

# ST PAT'S MATTERS

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



*New Life  
in Christ Risen*

May 2019 | Issue 98



## Editorial

Since the last issue of *St Pat's Matters* the parish's normal rhythm of life has been astir with out-of-the-ordinary events.

First up, was the hosting of the Inaugural Red Mass to mark the beginning of the Law Year. A truly memorable liturgy preceded a most impressive supper afterwards. We did ourselves proud.

Then on March 17th there was the double header of celebrating St Patrick's Day with a Festival, plus the unveiling of a commemorative plaque recognising the first people of the Parramatta area.

Aside from these major events, the other pages are packed with many interesting articles, covering a wide range of topics.

In ministry we read about the commissioning of our parish SREs and two reflections: one by Michael Hanratty on 30 years as an Acolyte here, the other a farewell by Deacon Willy Limjap as his time of service at the Cathedral draws to a close.

Never heard of the Patrician Club? Well, let Patricia Batista enlighten you as to its purpose and history.

Then Judith Dunne treats you to an archival piece — a fascinating walk in St Patrick's Cemetery profiling the life of one William Hancy.

In Praying Matters there's coverage of, and comments about, *The Living Divine Mercy Chaplet*, (a follow on from *The Living Rosary* featured in the magazine's last issue). Credit is due to Bernadette Ching for both.

We delve into the lives of 95-year old Felicitas Appathurai, and three couples, the Hornes, the Rodricks and the Cutajars.

On the youth front we read about our pilgrims' World Youth Day experiences, the Credo Ministries retreat and glimpse, just briefly, some Junior Credo activities.

Faithwise, the cream of the contents is unquestionably our Journey with Jesus through Holy Week to Easter.

So, in all the perplexities that may befall us in our daily lives, let us remain firmly anchored in our belief in Christ Risen. Alleluia!

M. Polizzi

# Inaugural Red Mass 13th February, 2019.



*This Mass was held in thanksgiving for the work of those who serve the law. It was also an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith.*



It was the legal community who took the initiative to contact Fr Bob requesting a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral to mark the start of the 2019 Legal Year. Consequently invitations were sent to members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families. The success of the Red Mass was due to the collaboration of three parties St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, the Parramatta and District Law Society and the St Thomas More Society.

Very Reverend Bob Bossini, Dean of the Cathedral, was the principal celebrant. Fr Chris del



Rosario, assistant priest at St Pat's, and Fr Ruben Martello FSF from St Bernadette's Parish, Dundas Valley, concelebrated, with Deacon Wilfredo Limjap assisting; their red vestments signifying the Holy Spirit.

At the conclusion of Mass, Andrew Bide, President of the Parramatta and District Law Society, thanked the organisers and in particular commended Solicitor Steve McAuley, the Society's secretary for his dogged determination to see the Mass become a reality. Mr McAuley believes, "**The Red**



Steve McAuley (L) with Paul Ohm, Treasurer Parramatta & District Regional Law Society

**Mass helps promote faith and justice amongst the legal community and beyond. It is easy to forget that Australia's legal system**

**is founded on Christian principles of right and wrong,"** And Steve's hope? That this celebration will become an annual event, the initiation of a new tradition for Western Sydney.



Andrew Bide

## Inaugural Red Mass



***“Today as we celebrate this Mass of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Legal Year for 2019, we ask that the power, wisdom and goodness of our Creator may lead and guide you, the members of the judicial profession, to allow our laws to be imbued with the ultimate truth of the eternal law.”***

With the above exhortation Fr Bob concluded what was a most profound, thought-provoking homily, based on the readings from **Genesis 2:4-9.15-17** and **Mark 7:14-23** to which he linked the vital, essential role of a just legal system in society.

To whet your appetite here are some points from his homily:

- humanity is ‘fallen’ and imperfect and therefore needs to control the desire for evil and sin through proper use of judgement and reason. This then can be reached and achieved with the help of an appropriate and well-founded legal and political structure;
- it is the presence of law within our society that gives us the guidelines and parameters for our actions, and in many ways holds us responsible for our everyday behaviour. Without the presence of good and solid laws, our society can easily fall into anarchy, individualism or even dictatorship;
- the legal justice system within our western culture has been based on a proper, Biblical understanding of human nature and the responsibility of human choice, our being created in the image of God and the continual process of achieving good from a flawed nature. We hold those responsible for wrongdoing, rather than excuse their behaviours as a knee jerk reaction to unchecked desires. We offer an appropriate form of justice to both the wrongdoer and those wronged. We ensure that punishment is not the influential and driving force of our legal and justice system. We offer rehabilitation to criminals and compensation to those whose lives have been affected by other people’s wrong choices and;
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: Law is a rule of conduct enacted by competent authority for the sake of the common good. The moral law presupposes the rational order, established among creatures for their good and to serve their final end, by the power, wisdom, and goodness of the Creator. All law finds its first and ultimate truth in the eternal law. Law is declared and established by reason as a participation in the providence of the living God, Creator and Redeemer of all. ‘Such an ordinance of reason is what one calls law.’<sup>2</sup> [CCC # 1951]

Ed Note: The president of the St Thomas More Society, Michael McAuley, (Steve’s father) was so impressed by Fr Bob’s homily, that he asked for a copy. If you too, would like to read the whole homily, contact Fr Bob, who’ll be happy to comply with your request.



Prior to Mass, some members of the Legal Profession were happy to be photographed at the Cathedral Entrance.

