is important in the life of an intercessor, for sacrifices must accompany intercession as a means of showing our total dependence on God and commitment to the cause. An intercessor will be called to a life of self-denial, to love,

even with tears and weeping - the bedrock of the ministry. St. Monica is a great example who for decades interceded tirelessly with tears for her son Augustine (now saint and doctor of the church). Even Jesus said to his sleepy disciples that his soul was sorrowful unto death and he sweated blood in agony.

Over all, discipline is crucial in the life of an intercessor— a fixed time for prayer, good order in his personal life and good relationships to name a few.

While we walk on this path, we know that it's not easy to brave through the odds. What we must not forget is that we also have external intercessors - whom I call Warriors - to help and guide us in our walk. First and foremost, Jesus himself is our intercessor before the heavenly Father (Matthew 18:19-20). The catechism too reminds us:

CCC 2634: *Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did. He is the one intercessor with the Father on behalf of all men, especially sinners. He is for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. The Holy Spirit & himself Intercedes for us . . . and intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

We also have the angels and saints in

heaven who have been given the grace and a special place in heaven because of their work here on earth. The Catholic Church does not reject the fact that we can go straight to God (1 Timothy 2:5), we ought to deepen our relationship with Him. The church recognises the faithful and righteous men, who have gone before us, whose prayers are more effective and powerful (1 Corinthians 12: 13 – 27; Romans 8:38-39) as they are in the presence of our Lord. It doesn't take away from the mediation of Christ, in fact it unites us in Christ's unique mission.

And how can we forget our Blessed Mother, who intercedes for all of humanity (CCC 2673 to 2679). She has been favoured by God because of her unique cooperation with the Holy Spirit. We can entrust all our cares and petitions to her for she prays for us as she prayed for herself — *Let it be to me according to Your Word.* By entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her. We can pray with and to her. The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope.

To summarise, intercession is a way of life — it's our call to pray for one another by the virtue of our Baptism. We ought to pray for the community and the Church as a whole, because if we don't, who will?

It was LCSC Co-ordinator, Michael Guillema, who encouraged Alan d'Souza to share this very moving testimony about his parents and its relation to the topic , Intercession, presented by his wife Andrea.



Alan's Parents

The beautiful Statue of Saint Pope John Paul II in the Cathedral forecourt inspired me to share this great story of my parents. Here's how it all began...

In 1971, my parents, Vivian & Esme D'Souza, were married and a year later became parents. Mum is a doctor, an MD in Paediatrics, and despite the best of treatment she lost her first child few days after his birth. Little did she know the crosses she and dad would go on to bear for many years from then on. After this they moved to England until 1976 and became friends with a holy and devout woman named Joan McGuinness, a nurse in the same hospital where Mum was working (this friendship holds a special significance in my Mum's testimony).

When they returned to Goa, India, it had been 8 years since they experienced their first loss and hadn't conceived since then. In 1980 Mum fell pregnant, but suffered a miscarriage and had to endure another loss. Finally, in 1981, my brother Paul (who now lives in Perth) was born.

Through all this, Mum and Dad were actively involved in our local Parish in Goa, evangelising through a lay Catholic movement.

Around this time, a non-Christian (Hindu) gynaecologist, who was staying with my parents, had decided to become Catholic and is now a missionary in Zimbabwe. It was on the day she was baptized that Mum started experiencing severe headaches. Turns out it was Temporal Arteritis of the blood vessels on the scalp, which she continued to suffer for four years while still caring for my brother who was just a toddler.

The pain was so severe that she had to be on steroids, but the dosage would only act as a temporary cure. If the dosage was increased there was a good chance it would result in death.

Cont'd next page

Alan's Testimony continued....

During the day, Mum had to rely on steroids and in the evenings Dad and others would take turns to press her head. The pain was so severe that at times they had to even sit on her forehead. Dad says that he barely slept those four years. His only prayer was: "God if it is your will that Esme should suffer like this, give me the grace to continue to care for her and Paul. To God be all the praise and glory. Amen."

Even acute physical suffering didn't prevent my Mum from continuing her evangelisation work in the diocese. She would pop a steroid and go out there. On 5th February, 1986, she was returning home from church after giving a teaching on the woman who was healed by the hem of Jesus' garment when she realised that the message was for her too! God spoke to her and told her to believe and have faith that she would be healed.

That night she told Dad that when Pope (now Saint) John Paul II arrived the following day in Goa (as part of his India trip), she needed to touch him and she would be healed. My Dad, however, was sceptical, wondering how they could even find a spot close to the Pope amidst the huge crowds expected that day. Mum said that she need not touch him physically, just spiritually, citing the Pentecost account where the apostles would walk past and their shadows would heal the afflicted.

Early on 6th February 1986, Pope Saint John Paul II arrived in Goa. We live very close to the airport, so my parents along with my brother went and stood at a roundabout junction where the Pope mobile was expected to pass. When the Holy Pope got to the junction he had to stop on account of the cheering crowd, and his shadow fell straight on my mum and she whispered a prayer: "Jesus, I touch you spiritually." That instant the headaches stopped! It so happens that, my brother Paul, who was just four, told my Mum that the Pope looked like Jesus.

Since that miraculous encounter, Mum never had to take steroids. Two months after this incident, she received a letter in the mail (No emails in those days). The letter dated 6th February, 1986, was from Joan McGuiness (Mum's friend from England). It read:

"Vivian & Esme, I know you've been suffering a lot and today I am at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. I am lighting a giant candle for you. Pope John Paul II is visiting your state in Goa today and I know you will be immensely blessed."

Love Joan McGuiness

My Dad, the community in Goa and friends from around the world interceded for my Mum's healing for 4 years, waiting on the Lord in faith. Mum was 41 years old when she was healed. Exactly nine months later I was born. Every single

doctor advised my parents to abort me given the fact that she was on heavy medication for four years and the doctors perceived both she and I were at risk of suffering from serious complications. I'm so glad my parents didn't listen to them or else I wouldn't have been writing this today.

It's been 47 years since Mum and Dad married. Andrea and I can't wait to celebrate their grand Golden Jubilee three years from now.



Andrea & Alan D'Souza

Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life, Sydney Australia. Members of the Live Christ Share Christ Movement, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, Australia.

They sign off with this blessing: *May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you and may the Lord lift up His countenance and give you all His peace. Amen.*

SEVEN STEPS FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER

1. Examine your conscience before you pray, and repent of your sins.
2. Spend some time in silence.
3. Ask the Lord about the things he wants you to pray for. Put aside your own agenda, concerns, and desires and unite yourself to Jesus' heart. Write down the things that God places in your hearts.
4. Briefly reflect on what you wrote down.

5. Pray for those who have no faith; for those who have fallen away from Jesus; for renewal and unity in all the Christian churches; for respect for all life; for all the lost, abandoned, or forgotten children of the world; for those under the power of addictions or bound by depression, anxiety, or bitterness; and for prisoners and service men and women. Finally, pray for your own intentions and those of your loved ones.
6. Stand firm in faith, and wait to see God work in power.
7. In a prayer journal, keep a record of what you prayed for, and of the ways God answered those prayers. Thank him and praise for all the ways he has worked.