### Fr Bob’s Impressive Welcoming List at the beginning of the Red Mass

- The Honourable Justice Julia Lonergan, Supreme Court of New South Wales.
- Member Theresa Simon, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- The Honourable David Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, representing the Premier of NSW.
- Mr Damien Tudehope, Member for Epping, representing the Attorney General of NSW.
- Mr Hugh McDermott, Member for Prospect, representing the Leader of the Opposition of NSW.
- Ms Julia Finn, Member for Granville, representing the Shadow Attorney General of NSW.
- Dr Geoff Lee, Member for Parramatta.
- Ms Elizabeth Espinosa, President of the Law Society of NSW.
- Mr Ernest Schmatt, Chief Executive of the Judicial Commission of NSW.
- Mr Luke Grant, Acting Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW.
- Professor Hayden Ramsay, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University.
- Senior Minister Keith Hamilton, Parramatta Mission.
- Duty Commander Craig Easy, NSW Fire and Rescue.
- Rev. Paul McFarlane, Senior Chaplain NSW Ambulance.
- Mr Andrew Bide, President of the Parramatta & District Law Society.
- Mr Michael McAuley, President of the St Thomas More Society.
- Learned Barristers, Solicitors, Law Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

### What’s the head of St Thomas More doing on a cupcake??



Well, he is the Patron Saint of lawyers and civil servants. It was a stroke of genius on the part of Olivia Lee, St Pat’s Events Co-Ordinator, to have his likeness featured on the cupcakes, which proved a real hit at the refreshments after the Red Mass.

For more on the supper go to page 27



The practice of the Catholic tradition in Parramatta dates back to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1803 when Fr. James Dixon celebrated the first Mass in what is now Prince Alfred Square. Catholics have had a presence in Parramatta since the very early days of European settlement in this land. A fine and proud record to be sure. It must be said though, that for much of our 230 years here the existence and the traditions of the indigenous people of this land have been disregarded and denigrated by our society. Catholics included.

Fellow parishioner Phil Russo has a deep sense of justice and a close connection with the local indigenous community. It was early 2017 when Phil approached me, as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, and floated the idea of an acknowledgement of the history and the presence of the original inhabitants of the land on which our cathedral stands. The proposal was well received by the PPC and over the next few meetings various designs and formats were discussed. Later in 2017 it was decided that a committee should be appointed to fully investigate design, location, construction and cost. The committee consisted of Phil Russo and PPC members Marian Polizzi and myself.

So began a round of seeking ideas on design, construction, costs from various suppliers of plaques, stone and installation as well as communication with Bishop Vincent. The project gained more impetus after local indigenous man John Robertson spoke at our Parish AGM in August 2017. He spoke of more than 50,000 years of aboriginal presence in this area and of the major songlines used by neighbouring communities converging to meet for ceremonies and trading at Burrumatta. The songlines, you will see in the coloured panel on our plaque, coincide with our modern main roads which converge on the place where our Cathedral now stands. John was a great help with the artwork and the wording.

We were well in to 2018 before we had settled on the form that this acknowledgement was to take and was now time to talk to various contractors to make it happen. St. Patrick's Day 2019 was nominated as the day for unveiling. With the unveiling date to be permanently cast on the plaque the pressure was on to make it happen, on time. Christmas 2018 came and went with the project not entirely on track. However, with Phil's quiet confidence and Marian's energy spent on addressing my procrastination, it all came together, on time. Just.

The commemorative ceremony took place after 11am Mass on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. It began with a traditional smoking ceremony performed by Chris Tobin. After the Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Andrew Wilson unveiled the plaque, it was duly incensed and blessed by Fr Bob Bossini as Parish Priest and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Thanks must go to Phil, Marian and John Robertson for their patience and the resolve to get it right, Fr. Bob and the PPC for their ideas and backing of the project. Thanks also to Perpetual Plaques of Uralla, (near Wauchope), who made the plaque, Gosford Quarries who provided the stone and mounted the plaque and Menucha Monuments from Bellevue Hill, who carried out the installation. They endured numerous phone calls for numerous variations. We especially thank Parramatta City Council who generously agreed to cover most of the cost for the memorial.



The Smoking Ceremony



Lord Mayor Andrew Wilson unveils the commemorative plaque



Fr Bossini first blesses then incenses the plaque.



Refuge from the rain was sought in the Chapel for the official photo shoot.

Chris Tobin, Fr Chris Del Rosario, Lord Mayor Andrew Wilson, Fr Bob Bossini, Bob Edgar, Phil Russo and John Roberson

## Significance of The Smoking Ceremony:



The smoking ceremony performed before the unveiling of the commemorative plaque was done as a type of cleansing ceremony based on the traditional aboriginal practice of smoking people and/or things in order to ensure safety from the presence of any negative spiritual forces.

As Mr. Tobin informed us on the day *“Our people were big believers in spirits and would sometimes ‘smoke’ themselves or ‘be smoked’ upon arriving at someone’s camp. It was considered a proper thing to do before sitting down with your hosts to ensure you have not brought any unwanted spirits with you”*

New-born babies were put through the smoke for similar reasons, as were corpses and other objects of concern.

The practice is still continued today as a clearing ceremony at gatherings before people sit down together and sometimes to clear or cleanse an area.

Mr Tobin explained, *“The leaves I used for the smoking were gum leaves (in particular a leaf known as ‘appo’ tree, (I don’t know any other name for it). Usually I hold a gum leaf branch which was traditionally held up as a sign of peace by our people.*



He also explained the importance of **Welcome to Country**. It pays respect to and acknowledges the traditional custodians of an area, here it’s the Burrumattagal People of the Darug Nation. He regrets that the government and lawcourts in Australia still refuse to recognise it practically as Aboriginal country. So to have people we live and work with recognise our culture and history is very important to our hearts and to the social justice struggle in which we are still engaged. It makes the invitation to *Welcome you to Country* a very sweet gesture and demonstrates a great generosity of spirit from both parties.



## COUNTDOWN: Cutting it Fine!

The plaque arrived at St Pat’s from Uralla on Friday morning, 1st March. That afternoon, Bob and Phil ferried it to Gosford Quarries, who did a fine job of fitting it precisely into the stone plinth, subsequently delivering it to the Cathedral on Wednesday 6th.

Saturday morning, 2nd March the three committee members turned up to prepare the site for the memorial, digging out several Rhampholepis bushes adjacent to the steps leading up to the Cathedral. Phil came armed with an archaic, rusted set of shears, but nevertheless attacked the job with great gusto;

Bob wielded the mattock to deepen the hole; and Marian ‘supervised’ and helped with rubbish removal. Monday 4th, workmen from Menucha Monuments worked to lay the concrete foundation stone, returning on Thursday 14th to carry out the intricate precise manoeuvring of the memorial into the correct position in its resting place. No mean feat!