Attendees at Fr Bob's in-depth presentation on Pentecost came away well informed.

A MATTER of FAITH and FORMATION

Victoria Ikutegbe writes candidly about recognising God's presence in her life and commends the St Pat's Formation Programme.

A WORKING PROGRESS

As a young woman growing up in Nigeria, I was constantly plagued by feelings of restlessness; I felt a hunger and longing for something I couldn't quite name, but was certain I needed. I knew about God – well, I knew He existed and was important – but everything I 'knew' was what was drummed into me during the many catechism classes that my mum made me attend in preparation for making my First Holy Communion and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. In other words, I knew of God in an abstract sense but didn't really *know* God in a personal, experiential sense. Not yet, anyway...

Fast forward a few years spent searching, intermittently consciously, other times less so, for a purpose to my life. I made mistakes along the way, as I tried to drive the vehicle of my life instead of handing the keys over to the One who has a more comprehensive view of the road ahead of, and surrounding, me. Thankfully, despite my stubbornness and many shortcomings, God still watched and waited for me to realise for myself that He was, and indeed still is, beside me always, supporting, guiding, protecting and blessing me in all my endeavours.

There is a popular saying that is often said wryly but is quite apt in describing my journey to God's arms – '*Hindsight is a beautiful thing*'. It is apt because even now when I look back on moments in my past, I can recall multiple occasions when I might have taken a wrong turn, figuratively and literally, that would have been detrimental to me. Instead, I followed what I, at the time, thought to be my own instinct, but now realise was God's loving direction. Anyone who knows me knows my shocking sense of direction, so it probably should have been obvious to me back then that someone else was in charge of navigation.

It was about six years ago that I really started to notice the obvious intervention of God in my life. I moved to Australia to do a Masters degree, with little more than the first semester's tuition fee readily available to pay for it. This was probably

the first real 'leap of faith' that I had taken in my life, though I didn't consciously acknowledge it as such at the time. I was hoping that by some 'miracle' I would not only be able to find myself a job, but I would also be able to save up the rest of my tuition fee before it was due – a timeline of around five months. Anyone who knows how expensive international students' tuition fees are would know how lofty a goal I had set myself. Somehow, though, I did get my miracle and was able to meet the financial requirements of my Masters degree.

As if I hadn't already made enough of a leap, I decided to up the ante a little; I made the somewhat questionable decision to do a PhD, again with no clear idea about how I would pay for it. This time, though, I had begun to feel the conviction rising within me that God was on my side and would meet me at my point of need. My leap of faith was now morphing into a conscious decision to trust God to come through for me. And He did. He guided me to a PhD supervisor who was so kind as to seek funding on my behalf from the university, without even making me aware of what he was doing. I was in my office one day when I got the unexpected news that not only had I been granted a full scholarship to cover my studies, but I had also been granted a very generous living allowance. This meant that I no longer had to work as much as I was doing and could focus more fully on my studies. It still amazes me to this day how God orchestrated the events in my life with such precision that all I had to do was 'let go, and let God'. It was about this time that I truly began to actively explore my relationship with God.

It's been hard at times for me to resist 'backseat driving' and wanting to take over the wheels of my life from Him. But I can honestly say that my life has been happiest when I've just trusted His guidance and done my bit to work in accordance with His will for me. Conventional understanding would describe me as 'a work in progress' – a passive entity that is being developed by something or someone external to it. I, however, rather describe myself as 'a working progress' to

convey the idea that I am an entity that is actively involved, through prayer and good works, in my own development. I am ever grateful for the formation opportunities here at St Patrick's which help me grow in my knowledge and love of God, and the people who help me share that love.

In an email to Fr Bob on 27th Nov 2017, Victoria commended the Live Christ Share Christ Movement,

Hi Fr Bob,

I recently moved to Sydney from Wollongong and have been greatly blessed by the 'Live Christ, Share Christ' community. Finding this community of God-loving people could not have come at a better time in my life because I have been struggling for a while to really get a strong hold of my faith and spiritual life.

Ever since I started attending the gatherings organised by Marietta, Michael and the rest of their team, I have felt an incredible amount of support that I didn't even realise I so greatly needed. This community of people has directly impacted my life in a very positive way so that I can now confidently take strides towards a more intimate relationship with God.

I look forward with anticipation to subsequent events and gatherings put on by the 'Live Christ, Share Christ' community because it presents opportunities for me to learn more about God, share my faith with others and draw strength from the loving support that the community so readily provides.

I just wanted to thank you for your ongoing support of the Live Christ, Share Christ movement and assure you that it is indeed fulfilling the very timely need for our faith community to come together and support each other in our walk towards Christ.

*With great appreciation,
Victoria Ikutegbe*



That's Victoria at left making shamrocks with Naomi Weilche for St Patrick's Day Party



NEW RECRUITS PREPARING TO LABOUR FOR THE LORD IN THE SRE VINEYARD



Meet **BERNADETTE CHING** and **DIANE SMITH** who are both keen and excited about the ministerial role for which they are preparing.

They are pictured at a session of the Level One Training Course being held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. These courses are run by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and are mandatory for anyone wanting to become a Special Religious Educator (SRE).

Diane explains how she came to volunteer.

Well, shortly before Mass one Sunday, I happened to find myself contemplating the Great Commission (Matt 28:17-20) and wondering what I might do in service to my Lord.

At the end of Mass the SRE Pamela Bain addressed parishioners appealing for volunteers to teach Scripture to children in the public school system. So I answered the call. I figured if you can't evangelise to small children then who could you evangelise to.

When I put myself forward I thought my sporadic shift work might prevent me from being useful, but Pamela was more than happy to work with my roster to accommodate the great need for more SREs.

I am currently in training and have met some wonderful volunteers through the course. The experiences shared there have been very valuable, inspiring and very entertaining and I can hardly wait to start with the children in a class.

Bernadette writes: I have been meeting children who have never heard of Jesus and worse, some adults too. I think God let me meet them to make me realize my baptismal responsibility to God.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Gospel to all creation'. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.'

While I am doing the Level One Course I am assisting Maria Valentin at Parramatta East School on combined Kindergarten/ First/Second Class and a Fifth/Sixth Class Group.

Welcome, New Ministers

Marietta Guillemma (L) & Priya Remigius (R), with their certificates received after completing the course to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



Marietta shares with us.....

Why I became an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

'Christ is really present...Indeed substantially and uninterruptedly under the Eucharistic species.'

GIRM 27.