Phew! Mission accomplished with two days to spare!



Photos: Joanne Edgar & M Polizzi





# Our Patron Saint matters!

Any visitor to the Emerald Isle would have smiled resignedly at the weather that greeted St Patrick's Day Festival on March 17 here at the Cathedral. Rain! And lots of it!!!!...How typically Irish!!!

Though the soggy Sunday did its best to thwart the celebration, intrepid volunteers sallied forth to implement Plan B. And luckily, on the Saturday, Millie Lee, foreseeing the possibility of the inclement weather continuing on the morrow, had with the help of Joanne Edgar, bedecked the Cathedral Hall with the appropriate Irish themed decoration of trailing shamrocks and the Celtic cross shaped with shamrocks (Joanne's speciality). Aside from the "titivating" Mili had also processed how to "squish" what was possible into the confines of the hall i.e. the White Elephant Stall, Book, Cake and Gelato Stalls; the Hot Chips was relocated to share the kitchen with the Tea and Coffee served from the Café area, (while the BBQ remained in the usual position outside under the covered way); the outdoor stage was abandoned and seating set up in front of the indoor one ready for speechifying and entertainment, (Irish dancers and the Band); and because the Children's Jumping Castle etc had to be cancelled, Olivia Lee set up a fun colouring-in area indoors for kids, little and big, (check out Fr Chris!); and smack in the middle of all was the Raffle Area with Naomi Mazzitelli and Pat Preca roping in people to purchase last minute tickets to add to the barrel's contents. (Would you believe that last year's Raffle winner, Frank Duff, won second prize this year!)

As for all past parish events the success of the St Pat's Festival, was dependent on the ever-reliable band of volunteers ready to pitch in despite the unexpected 'glitch' the weather caused to reorganisation.

Can you visualise St Patrick, our parish namesake, smiling benignly and raising his crozier in approval to the volunteers and intrepid parishioners who braved the elements to come and celebrate communally his Feast Day?

**But before all the hype of St Pat's Festival kicked off, another significant ceremony took place: 11am Mass goes spilled out into the Cathedral forecourt, drawn by the music of a lone Irish Piper playing on the verandah of Murphy House.**

From under a sea of umbrellas those present witnessed the acknowledgement of the first people to inhabit this area of the Great South Land — the Burramattagal — by the unveiling and blessing of a memorial plaque in their honour, (as detailed on pages 4 and 5).

This long-overdue recognition by St Patrick's Cathedral community was indeed a powerful lead into the honouring of our parish's namesake.





Sure 'n begorrah 'tis St Patrick's Day!



# SRE MATTERS



On March 1 more than 50 Special Religious Educators attended the Parramatta Regional Mass held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Fr Bossini, Dean of St Pat's and Fr Paul Marshall, Dean of Holroyd were the celebrants. During Mass the Region's 13 SRE parish coordinators were commissioned for the year's ministry; then followed Fiona Clarke's commissioning as the Regional Coordinator.

After Mass refreshments were on offer in the hall, during which certificates were presented to those people who had completed Level 1 and Level 2 courses last year. (Congrats to Pamela Bain, St Pat's coordinator who did a refresher of Level 1.) Certificates for 5 and 10 years' service were also awarded. Mona Kaltoum, from St Pat's, received hers for 5 years of ministry.

**Since it was Fr Bob's birthday, we celebrated with a cake!**



Helen Khoury (Toongabbie Parish) & Mona Kaltoum (St Pat's Parish) with their certificates for 5 years as SREs with Fiona Clarke, Fr Paul Marshall, Fr Bob Bossini & Cecilia Zammit Director of CCD.



Not a divided meeting, rather two split photos to show all SREs at the day meeting prior to the start of Term One's lessons. (Fiona Clarke couldn't fit everyone into one photo!) For those unable to attend Pam kindly arranged a night meeting. Lots of formal matters to deal with, as happens at every meeting before each term starts.

## MORE SRE COMMISSIONING MATTERS:

For this year's commissioning in their ministry, Coordinator Pamela Bain gave St Pat's SREs two options: attendance at the Vigil Mass on March 2 or 9:30am Mass the next day.

Fr Chris Del Rosario as celebrant at both Masses performed the Rite of Commissioning: He asked them:

- ◆ Will you continue to grow as disciples of the Lord by making every effort to hear and integrate God's Word into your lives and share it with others?
- ◆ In undertaking classes will you endeavour to follow CCD guidelines, using the appropriate curriculum, 'Christ Our Light and Life'?
- ◆ You have been called to become ministers among the people. Will you promise to bring the Word of God to your parish families through prayer, teaching, service and example?

The SREs responded in unison: *We will.*



Fr Chris with the SREs commissioning during the Vigil Mass  
Norma, Najwa, Mary, Margaret, Edward, Pamela, Eric, Leo, Diane, Marian



SREs commissioned at 9:30am Mass: l-r Ray, Michael, Pamela (in her support role as Coordinator) & Carlos

**Not all SREs could attend the Commissioning Masses. All St Pat's SREs are listed below. Please pray for them!**

Norma Alphonse  
Pamela Bain  
Mary Brennan  
Bernadette Ching  
Margaret Climpson  
Leo Coleman  
Eric Grant,  
Ann Haddad  
Mona Kaltoum  
Mili Lee  
Ray Love  
David Mannall  
Mindy Mercado

Lindsay Nakhoul  
Carlos Ortanez  
Marian Polizzi  
Edward Safadi  
Narimane Sleiman  
Diane Smith  
Michael Sobb  
Najwa Takchi  
Caitlin Valentin  
Chelsea Valentin  
Maria Valentin  
Patricia Warden  
Mary Wehbe



# FAREWELL MATTERS: *The Rev. Deacon Willy is leaving us.*

When approached to pen a farewell article for us, Deacon Willy confessed, *"I do not always feel comfortable talking about myself."* Nevertheless, as a measure of his desire to serve, he humbly complied with our request, happy to use the question answer format approach.

## **When were you appointed here?**

It's hard to imagine that 4 years have already gone by since I came to St Patrick's Cathedral – indeed, very quickly. Perhaps, that's a good sign; for it is said that we don't notice the time passing when we get quite busy. — so, I must have been busy these past few years.

After my ordination as a Permanent Deacon at Padre Pio Church in Glenmore Park, I was initially appointed to St Patrick's in February 2015, to fill-in temporarily for Deacon Robertus Kim.

## **What drew you to consider this ministry?**

After arriving in Australia in the early 1980s, the permanent diaconate was something I had never considered getting into. Years before coming to Australia from the Philippines, I had given up what I thought was a calling to the priestly vocation.

However, after a couple of years settling into a new country, I felt a longing to serve, being inspired by the many blessings the service of Deacon Bryan Myers brought to my parish St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith. Yet, despite his fine example, I didn't even investigate what a permanent deacon's role encompassed. But it was while attending the ordinations of Deacon Leon and Deacon Robertus that the thought of the diaconate started to interest me. Since I was already quite actively serving at St Nicholas of Myra Parish and with the *Couples for Christ* community, I thought that perhaps I should consider taking another leap forward in serving the Lord. And so the enquiries, formation process and formal studies began. All these of course took place while I worked full-time as an I.T. developer at the New South Wales Police.

## **What duties does your role entail?**

As the permanent deacon assigned at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, I am very privileged to have worked these 4 years with Fr Bob Bossini, Dean of the Cathedral, who is very organised and yet very open in his ways. In spite of my full-time employment with the NSW Police, I was happy to have had the opportunity to exercise my roles as a deacon in Liturgy, in proclaiming the Word and in still doing works of Charity. The Assistant Priests, — currently Fr Chris del Rosario, — and the parish staff have all been most supportive and very inspirational in their own contribution to service to the parish.

## **Any special occasions/highlights that stand out?**

One of the main challenges I had at the start of my ministry here at the Cathedral was having to chant the Gospel and the main responses during the Mass; in particular, when solemnities are celebrated. Although reluctant at the start, I took up the challenge accepting that it contributed to making the liturgical celebration more solemn. — There were of course (and still are) glitches here and there, but **the most important thing is that I do the best I can; because ministering is all about offering ourselves fully in service in the name of our Lord.**

I have learnt so much during my time at St Pat's. What I am going to particularly miss is the excellent standard of the Liturgy and of the Music, especially during important events where so much time is dedicated to practice and preparation beforehand, all contributing to a very sacred, solemn Eucharistic celebration.

## **How has being in this ministry influenced your life?**

Being in ministry has greatly influenced my life; in particular, in my relationships with others. I find it easier to bring Christian Love in this manner, not only at the parish level but also at the workplace; and, for that matter, to anyone I meet.

Here at St Patrick's, working with the catechumens, candidates and with the RCIA Team has taken a major part of my time, in meetings and in preparing for sessions. Each RCIA year has been different in terms of the composition and circumstances of those wanting to become Catholics. Still every year has brought about extraordinary experiences during the journey to initiation. This year, I am grateful to team members, John & Diane, Anna, Elizabeth and Harley, all quietly fulfilling their roles and always readily available to fill in when I am unavailable for the sessions due to my role as deacon at Mass.

*Ministering is all about offering ourselves fully, in service, in the name of our Lord.*

After prayers, a source of strength in all that I do is Beth, my wife, who has provided unconditional support in what I do; always there, providing me with ample food for sustenance.

She is also my greatest critic when I'm preparing my homilies and talks.

The nature of our ministry is to give the most and the best of who we are wherever we are; and then we move on, as with missionaries on a journey. As our Lord has sent his disciples, two by two, I am blessed that He has also sent us, Beth and me, together on our journey.

My time at St Patrick's is soon to end. I have been reassigned to St Nicholas of Myra Parish. In terms of my ministry I look forward to sharing there what I have learnt at the Cathedral Parish.



## **Sacred Moments in Ministry**



# Remembering matters

## THE PATRICIAN CLUB OF PARRAMATTA A 21 AND OVER CLUB IN A BYGONE ERA



*Patricia Batistic was the first female President of the Patrician Club in 1977. She is singularly honoured to have been a member of such a Club and to this day remains friends for life with many members.*

**I**n the time of my youth, if a girl was not married by twenty she was considered to be an old maid, one left on the shelf to eke out her days crocheting for fetes to fill in her lonely hours. I remember an occasion when a close friend of mine suddenly exclaimed in panic, "I am 22 and not even married". I thought there must be something wrong with me because here I was in my mid to late 20s with no desire to 'take the plunge' into matrimony.

Just in case panic set in, I decided to try and find myself a husband. So in 1970 a friend introduced me to the Parramatta Patrician Club. My first impressions were of a group of people who seemed 'dead from the feet up', until I got to know them and truly saw the depth and goodness of the members of that Club.

This goodness came from the respect Patricians had for each other. For example on weekends away enjoyed by members, the young women and men would often sleep on the floor of someone's week-ender or on a Halversen cruise boat and not once did anyone take advantage of another's body. We all trusted one another and this trust was not betrayed.

The Patrician Club was commenced in 1952 by a group of Marist Brothers "old boys" who wanted to form a club exclusively for themselves. Some time later they decided to widen the club's scope to include single Catholic men and women over 21 years of age. (The Xavierian Club, another 21 and over Club, based in Enfield, started some two months earlier than the Patrician Club.)

One of the founding members of the Patrician Club, Jim Turner, who for some years was the assistant registrar at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and living in the single men's quarters at the time, decided to go to a nearby club at Penrith called the Rosarian Club. There he met his future wife, Thais. Interestingly the Rosarian Club eventually married itself out of existence!

Jim's youngest brother, Paul, joined the Club in 1964 and was an enthusiastic member until 1973 when he married the love of his life, Leonie Hogan, a former Mercy nun. The convent's loss was Paul's gain. Paul was always the uninhibited one at our dance nights mostly organised around a theme. Be it Scottish, Roman, bushranger or military, Paul would always come dressed accordingly. (see photo)

All the Turner siblings were members, at some time, of either the Patrician Club or the Newcastle Club, and met their lifelong partners at these Clubs. This was indeed unique.