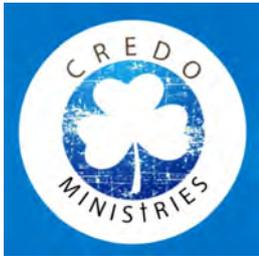
To this day, I still remember desiring to have a role in the celebration of the Mass. Most especially my passion was there due to my long-time admiration of the Eucharistic Ministers - I found their role to be very important since they are partaking of an essential role in distributing the Body of Christ during Mass.

Ever since 2009, I have been attending Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on weekdays. And, it seems like something is missing if I am unable to come. My colleague once asked me "Marietta, do you go to Mass on Sunday?" When I replied, "Yes" she asked "Then why do you go every day for?" I answered, "Because I want to embrace Jesus and I can only do that through the Eucharist". My moments with God during the Mass was the grace that I sought to receive.

My prayers to join this ministry were finally answered, when Annette Hartman informed me last year after the 6:45am Mass, about the Liturgical Ministry Formation Course, I enthusiastically enrolled in the session from August to September, 2017. I learned a lot!

After completing the sessions, I was asked to serve for the very first time as a Eucharistic Minister on Mother's Day 2018. After all the years of longing, the opportunity to serve had been thrust upon me, but I was nervous. Nevertheless, after receiving Communion myself, I took the ciborium (dish) from the priest, and gathered my courage to make my way to the front of the altar. That first person to whom I gave Jesus was very significant to me — at that moment I could feel God's love, goodness, power and also a great sense of calmness assuring me He was there. To this day I continue to thank Him for granting my longing to serve.

This is just the beginning of my service and I will continue to serve Him even further into the future.



Meet Mindy Mercado Parish Youth Co-ordinator

Mindy joined the Parish Team as the new Youth Co-ordinator in May. She takes on the leadership of the three pronged Credo Ministries. As Mindy reports on what's been happening in the three groups, she writes of her new role, "I feel very privileged and blessed to have secured the position of Youth Co-ordinator for the Cathedral Parish."

I was already involved as a leader of Credo Young Adults, doing this whilst working full time as a primary school teacher. I have always been involved in the parish as a way to give back to those who have guided me on my faith journey."

It's worth noting that Mindy has been an Altar Server at St Pat's since the Cathedral's Dedication Mass in 2003 (firstly as a junior and today in a senior capacity)! She has also been a pilgrim at World Youth Day, Sydney 2008, Madrid 2011, and then at Krakow 2016, as a leader. Currently she is a youth representative at the Diocesan level as a Youth Ambassador for the Eastern Deanery and a member of the Diocesan Youth Council.

JUNIOR CREDO

Junior Credo launched this year in Term 1 where the children looked at the events leading up to Easter, Pentecost and the feast of St Patrick.

This term, the children learned about the Ten Commandments through the "Thou Shall" series of the *Lifeteen Edge Program*. They explored the first 5 commandments in depth over 3 sessions. The children learned about looking at the Ten Commandments, not as a list of all the things they should not do, but rather as a guideline and gift from God because He loves us and want us to live a life of happiness.

The group welcomed four new families which has led to a very exciting and discussion-filled term.



TEEN CREDO

Term 1 began with exploring the seasons of Lent, Easter and then discussed the topic of Friendship. The teens learned about what it means to be a true friend through the Sirach reading 6:5-17 *Friendship, False and True*.

This term, the Teens have been exploring the Lifeteen series, *The Guide to Happiness*. They learned about how true happiness is lived through God and explored this through the *Beatitudes* — the guidelines Jesus presented as a way of life to true happiness.

CREDO YOUNG ADULTS

Credo Young Adults launched in April with a talk on *The Eucharist*.

With Fr Bob as the guest speaker, the group explored the importance of the need to receive Eucharist each Sunday and how fortunate they are being able to receive this gift. It was a good night of getting back to basics and seeing the Eucharist in a new light.

In May, the group were very fortunate to host the couple Simon and Madeleine Carrington, who at a previous meeting had presented a talk on chastity and since coming back to talk to our group, had started up their own mission team, *Fire Up Ministries*.

For the session both Teen Credo members and their parents were welcomed as the couple explored the topics, *Finding The Love That Satisfies and Parenting Purity To Teens*.

In June, the group had a café lounge theme with a talk on Vocations. Fr Michael Gitau, Michael and Geraldine Lilley and Matt Britannia spoke during the panel session of their callings in life.

Special thanks to Matt, one of our leaders, for his dedication and love for youth ministry, and the sharing of his gifts and talents with St Pat's Credo. We pray that he will continue to share this love as he discerns his calling to the vocation of priesthood at the seminary.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Credo have continued assisting in First Friday Adoration, a time we welcome all families of Credo and the Cathedral to join in song and prayer; a time to reflect, reconcile and just be with Jesus. In May, we launched the first of our *Horizon Nights* where we were able to adore our Lord in the Cathedral Cloister, under the stars.

St Pat's Youth Matter in ministry

Here at the Cathedral we are fortunate to have many young people keen to become altar servers so they can assist in liturgical celebrations. But they have to be in Year 5 before they can volunteer.

An Altar Server at 11am Sunday Mass agreed to talk about her role. This is what she wrote:



My name is Sidnie Dela Pena, I'm 16 years old. I'm a student at Macarthur Girls High School and in Year 11.

I've been coming to St. Patrick's Cathedral for Mass since I was four years old. I wasn't really active in church when I was younger until I became an altar server, approximately three years ago now.

I decided to join when Sister Susan recruited me as an altar server. It was a great opportunity for me to take at that time because I could have a closer bond with my faith and learn about my religion.

Becoming an altar server was taking on a big responsibility, having to wake up early so I could be on time and be willing to help out before and after Mass. When I first started I was trained by the acolytes and other servers. I also learnt by just observing other servers. Being an altar-server is more of a learn-on-the-job type of task. Our role involves holding the book for the priest to read, taking the water and cloth for the priest to wash his hands, holding the candles and holding the cross.

What I have done the most often during my years of serving is holding the book and the washing of the hands, so I consider these to be my favourite tasks, although I do make minor mistakes sometimes.

If you want to become an altar server, do it with a positive mindset and know that Christ will always be there with you. Altar serving is a great service to Christ. Not only do you grow in your faith, but you also learn and develop new skills.

Credo Moments



May Gathering with presenters Simon & Madeleine Carrington



Adoration under the Stars



June Lounge Talk on Vocations



Teen Credo

◀ Hanisinoa and Rachel playing our mystery "no rules" game during one of the "Guide to Happiness" nights. The game was a link to how even though the foundation rules/guidelines of the church are grounded, they are adapted to the various situations and trials we face in modern day issues in society.

MORE ON 'PATRICK', the Cathedral Bell's Latin inscription and translation.

Bob Edgar was one of the men involved in recent surgery on 'Patrick'. (reported in the last issue of St Pat's Matters). Apart from operating on the bell, Bob took time to record verbatim the 6 lined Latin inscription cast on the bell. It reads:

Line 1: MATTHEW O'BYRNE FOUNTAIN HEAD BELL FOUNDRY JAMES'S ST DUBLIN

Line 2: A.M.D.G. IN MEMORIAM ILLUSTRISSIMI ET REVERENDISSIMI JOANNIS RIGNEY, HIBERNI, PONTIFICIAE DOMUS ANTISTIS

Line 3: ARCHIDIACONI SYDNEYENSIS ET HUIUS DISTRICTUS PASTORIS QUI APOSTOLICIS VIRTUTIBUS INSIGNITUS

Line 4: IN PRESBYTERIO DE PROSPECT ULTIMAM DIEM CLAUSIT IN PACE CHRISTI. DIE 9 MENSIS MAII A.D. 1903

Line 5: AETATIS 89 ET SACRI MINISTERII 65 FIDELIS OB REVERENTIAE ET MAERORIS TESTEMONIUM ME DIUO PATRITIO

Line 6: HIB. AP. NUNCUPATUM FIERI FECERUNT A.D. 1904

The inscription on the yoke in which the bell swings is
M BYRNE'S PATENT ROTARY MOUNTINGS DUBLIN.

TRANSLATION OF PATRICK'S INSCRIPTION BY FR JOHN RIZZO

For the honour and glory of God. In memory of the most illustrious and most reverend John Rigney, Ireland, Pontifical House of the Bishop, of the Archdeacon of Sydney, whose pastoral district, by means of his apostolic virtues is noted.

He closed out his last day in the peace of Christ, in the presbytery of Prospect on the 9th day of the month of May, 1903, aged 89 and 65 faithful years of sacred ministry on account of the testimony of resource. Irish Archpriest, previously noted and now recognised, AD 1904

We are indebted to JUNE BARRETT for delving into her archives to unearth the following information.

The following article from **Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate**, 17 November 1904 tells the story of the consecration of 'Patrick'.

"The fine bell which is to constitute a memorial in St Patrick's Church to the late Ven. Mgr. (Venerable Monsignor) Rigney, was consecrated on Sunday by the Most Reverend the Co-Adjutor Archbishop Kelly, in the grounds of the Presbytery, where it is temporarily located. The celebration took place after the celebration of the Mass, at which the Archbishop presided etc. The ceremony of the benediction or baptizing of the bell was in accordance with the solemn rite prescribed by the Roman Catholic Church. The bell was washed with holy water, anointed with the holy oils and marked with the sign of the cross seven times externally and seven times in the interior. It was named 'Patrick'.

The bell was hung on its mounting so that it could be rung and at the conclusion of the ceremony, the Rev Father T O'Reilly grasped the chain attached to the great wheel of the bell and rang it vigorously for some time. His example was followed by several of the parishioners, who took the opportunity of being amongst the first to ring the new bell. Loud applause greeted Father O'Reilly's efforts and a hearty cheer was given by the gathering before it dispersed. His Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop Most Rev Dr. Kelly visited Parramatta on Sunday morning to consecrate the bell to be in St Patrick's Church to the memory of the late Monsignor Rigney. When the Monsignor died 18 months ago, the people of the district decided to commemorate his long connection with the parish and as a bell was thought to be the very best means of reminding them by its tones of the great work and deeds of the late Archdeacon of the



Patrick in storage following the 1996 fire

archdiocese of Sydney, the order was placed with Mr. Matthew Byrnes, the famous bell-founder of Dublin. The total cost of the bell and its erection is about £200. The bell weighs 17 cwt 2qr 2lb and is pronounced by the maker one of the best of its size ever turned out of his foundry. It stands 4ft 9in in height and has a diameter of 3ft 9in."

Bell installed in Tower sometime in 1905

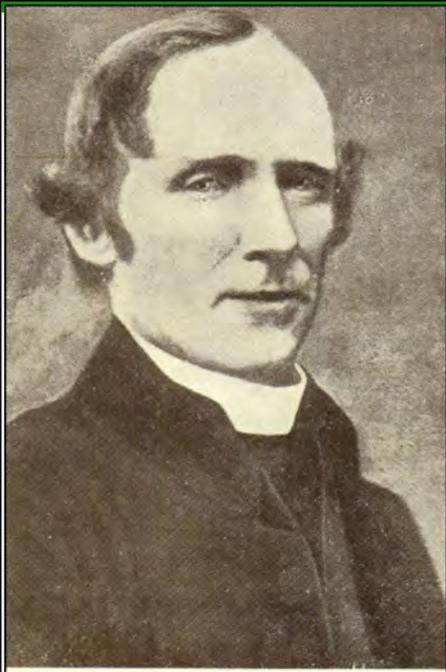
'Late last year, when the great bell of St Patrick's lay in the presbytery grounds prior to its erection in the tower, knowing ones looked at it and shook their heads, as they predicted the difficulties that faced those who were to place it in its position.

"It will cost p-o-u-n-d-s," they said, in tones that implied anything from a tenner to a hundred; but Mr William Ring just sauntered along, and, figuratively speaking, with the aid of a couple of men, he just took that big bell and fixed it in place in almost no time, and there it remains to call the faithful to the house of prayer, a fitting memorial to one who for many years preached religion, piety and charity in this town and neighbourhood.'

This bell was removed from the tower of St Patrick's Cathedral after the disastrous fire in 1996 and later replaced during the refurbishment of the original sandstone church and building of the extensions. The same bell still rings the "Angelus" and calls the faithful to services on a daily basis.

WHO WAS THIS MONSIGNOR RIGNEY SO BELOVED BY HIS PARISHIONERS?

(ALSO KNOWN AS THE PIONEER PRIEST OF THE ILLAWARRA REGION.)



MONSIGNOR RIGNEY

**Thanks once more to
JUNE BARRETT
for enlightening us about the priest
for whom 'Patrick' the bell
was commissioned.**

In the April issue of *St Pat's Matters*, Bob Edgar wrote a wonderful article about our bell 'Patrick'. This bell was raised as a memorial to Monsignor Rigney who was appointed Parish Priest of Parramatta in 1874. Monsignor Rigney was born in Ireland in 1814 and arrived in Sydney in 1838. After serving with vigour in Tasmania, Brisbane and NSW he was made Archdeacon of Sydney and Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral before being appointed in 1874 to the prestigious parish of Parramatta.

They say a new broom sweeps clean and that is what the Monsignor did here in Parramatta. When he arrived here there was a Catholic School next to the Church in Pennant St (now Victoria Rd) which was staffed by lay teachers. It had only one schoolroom and well over 100 pupils. In that same year, 1874, he approached Mother M. Ignatius, (Sisters of Mercy, St Patrick's, Church Hill) to send three Sisters to open a Convent at Parramatta and take charge of the Infants' School. Working in primitive conditions, the nuns first conducted the Infants' School in an old cottage. Then when the numbers spilled over, they also used a shed or stable, the walls of which were patched

up with hessian sacking. The school was called St Aloysius.