Funny incidents were often part of dance nights. At one dance when the winner of the Lucky Door Prize was announced, the recipient eagerly went to the stage to receive his prize. To his horror, it turned out to be a car door (picked up at a scrap metal

yard that afternoon by Paul Turner, aided and abetted by a fellow Club member.) The lucky winner did eventually receive a proper prize, but the car door was just an added bit of fun.

At the end of our dances, instead of singing the National Anthem, we would all join Paul in singing "Goodbye", a very catchy tune, from *The White Horse Inn* by Ralph Bentazky. (Maybe you can google the lyrics). The lyrics of this song could be interpreted as a lament because we had not met "the one" but we would all go home humming this tune as it put us in a happy frame of mind. (The only lament came from Paul who would really have liked to have been a top brass in the Australian military. Hence his nickname of "the General" which has stuck.)

Such simple pleasures were highlights of our times together. Another fun time was had when members went away on a Halversen cruise along the Hawkesbury River from Berowra to Wiseman's Ferry. At night we were anchored on the McDonald River, a tributary of the Hawkesbury. During the night the tide went out leaving the boat on a list. To our horror we realised that we were sitting on a sandbank and had to wait until the tide came in and then we were on our way. The "captain" was glad that the boat had not sprung a leak whilst on the sandbank.

To say that the Patrician Club, which was predominantly a social club, would eventually become a "marriage bureau" is not far from the truth: many found their husbands or wives at the club (or other such clubs). Statistics have shown that over 90% of such marriages have endured until death parted them. This is because there was the common denominator of their shared faith in the Catholic Church and Christ's teachings as our Master, the underlying principles of the Club.

Initially the Patricians would meet in the Hiawatha Building in George Street, Parramatta, then at other various venues, until we found our permanent home in the early 1960s — the little hall behind the old Marist Brothers School, (now the site of the new St Patrick's Cathedral. And where the little hall once stood is now part of the Cathedral's carpark.)

During the time of the Patrician Club, there was no Cathedral or Bishop in Parramatta. St Patrick's was just a parish church in the Sydney Archdiocese. This all changed in 1986 when Pope John Paul II formed the Diocese of Parramatta, with Bede Heather as its first bishop.

Club meetings were held fortnightly on Thursday at 8 pm., beginning and ending with prayer.

### The Opening Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, help me and all my fellow workers to think like You, to work with You, to pray through You, to live in You, to give You all my strength and all my time.*

*May Your Kingdom come in all our factories, workshops and offices; at our recreations and in our homes, be everywhere better known, better loved and better served. Deliver us forever from injustice and hatred, from evil and sin. Amen.*

### The Closing Prayer:

*Lord Jesus teach us to be generous, to serve You as You deserve to be served, to give without counting the cost, to fight without counting the wounds, to work without seeking any rest, to spend my life without expecting any other return than the knowledge that I do Your Holy will. Amen.*

*Queen of Apostles, pray for us.  
St Patrick, pray for us.*

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## Snapshots from the past.

### The Patrician Club cont'd

Our meetings were well attended with new faces replacing the old mainly leaving due to meeting their life's partner and entering holy matrimony. This was in times when people got married first, then enjoyed the intimacies of married life and children afterwards. Sadly today, not all follow this precept.

Social activities included organising own dances, attending other clubs' dances in church halls in the Sydney area and beyond; and weekends away at the Hydro-Majestic Hotel at Medlow Bath, The California Guesthouse at Terrigal, a guest house at Gerroa and visits to the snowfields.

During its heyday, some Patrician members acted on a "liaison committee" endeavouring to organise functions to avoid clashing with other clubs' activities, thereby ensuring a good attendance at each function.

Whenever the Patricians went to an outing, they would meet at "Grace Bros corner" (where Westfield is now located) on the corner of Argyle and Church Streets, Parramatta. Those without cars would get lifts to the function. No one was ever left stranded; they were always dropped off at their homes. Everyone looked after everyone else. This is where the depth and caring of those members came to the fore.

During the heady days of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the following 21 and over clubs were in existence: the Bethany Club at Bankstown, the Chanelians in Sydney, the Columbans in Kingswood, the Mater Dei Club in Concord and the Regis Club in North Sydney, as well as similar clubs in Newcastle and Wollongong.

A notable member of the Patrician Club was Barbara Hector, now nicknamed "Vigilante", because she attends Vigil Mass at the Cathedral. Barbara met her lovely husband, Norm at the Patrician Club and they lived happily ever after, until Norm's death in 2014, (26th August).

No wonder the Patrician Club was so successful in the 30-odd years of its existence. It had good spiritual directors. The ones who come to mind are Fathers Eugene Stockton, Fred Williams, Paul Cashen, Father Coffey, Geoff Dickinson and Kevin Dadswell. The latter became my parish priest at St Michael's South Blacktown and was there until his death in 2009.

The Patricians made their own fun without the aid of drugs or alcohol. No pill testing at our functions was ever required. However, the Patrician Club's demise began when members in the 1980s decided to go to wine bars and alcohol then became the drink of choice. Alas this soon resulted in members leaving the club which eventually folded, because its founding principles had been weakened.

As for me, I did not marry anyone from the Patrician Club but married later in life. As I was too old to be re-trained in my ex-husband's ways, our marriage ended after 6 years. There are no regrets. I live in splendid isolation with my cat.

**I am most grateful to Paul Turner and Barbara Hector for their invaluable help in formulating this walk 'down memory lane'.**



Fr Kevin Dadswell,  
24/1/1930-9/7/2009

Just one of the many fine priests who served as spiritual directors of the Patrician Club.  
I later reacquainted with Fr Kevin when he became my parish priest at St Michael's South Blacktown.

Paul & Pat aka  
Bonnie and Clyde



June 1971:  
Paul Turner in all  
his Scottish glory



*The simple fun of Themed Dance Nights  
be it Gangster, Scottish or Bushranger*



PATRICIANS RECONNECTING  
IN THE EARLY 2000S



Who can pick out Pat Batistic, Vigilante Barbara and husband Norm Hector?



The Living Divine Mercy Chaplet



It was only after the **Living Divine Mercy Chaplet** took place on Sunday 10 March 2019, that it was realised that, for many people, this was their first experience of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and they were hearing and saying the prayer for the first time.