The following year a Marist Brothers School was commenced in the city. And then there was a need in the then rural area of Parramatta so Mgr Rigney asked the Brothers to take over the boys' school in the old building next to St Patrick's Church. Brother Ludovic mentioned to Mgr Rigney his plans for a novitiate in the Parramatta area. The Monsignor knew of a possible site, (Redbank) on the western side of Toongabbie Creek at its junction with the Parramatta River etc. It was purchased for £720.

The farmhouse at Redbank was called "Immaculate Conception". There is only a small hand sketch of the building showing a lounge-room, chapel and vestry. The centre area was an earthen floor with a well at the rear and a line of oaks to the front door. The brothers walked back and forth each day from the farm to the Parramatta School, crossing the creek (except at flood times) and walking through the Psychiatric Hospital grounds, all to avoid the 2d. (two pence) toll each time at the Darling Mills Tollgate.

With the problem of education settled Mgr Rigney turned his attention to building. First he wanted to finish St Patrick's Church which had been waiting for its tower and spire since the 1850s. The foundation for the tower was laid in 1878. In 1880 the foundation stone for a girls' infant school was laid and the following year was opened and dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

In 1884 the new Convent and Girls' School were opened. In April 1888 the foundation stone of the Marist Bros' Monastery in Victoria Road was laid. He achieved so much in such a short time! Perhaps we can let Archdeacon Rigney sum it up himself. In a letter to a friend he writes:

"As to myself, I am the happy pastor of a large and generous flock of over 3000 Catholics in a population of 10,000. My churches, three in number, are very pretty buildings and admirably supplied with church requisites. St Patrick's is exceedingly beautiful, and two in the suburbs are neat edifices; but the real ornament of my churches is the ever-recurring crowds of devout communicants, approaching the altar.

Four Marist Brothers and twenty-six of the elder boys of their schools form my choir within the Sanctuary for chanting Vespers; and four Sisters of Mercy with a class of their school girls form my choir in the organ loft for High Mass and Benediction. I have been four years here now and during that time Parramatta has made great progress in every way, and in consequence of the religious progress I have had one brother priest sent to assist my first, and just lately the Archbishop sent me a second. You can form some idea then of religion in Parramatta, say three priests, three churches, four Marist Brothers, four Sisters of Mercy, 3000 Catholics, but to form an adequate idea, you should be a personal witness to the lives and religious habits of the congregation."

In his time at Parramatta he also established the Society of St Vincent de Paul and built churches at Granville and North Parramatta.

In 1888 the English Mercy Sisters left Parramatta and the Mercy Sisters from Callan, Ireland took their place. Archdeacon Rigney wanted the Sisters to have their Head House in Parramatta and the English Sisters of Mercy were already established at North Sydney.

In 1889 Monsignor Rigney left Parramatta for the district of Prospect and Smithfield and as he said *"in order that he may spend the remaining years of his life free from the anxieties which a parish like St Patrick's throws upon him."*

Monsignor Rigney died at Prospect on May 9th 1903 and it can be said 'Few priests have done as much for the course of Catholic education as Monsignor Rigney, the education of the youth committed to his care being foremost amongst all his zeal.'



Sharing matters:

a story of conversion and faith

HOW MY GRANDFATHER BECAME PAUL

When my grandfather, Sim Ka Chiong was alive, he compared himself to Saul, the persecutor of Christians.

My grandfather was born in China and had never heard of God or Jesus until he migrated to the Philippines. He lived his life making fun of Christians. He ridiculed the Catholic Faith, making fun of priests and the sacraments. —making comments such as: priests are the most stupid people. They read from the same book every day and never memorise it. Or he would liken the priests and acolytes to Batman and Robin going to the altar in costumes, tasting food, and since it does not taste good they distribute it to the public.

My uncle Ben, the eldest of my grandfather's nine offspring, was ignorant about God and indifferent about religious beliefs too, until he reached second year in State university. It was then he met the Jesuit Chaplain, Reverend Father Pierre Tritz, who got him involved with various religious and charitable activities, that started a huge change in his life. His interest in Jesus gradually grew through his contact with other Catholic students and his involvement in their activities. He sought for spiritual direction and started meeting with Father Louis Papilla SJ regularly. My uncle's knowledge of Jesus and faith in him grew stronger so much so he felt Jesus calling him to be a priest.

My grandfather was so proud when my uncle graduated Magna cum laude/ Valedictorian. However, when my uncle told his father that he wanted to be a priest, my grandfather almost died.

You see, in the old Chinese tradition, the eldest son carries the name and legacy of the family. Of course, my grandfather who was a rich Chinese businessman was furious and forbade it.

However, my uncle continued to go to Fr Papilla for regular spiritual direction and later defied my grandfather and joined the seminary. My grandfather chased him at the seminary and started shouting for the release of his son, accusing the church of kidnapping him!

Reverend Father Tritz invited my grandfather to his office. My grandfather said, "My son is rich, smart, handsome and has a huge future ahead of him, he's the president of the Jane Powel fan Club etc...", arguing instead that they should get a man who was poor, dumb, and ugly to become a priest.

My uncle remained in the seminary.

Sister of Victory, a nun of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception targeted my grandfather, to teach him catechism when he went into hiding. She was a most patient and persistent person. Praise God my grandfather was converted. His turning was when he was persuaded by some friends to join the Cursillo**. He surrendered and allowed himself to be baptized into the Catholic faith. He chose the name Paul, explaining that he had persecuted Catholics, just as Saul had persecuted the early Christians; but like Saul he had eventually found God.

My grandfather now named Paul Sim and my grandmother, started serving God. He became a popular speaker because of his humorous jokes. He was very active in helping the fund raising of the St Jude (SVD) parish. He became the first president of the Parish Men's Association. My grandmother was Catholic Women's League and Legion of Mary president. They and their children and grandchildren were active servants of Jesus and Mary.

In 2019, my uncle Father Benjamin Sim, will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of his holy vocation as a priest.

After my uncle entered the priesthood, whenever someone ridiculed priests or the Catholic Church, my grandfather always advised them not to do so, warning them, "I used to joke about priests and the Catholic Church and what God did was to take my eldest son to be a priest."

I thank God every day for my Catholic faith which started with the conversion of our Saul in the family.

To God goes the glory.

Bernadette Ching

**** Cursillo is a movement from the Catholic Church that focuses on helping each person to discover themselves, their relationship with Christ and with others. Cursillo has a method that shows how the Gospel can be lived in everyday life. Cursillo provides a means of support to enable Christianity to be lived. Cursillo has proved to be a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to get to know self, God and others. Many millions of people around the world have experienced Cursillo.**

Humorous Matters...pertaining to priests.

A priest was invited to attend a house party.

Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his Priest's Collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed to the priest's neck.

When the priest realized what the boy was pointing at, he asked the boy, "Do you know why I am wearing this?" The boy nodded his head, and replied, "Yes, it kills fleas and ticks for up to three months".

A young priest was giving a lesson on the 23rd Psalm to the children in third grade.

He noticed that little Jimmy seemed upset with the verse, "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."

So the priest asked him, "What's wrong, Jimmy?" Little Jimmy replied, "Well, I'm not too worried about the goodness and mercy part, but I'm not so sure that I would like Shirley following me around all the time."

Modern Mothers Matter

MODERN MARY

The trials and tribulations of modern motherhood are so vast; I'm exhausted at the thought. As a Christian mother of two perilously active boys, I wonder how on earth Mary must have felt? Being thrust into motherhood, through no choice of her own, given the most stressful mandate a woman could ever consider: give birth to, and raise, the saviour of the world. Um...*Actually, I had an appointment tomorrow afternoon... Who am I speaking to?*"

The aim of this column is to bring the realities of motherhood to the fore and to start a conversation about how we, as modern mothers, can actually live out our role through our faith.

During Mass, I'm inspired, I'm moved by the Spirit, I'm hopeful and full of love for that little face beside me. Come Monday, I'm on the bathroom floor in the foetal position begging the little face to wee in the toilet and I have no recollection of the way the winter sun was beaming down onto his face through the cathedral skylight windows.

Within 24 hours, the peace of the Lord is buried deep beneath a whirlwind of packing lunches, working, paying mortgages, negotiating screen time, wiping up spills, managing relationships, chopping up snacks, avoiding soft plastics. ... I'm so utterly overwhelmed by motherhood today.

What would Mary do? Mother Mary is our ultimate example of how mothers can enact God's will.

The male *mise en scène* of Biblical text does well to reflect Mary's suffering as a mother, but is limited in its capacity to recount the scarring, the stress, the actual nightmare of GIVING BIRTH IN A BARN, DEAR GOD! As a longstanding alumnus of the *Too Posh to Push* club, I wish to stress that there is nothing OK with this picture. No wonder she was seeing stars. Followed swiftly by a "*hop on a donkey for a long journey, post-birth*". SAY WHAT?!

The stressful work-life juggle of modern mums consumes us. We take on the mental burden of stressing about every-

thing: library bags, interest rate hikes, costumes for book week, bullying at school, sustainable coffee cups.

But we can find strength and hope in Mother Mary's faithful surrender. When you truly surrender to God, as Mary did, you rid yourself of this burden of anxiety. He's put me here, with this child, in this vocation. I need to put my trust in Him.

If these challenges strike a chord with you, as a modern Mum, share your stories with us via

ModernMaryMums@gmail.com

Share an anecdote, a breakdown, a mum -hack or a vent. Maybe we can start a conversation about how on earth to survive this as Christian women — **whilst reminding each other of the universal truth, that this truly is the hardest vocation.** And I appreciate it's not a competition. But if it were, us mothers, ... we'd win.

How this article came to feature in *St Pat's Matters*

Our Editor, Marian Polizzi, received an unexpected email a couple of weeks ago from a parishioner with a proposal:

"I have a strong compulsion to prepare a column that features as part of a series, written for — and by the mothers of young children in our congregation.

Its aim would be to:

- ◆ *Share real-life stories of the challenges of modern motherhood for Christian women.*
- ◆ *Invite women to consider how to tackle the trials and tribulations of motherhood today, whilst reminding us that this is our vocation — what would Mary do?*
- ◆ *Shed light on the challenges that Christian mothers face and often internalise - Communicating to them that they are not alone.*
- ◆ *Have a laugh about moments that at the time are so overwhelming — stepping back and realizing that this is God's will and our role to enact it.*
- ◆ *Bring the female narratives of today into the limelight. **These stories are the candid history of the Church of the future.***

I welcome your views on whether you feel it would be appropriate in its candid tone and whether there is an appetite for something like this within our parish."

Indeed there is! It would be amazing if we could have an article that speaks the 'mother tongue' — excuse the pun. A collective voice of the women in our parish that are raising the parishioners of the future. We'd love to hear your voices!

Nancy

archival matters: The school below is mentioned in June Barrett's article about

Monsignor Rigney.

He saw to its building: a girls' infants school, its foundation stone was laid in 1880 and in 1881 it was opened and dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. It stood on the corner of Villiers Street and Pennant Street (now known as Victoria Road.)

And today?? The girls' infants school is relegated to the pages of history. In its place across from the Cathedral now stands Our Lady of Mercy College.



MICHAEL TAN, Secretary, reporting.

RIP Jim Grainda, (26th May 1936-2nd May 2018)

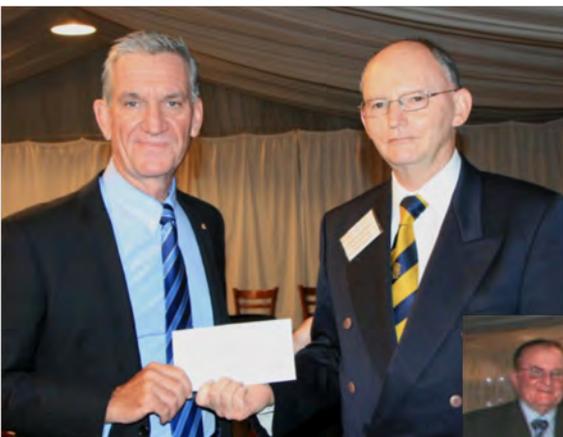
The Parramatta Catenians attended Brother Jim's funeral on 16th May at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The funeral Mass was celebrated by the Dean, Fr. Bob Bossini. Memories of Jim's life were shared, with mention of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps. Catenians Michael Lilley and Ian Goldthorpe, served as acolytes at the Mass. Then at the end of Mass other Catenian brothers formed a Guard of Honour to farewell Jim.



The 200th meeting of the Parramatta Catenians, May 24th

Over 60 guests were in attendance to celebrate this significant milestone in the life of the Parramatta Catenians. Visitors included members of other Catenian Circles, as well as parishioners from nearby parishes. This celebratory occasion was made extra special on two fronts: ladies were present at the Dinner; and the invited guest speaker was the well respected retired Police Commissioner Emeritus, Andrew Scipione. All present were keen to hear what he had to say and were not disappointed. Andrew spoke well, talking about his background and experiences as Police Commissioner in keeping local communities safe from threat, as well as the unenviable role that our Police Officers take on in the line of duty.

At the end of the evening, in appreciation for his address, a donation was given to Andrew for **Georges River Life Care**.