So to enlighten those ignorant of the prayer's origins, Bernadette Ching gives a brief account (sourced from EWTN) on how the Divine Mercy Chaplet came about:

On 5 October, 1938, a young religious by the name Sister Faustina (Helen Kowalska) died in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. She came from a very poor family that had struggled hard on their little farm during the terrible years of WWI. Sister Faustina had had only three years of very simple education. Her tasks were the humblest in the convent, usually in the kitchen or vegetable garden, or as a porter.

On 22 February, 1931, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ appeared to this simple nun, bringing with Him a wonderful message of Mercy for all mankind. Saint Faustina tells us in her diary under this date:

**Sister's Explanation of the Divine Mercy image:**



*"In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast.*

*From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale.*

*In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, 'Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: **Jesus, I trust in You.***

*The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross....Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.' "*



Photos: Leo Lin.

Event's end:

The Living Beads held aloft white and red paper balls. These had started out flat, but as each 'bead' recited their prayer the flat objects were unfolded to form balls thus signifying A Living Divine Mercy Chaplet



**Why we should pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.**

In 1933, God gave Sister Faustina a striking vision of His Mercy, Sister tells us: *"I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it.*

*Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed to the Cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord's wounds and I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus."*

Of another vision on 13 September, 1935, she wrote: *"I saw an Angel, the executor of God's wrath... about to strike the earth...I began to beg God earnestly for the world with words which I heard interiorly. As I prayed in this way, I saw the Angel's helplessness, and he could not carry out the just punishment."*

The following day an inner voice taught her to say the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



**Gratias Omnibus (Thanks to All)  
for making the Living Divine Mercy Event a success!**

**Bernadette Ching reports:**

It was estimated that over one hundred people attended the event, not counting passers-by who prayed with us from the streets. Some were kneeling. May the Holy Trinity find comfort in the simple offering we did that day.

People have asked who organised the Living Divine Mercy (and the Living Rosary last September). There's no group. The idea was proposed and people volunteered to help. e.g. promoting the event, inviting people, being a human bead, leading the singing, providing transport, doing crowd control, first aid, kitchen duties, or just attending in solidarity.

The following people deserve recognition and thanks: those who were there under the heat of the sun to set up for the event — young Craig d' Mello, Dennis and Carmen Guevarra, John Garvey, M'leigh Brew, Felicia Figueredo, (always willing to serve God). Thanks also to George Manassa, Akita Sanchez and Louise Locke who lead the singing, Chlea for crowd control, Mary Brennan and Dr Luk for first aid, (Dr Luk also helped with transport) and Leo Lin our photographer. Thanks to Fr Bob, for allowing us to have the event in the Cathedral forecourt, to the Cathedral Staff for their support and to all who came. God's blessing on all.

**Participants' Comments**

**HELEN AND JOHN (from Penrith River Cruises):**

It was wonderful to see such a crowd present. Even though some did not know the Divine Chaplet, they were there to give praise and honour to Our Lord. It's what is in the heart and what the intention is, that matters. God bless.

**NEETHA MATHEW:** Blessed to be a bead in the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Thank you for inviting us. I know the final week needed lot of prayers and hard work by the organisers. But at last it really went well. Happy to see so many people join in the prayer.

**CAROLINE REBELLO DONALDSON:** We had a wonderful time in prayer. What a wonderful group of people. Well done organisers.

**CHARLOTTE PINTO:** The Living Divine Mercy conducted by the organiser and eager group of volunteers, was absolutely beautiful. It was taking steps towards the most Merciful Heart of Jesus. This first-time event held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, demonstrated the building of a prayerful community.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is the Devotion that answers everything. Jesus can bind up and heal your soul in an instant, according to the measure of your Trust in Him. The Divine Mercy Chaplet can be recited at any time of the day or night, but saying it at 3pm (the hour of Jesus' death) is especially powerful.

The Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday.

All in all it was a good Spiritual experience for me and my family and we are so glad that Bernadette Ching took the Lead in organising this. God bless her abundantly!

**JOHN VARGHESE:** We were really happy that we could attend. It was a wonderful experience.

**SHEILA TAPIADOR:** Thank you for organising the Divine Mercy Human Chaplet after Ash Wednesday. I was becoming impatient while waiting to begin, but the moment the children read the reflections, I was reminded that all that God created was good. When we began the proper Divine Mercy prayer, I felt the mercy of God embracing me. I closed my eyes to enjoy the moment, it was overflowing, then I began receiving inspirations. Thank you very much for the effort and sacrifices. May God continue to bless the work of your hands.

**LEO LIN:** It has been an honour and exciting to be part of the event especially during Lent.

Sorry, I am not good at writing. I come from China, the religion and culture there is quite different from here. My whole family are Catholic, I was baptized when I was a baby. When we migrated to Australia, all we do is attend Mass on the weekend but not any other church activities. It is good that we can start to participate in some other activities like this evening devotion to Divine Mercy. It makes us feel more involved to our holy family.

**FANNY MORANDARTE:** It was a pleasure to see devotees at the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

**BERNI CHING:** I learned a valuable lesson from God during the Living Divine Mercy event. Everything was planned months ahead for the 10<sup>th</sup> March but nothing went right that day. The inflatable outdoor screen was defective and did not inflate; the reflections on the screen were unable to be seen; the singers were so into the prayer that they forgot to hold the microphone near their mouths; everyone was belting out the song; and the "lead and response" instructions were not followed; people opened the paper balls before the prayer ..I felt so stressed that I did not focus 100% on the prayer. I was upset after the event. I prayed before going to bed.

Upon waking the next morning, I heard a voice calling me, "**Martha!**". (Remember the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42 Suddenly I realised I was the only one missing the plot. Everyone prayed like Mary, but I was so preoccupied with the preparation and procedure, I forgot to choose the better part: ie praying and reflecting upon the Mercy and Love of God with the community.

What matters to God is the prayer, not the preparation. Everyone that day was Mary. I was Martha. I need to balance Martha and Mary in me next time.

**How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

Use an ordinary rosary.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and The Apostles' Creed
3. On the Our Father beads say:  
**Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.**
4. On the Hail Mary beads say:  
**For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**
5. Repeat for the five decades.
6. Conclude by repeating this prayer 3 times:  
**Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

# Acolyte Matters

## Serving God & Community

**MICHAEL HANRATTY, possibly the longest-serving Acolyte currently serving at St Patrick's, was invited to reflect upon his years in the role and what lead him to join the ministry. His ready acquiescence is most appreciated.**

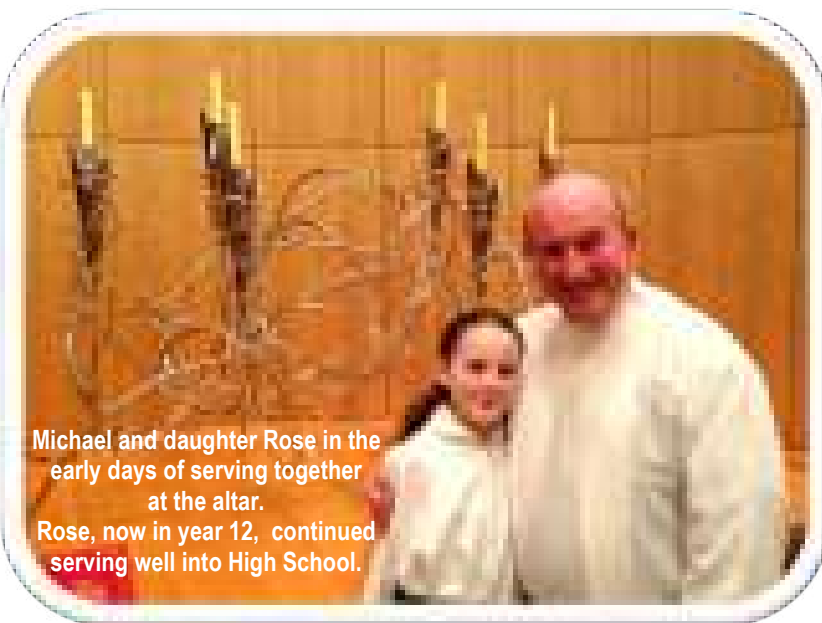
I was surprised to discover recently, in a moment of reflection, that, in 2020, it will be 30 years since I joined St Patrick's as a parishioner and shortly afterwards began serving as an acolyte at the 6pm Mass where I think I may now (to use a sporting term) have reached the super-veteran class and be the longest serving in the ministry. Given that I was a server from my school days at St Mary's Cathedral (from Primary to HSC), there was probably every chance I would continue on in this ministry as I was a regular server at the lunchtime Masses in the Cathedral, right through to my final year.

After training as a High School Teacher and working in Goulburn from 1983 for 5 years under the Mercy and Josephite Nuns at Marian College, in 1988 I moved back to Sydney, where I received my training as an acolyte at the (then) Corpus Christi Cathedral, St Ives in the Broken Bay Diocese under the late Bishop Patrick Murphy. This was at the suggestion of Fr Carmelo Scibberas, who encouraged me back to Ministry at the Altar after my time on the Parish Council (and not having been in a Ministry whilst away from Sydney.) At this time I was living at Collaroy and attending St Joseph's Parish at Narrabeen.

I have few recollections of my installation but I do remember there were a large number of acolytes to be instituted and it was indeed a proud moment. However, this moment turned to fear when, in the first few weeks of returning to St Joseph's as an acolyte, Fr Carmelo was taken ill in the sacristy one Sunday evening and took himself off to the hospital 10 minutes before 6pm Mass started, leaving me to conduct a Communion service with 300 parishioners, mostly dressed in board shorts, who had just walked in off the beach on a summer's afternoon. There was grateful laughter when I promised the congregation that I wouldn't be giving a Homily.

I moved to Greystanes at the beginning of 1990. At that time I was a staff member of a developing school, Freeman Catholic High at Edensor Park. Soon afterwards, St Patrick's became my Parish. I found the community welcoming, and the Parish Priest, Fr John Boyle, full of good humour and as well as being a man of great faith, who had a passion for the Parramatta Parish where he was born and bred. He was an inspiration. I volunteered to take up the role of acolyte after some months of settling in and Margaret Smith, whose son was a server at the 6pm Mass, showed me the ropes around the "old" Cathedral, (pre-1996 fire).

We have had many jokes about it, but the 6pm Sunday Night Mass has had some wonderfully dedicated junior servers along the way: Leonia and Augustine Kim were amongst the first Primary school-aged servers we mentored in the Old Cathedral, then in the pro Cathedral and then at *St Pat's in the Field* in the grounds of Cumberland Hospital in Fleet Street during the Cathedral's rebuilding. They are still, as adults, very involved in the Parish, and the Catholic Church more broadly. Six or seven years later, a second generation of servers followed them in the Mercado girls, Mindy and Jesusa. Mindy in particular remains



Michael and daughter Rose in the early days of serving together at the altar.

Rose, now in year 12, continued serving well into High School.

heavily involved in parish life, in her role as Senior Altar Server and also as Credo Youth Co-ordinator. We are now into our third and fourth generation of younger servers on my watch.

Like so many of our parishioners, we have had to adapt to new ways in liturgical practice, changing from the small, historic Parish church, gutted in the 1996 fire, to the large city-based Cathedral in which we worship today. I'm sure there are many parishioners who still remember the mid-winter Sunday nights of searching in the dark for the small chapel in the Cumberland Hospital grounds as we waited for the new cathedral to be built. During that period Sunday night Mass attendance was very low.

The Acolyte is, to me, the liturgical equivalent of the "manager of government business" in Parliament. Liaising with other ministries before Mass, ensuring that all things liturgical are correct and ready and steering the ship (and sometimes visiting Priests) during Mass are all part of the role. My current role now as a (foundation) Principal at St Benedict's College, hasn't given me the time to take Communion to the Sick, or do home visits as much as I would like, but no doubt that opportunity will present itself in due course. All our acolytes and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist go about their business quietly and effectively as people of faith. **In essence, the best outcome in any Mass is if the acolyte is invisible and the focus of the congregation is on the celebration of the Eucharist.**

Sometimes, though, things don't quite go to plan!