Andrew Scipione accepts the donation from President Peter Murney

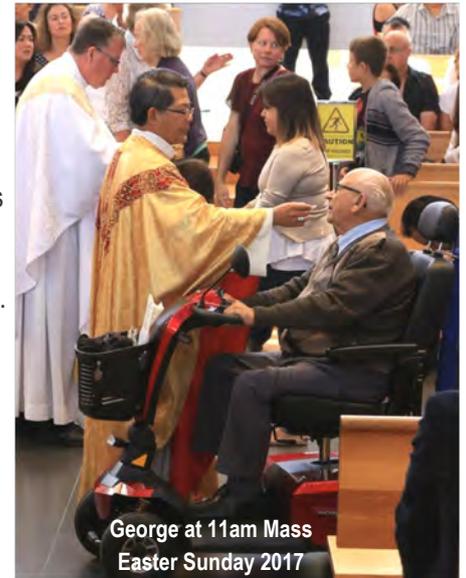


The 200th Meeting gives Catenian Brothers cause for celebration

**MERELY BY CHANCE WE LEARN
A LITTLE ABOUT GEORGE ABELA**

The editor explains:

These days George aged 92 aboard his motorized scooter is a regular at 11am Sunday Mass (which is where I came to know him) and some week-days at 12:30pm Mass. When he attended Jim Grainda's funeral on 16th May, he wanted to go to the cemetery for the burial because he used to 'chat' with Jim before Sunday Mass, (even though Jim was unable to talk because of a stroke). So George left his scooter at St Pat's and came with Bob and Joanne Edgar, my husband Baldo and me to Rookwood.



**George at 11am Mass
Easter Sunday 2017**



**George, assisted by Bob Edgar
at the cemetery**

To see George struggle to Jim's graveside, out of respect for the dead, was truly humbling.

Both to and from the cemetery, George kept us entertained with tales about his life. We convinced him he should do an article for *St Pat's Matters*.

Here's what he wrote.

I was born in Malta G.C. in Europe on 9th November 1925 and lived at 23A St Michael Street City of Cospicua. (a double-fortified city located on the east side in the *Grand Harbour* opposite *Valletta*). On August 1953, I married a Maltese woman named Maria Abela. She was 20 and I was 27 years old. We had two children, Violet and Charles while we were still in Malta.

After ten years of marriage we decided to come to Australia. We arrived on 29th January, 1964. We first lived in Blaxland Road Ryde. After a while we bought a semi-detached brick house in Rozelle and lived there for ten years. Then we bought another house in Victoria Road Parramatta in 1977 where I still live today.

Cont'd next page

George's Story cont'd

Both our children married. My beloved wife Maria was depressed and ended up in a Nursing Home in Thomas Street, Parramatta because the doctors did not want me to look after her as I was too old in my eighties. She worried too much and passed away on 21st January, 2007 aged seventy-three and a half years old.

After my beloved wife died I was in big trouble. I could not cook, I could not do housework, because I'd never done it before. I always found things ready when I came home.

Then I started having trouble with my knees ending up with osteo arthritis in both of them. But with the help of Almighty God and my children I beat everything. Now it's a miracle. I learned to do everything. Now with my motorized scooter I've solved a lot of problems, like doing the shopping, paying the bills at the Post Office and going to Church.

When we came to live in Parramatta in 1977, we straight away came to St Patrick's Church. Then it was a church, not a cathedral.

I used to help with the collections and ring the bell, "Patrick". **I was the last person to ring the bell before the Cathedral was burnt to the ground.** After the new Cathedral was restored I continued doing the collections and ringing the bell until my knees began to give me trouble. (For a while I used to do the collections with a walking stick).

In my time at St Patrick's I have seen many priests serve as Deans of the Cathedral. Father Brian Larkey became Dean in 1986 when the parish church became a cathedral. Since Fr Larkey there have been five Deans — the Very Reverend Fathers John Boyle, Kevin Walsh, Peter Williams, Wim Hoekstra, John McSweeney and now Robert Bossini. I have known all four Bishops: Most Rev Bede Vincent Heather DD LSS BA, Kevin Michael Manning, DD, Anthony Fisher OP DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil, Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD.

Editor's Note:

Time spent listening to the life stories of our older parishioners, like George, affords us younger generations valuable and free lessons in living life in the context of the Catholic Faith.

JUST ONE!



It was very disappointing to have just one person respond to the request for photos of their First Holy Communion Day.

Anyone recognize this cute kid looking so prim, proper and holy?



The date is 28th October 1945.

He made his First Holy Communion at St Kevin's Eastwood.

He now attends 9:30am Sunday Mass.

He's a tall, slim gentleman and is one of the Wardens taking up the Collections during Mass.

His initials are D.P.

Send your guesses as to who the mystery man is, to balmap5@bigpond.com His identity revealed next issue.



JACOB BERNARDO tells us

What it means to me to receive Christ in Holy Communion.

Leading up to the day I was nervous because I thought I might make a mistake and say the wrong words. On the day I felt even more nervous. I knew it was a special day because I even had to wear a bow tie and it wasn't even a school day! My hair had to be neat and tidy.

For weeks we had been preparing and learning what it meant to receive the Body of Christ and His Precious Blood. Now was the day. As I approached Fr. Bob I had caterpillars in my stomach which turned into butterflies. I got to Fr. Bob who said "Body of Christ" and showed me the Host. I said "Amen".

I then walked to the chalice, the minister said "Blood of Christ", I said "Amen". The taste was not like anything I had tasted before. I walked back to my family who all looked so happy.

I was relieved I didn't forget anything we practised. I then thought why was First Communion a big deal? Why do we have to receive the Body of Christ? What I realised was this — Jesus did this at the Last Supper and He asked us to remember Him through the Eucharist. So this is the way Jesus is with us today, through Holy Communion. I felt loved and happy thinking that Jesus is a part of me and I can now receive Him every time I go to Mass.

I must remember of course to go to Reconciliation before I receive Him.

Sharing stories matters

So many stories in our parish are 'begging' to be shared.

Accolades to Terry O'Brien, long time St Pat's parishioner, who has excelled by sending in the three wonderful articles on this page.

So all St Pat's parishioners, take a leaf out of Terry's book and dig out those stories crying out to be shared with the parish family.

Terry explains about the poem below: It was written by Patricia (Pat) Tracey's son, Paul, who read it to the extended family at his Mother's 90th Birthday celebrations at Coffs Harbour in June.

Patricia, who's been a parishioner at St Pat's for about thirty-eight years, continued celebrating the milestone with her friends at Courtlands Village North Parramatta (where I also live) and during a recent luncheon with fellow seniors, proudly shared her son's poem.

Since it seemed pertinent to the call for "Mum" stories following Mother's Day, I decided to send it in.



A POEM FOR MUM

YOU TAUGHT US HOW TO WALK
YOU TAUGHT US HOW TO TALK

YOU PROVIDED A ROOF OVER OUR HEAD
AND ALWAYS MADE SURE WE WERE FED

YOU TAUGHT US MORALS AND STANDARDS

THE MEANINGS OF LIVING
AND ALL ABOUT GIVING

WHAT A WONDERFUL, BEAUTIFUL,
THOUGHTFUL MOTHER YOU ARE

YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY
FOR PEOPLE EACH DAY

WHENEVER WE HAD ISSUES
YOU HAVE BEEN OUR TISSUES

YOU ALWAYS HUG US TIGHT
AND LOVE US WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

ALL OF THESE WORDS ARE PERFECTLY TRUE
AND MUM WE ALL LOVE YOU

YOU ARE A MOTHER, LIKE NO OTHER
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUM



This was written by my wife, Ann about ten years ago as part of her Creative Writing course.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

My Grandmother's name was Alice. More correctly, she was christened Alice Maude. She lived until she was in her mid eighties but in the thirty odd years I knew her, I never heard anyone call her by her given name. I asked my 96-year old grandmother about this. She had not thought about it before, but agreed.

Grandpa always referred to her as 'Mum'. Maybe when they were alone she was 'Alice'. Her cousins and siblings, all remained in Victoria when she and Grandpa moved to New South Wales. To her neighbours, even the close ones, she was 'Mrs Paine', to her grandchildren she was Gran or Grandma (call her Granny at your

peril). Her children and their spouses all called her Mum.

How times have changed. Now even a couple of my grandchildren call me Annie, and all my grandchildren's friends call me Ann, as does the most casual acquaintance. There was a period when the children were at school, ** when I seemed to be Terry's wife, John's mother, Ted's daughter or Thelma's daughter-in-law, all of which I resented somewhat.

I wondered if Alice ever thought she had lost her identity. I think I'd rather have it the way it is today. All of our seven wonderful children however, still call me Mum.

Terry's Note ** *Three of our sons' Marist mates always affectionately called Ann and me Mr and Mrs Nobbs as the boys' nicknames were, and still are, 'Nobbsie'*

ANGELS DO FLY?

When I began taking Communion to the sick in their homes I was extremely nervous about the procedure. One of the assistant priests offered to guide me through.

My first visit was to a sweet, but eccentric lady. (Much later I discovered she was schizophrenic which explained a lot.)

Father Peter met me at her home. We knocked. Cheerily Cecilia opened the door. "Come on in," she welcomed us, "clear yourselves a space on the table and sit down." Oh my goodness, this was not the greeting we'd expected. Obviously it was an "off" day.

We should have realised when we saw how heavily made up she was, at 9am. We pushed the breakfast dishes aside and prepared to begin. In the middle of the prayer a brightly coloured flash came "whooshing" low over the table. "Don't mind him, Pet, that's just Sweetie saying hello." Then I spied bird cages on the window sills. As well as the rainbow lorikeet, there was a pair of budgies and a big white thing I did not want to meet. It was definitely not the Dove of Peace or the Holy Spirit. Obviously they had the run of the house.

We very quickly completed our 'service', with Sweetie dive bombing like an old Spitfire. Father and I did not dare look at each other. "Now, will you have a cuppa, Pets?" enquired our hostess. Being unsure whether Sweetie might plop something in the cup, or be joined by some of his feathered friends, I lied, (God forgive me) "Thanks, Cecilia, but I've just had one". Father, probably lying too, said he had to get back to the Church.

Safely outside, the laughter bubbled up. "Well, Ann, that certainly was a baptism under fire for you. See you next week."

NOTE from Terry. Ann wrote a very poignant and humbling eulogy about this remarkable parishioner, her regular attendance at 6 o'clock Sunday Mass when she was well enough, her stoic independence, and gratitude to Ann as an Eucharistic Minister, That article was published in St Pat's Matters some years ago.

Maintenance Matters in the Cathedral

First it was the panels on the walls in the Choir Stalls that needed attention. This work was begun early this year, completion expected by Easter. But doubt set in as this important liturgical season drew closer and progress on the repairs seemingly at a standstill. Thankfully, fears were unfounded and the refurbished choir stall section was “unveiled” in time for the ceremonies of Holy Week.

But parishioners were in for another surprise. Everyone entering the Cathedral in early June were assailed by the sight of scaffolding being erected floor to ceiling along the western wall of the building.

Vanished from sight were the Crucifix, the Cathedra and the Burning Bush. This begged the question, ‘How would they be protected within that network of steel poles?’



So currently we are a foreshortened St Pat's!

The reason? Panelling on the western wall of the Cathedral was in serious need of restoration.

Below Fr Bob kindly puts parishioners in the picture, maintenance-wise. Thanks Fr Bob.

- it is (the current work) part of the on-going maintenance of the Cathedral building;
- it is the second stage of the operation - the first stage occurred during the Lenten season, and consisted of replacing the panels on the eastern wall of the Cathedral. There was a time limit with this as we wanted it to be completed by Holy Week. It was;
- the work on the western wall is a little more intricate as it involves replacing the original insulation which over time — 15 years — has eroded or worn away. And with the copper lining on the outside of the western wall and no insulation, the temperature during summer is always a few degrees hotter there;
- the work is more complicated as some of the panels are curved;
- the original panels were attached with some glue and Velcro. This has proved both unsuitable and unstable. In an audit in 2006 it was highlighted that some of the panels would need strengthening or replacement as they had moved. There was a danger that they could fall off the wall, causing considerable damage since they are rather thick. The risk of one falling on someone prompted us to take action and have

the entire series of panels replaced as a safety issue. We have given the builders, Bams Construction, up to eight weeks to complete the work, so that they can ensure that it is carried out to OH&S standards;

- the scaffolding has been placed so as to give the workmen enough movement to complete the work in the Cathedral with the least amount of disturbance. The maintenance began after the celebration of our First Communion and is occurring during a period where there are no major events in the Cathedral. While the construction is underway we have decided to not hold Mass in the Cathedral during the week (Fridays) as the workmen have their tools scattered around the place and it would interfere with their schedule. However, Sunday Mass is still being celebrated in the Cathedral;
- this project is part of the on going maintenance of the Cathedral. Even though it has been open for 15 years there is, as you can appreciate, many works, small and major that need attention. These are always carried out with the safety of parishioners in mind; and
- I would like to thank the parishioners for their patient tolerance during this procedure. We hope that all will be back to normal by late July or early August.



new signs matter

CHECK IT OUT!

Have you noticed the Cathedral Hall has gone upmarket?

Its glass walls now sport hard-to-miss classy signage to either the **CLOISTER FUNCTION ROOM** or the **CLOISTER CAFÉ**.

Such a clever idea, as it means people will not get lost finding their way to either area!



**IN MAY
IT WAS OZ ROSARY
AT THE CATHEDRAL**

**ON 30TH OCTOBER
IT WILL BE
A 'HUMAN ROSARY'**

**It is planned to hold
this event in the
Cathedral Forecourt,
30th September 2018
after 6pm Mass.**

**Everyone, especially families, are encouraged to participate
in this important prayer gathering
on the eve of October, the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary.
We need volunteers happy to represent each bead of the Rosary.
Interested in being a human bead of the Rosary?
Call Bernadette at 0415998310 if your family or group would like to be involved.**

St Pat's Credo Youth fundraise for WYD Panama 2019 Sunday 1st July



Credo Youth & family supporters BBQing



Hospitality Team served tea & coffee



Parishioners enjoying the Credo BBQ



Kids enjoyed Nitesh Lal's FREE Jumping Castle