A Mass was held inside the ruins of the old cathedral by candlelight. Despite there being no roof, it was very dark. At the intinction, the water and wine were brought forward (it was too dangerous for laity to bring up the gifts), but neither Bishop Kevin, nor I, could tell what was in the solid metal cruets no matter how hard we looked. Concelebrating priests had a good look as well. After discovering things had happened in the incorrect order, the chalice full of water (not wine) was then surreptitiously emptied onto the dirt floor behind the altar and we started again. Oops. I knew we should have used the glass cruets.

to next page



### Michael Hanratty's reflection on his Ministry.

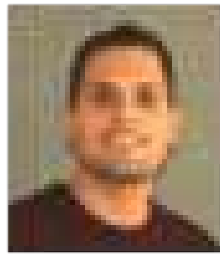
In another famous incident at an Easter Vigil in the pro-Cathedral, the wrong "White Garment" was on the initiate and Bishop Kevin couldn't move ahead with the Baptism. Whilst someone ran for another more appropriate garment (Kerry Giumelli, I think), during the very awkward silence and the wait, not one, but two of the servers' mobile phones went off in their pockets in full view, and hearing, of everyone!! Getting to the phones under their robes took what seemed like an eternity. I'm not sure the heavy metal music ring-tones are in the sacred music canon for the Easter Vigil, but Bernard Kirkpatrick our Director of music may correct me. To say the Bishop was 'not happy' would have been an understatement.

On the other hand, it has been a privilege to serve at the altar for this length of time. Two stand-out moments come to mind: being the book bearer for Pope John Paul II at the Beatification Mass of Mary McKillop at Randwick, - on my birthday! - is certainly the highlight of my Ministry. It was a rare honour, for which I thank Fr Peter Williams, Cathedral Dean at the time, for inviting me to participate. Being wished *Happy Birthday* by the Pontiff and having a set of Rosary beads blessed by him as a gift on the day will be a memory for all time. (the Rosary could become a family heirloom!). More recently, being the in-residence acolyte for (now) Emeritus Bishop Peter Ingham on the *Footsteps of Jesus Holy Land Tour* and assisting him at each of the sacred sites, particularly inside the restricted tomb area at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was again, incredibly moving and truly life changing.

St Patrick's is my spiritual home and that has been reflected in the life cycle of sacraments my family has celebrated here. I was married to Alison in the pro-Cathedral by the Dean, Fr. Kevin Walsh. Our daughter, Rose, was baptised and received all her Sacraments of Initiation with Fr Wim Hoekstra and in 2006, my father, Jim, was buried from St Patrick's. Rose became an altar server in her primary years and continued right through to her senior years and it was a proud time with father and daughter serving together at the altar.

**I am sure other acolytes would all agree that serving in this role deepens your understanding of the nature and purpose of every liturgical action. It deepens your understanding of the various celebrations in the liturgical calendar. It is the work of serving God and a blessing in our lives.**

When Salvatore Messina resigned from the Parish Pastoral Council because he was moving from Parramatta, Fr Bob Bossini invited George Manassa to take his place. Here, George gives us a brief bio-pic and tells why he agreed to join the PPC.



**F**or those who do not know me, my name is George Manassa, I work in the Construction and Engineering sector and I am the founder and host of "The Catholic Toolbox" Radio Show on 1701AM (Voice of Charity Radio, 8-9PM Tuesday). I have been a lifelong parishioner at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. It has also been the parish of my grandparents, parents and my extended family, from

the late 1970s, when they migrated to Australia from North Lebanon. St Pat's is a place of God in which my parents found a home to continue their spiritual journey. I was born 7th March, 1995 and baptised two weeks later in the old St Patrick's Cathedral, which just under a year later was destroyed by fire in February 1996.

My greatest memories of life at the parish, have been that of Masses mostly celebrated in the hall and in the Fleet Street facility while the construction of the new Cathedral took place and was completed in the year 2003.

Many years down the track in 2009, I had a reversion to the Catholic Faith. It was a crucial time during which I was discerning what God wanted of me in this one life I have to live. I began to attend talks and read theological books in order to intensely study the Church's doctrine. I was mainly drawn to the Art of Apologetics, which is defending the Catholic faith. I finally began to discover why the Church taught its doctrine and could explain the faith to those who opposed it or wanted intelligent explanations. I would like to acknowledge and thank Fr Andrew Bass, assistant parish priest at the time, for his support. Father went out of his way to help me study the faith, and personally demonstrated the Gospel of Christ by his priestly example.

It was through this journey of learning about the faith, that I finally delved deep into the mystery of the Liturgy, answering God's call to become a server in 2012 after finishing high school. It seemed only natural that I would serve at the source and summit of our faith, the holy sacrifice of the Mass. My vision and hope is for liturgical reform, by which the sense of the sacred is returned to the Mass, its liturgy becoming solemn again as in centuries past.

#### What is my goal in joining the parish council?

Being a lifelong parishioner, I've grown in my desire to give back to the community here which has shaped my family and myself. So when Father Bob put the suggestion to me, I decided to join the parish pastoral council because I want to help the Cathedral advance further in what our parish community has already achieved over the years. My main objective is to contribute to the Liturgical, Catechetical and Pastoral spheres of our parish. I want to help Father Bob Bossini, as Parish Priest and Dean of the Cathedral, and the other council members work to make the parish a shining example for the rest of the Diocese. I look forward to meeting parishioners who have not had a chance to get to know me, and if you have any concerns which I can take to the parish council on your behalf, please don't hesitate to tell me personally, or contact me via the parish office.

May God Bless us all on our journey together through this life in our Cathedral parish home, so that we may reach the ultimate goal of life, which is the salvation of our souls in heaven.

Yours in Christ,

*George Charles Manassa*

**JUDITH DUNN OAM FPDHS, as promised in the last issue, continues our education on matters concerning St Patrick's historic Cemetery, drawing us into the lives of those buried therein. Here in William Hancy's biography, Judith transports us back to early colonial days. Has anyone ever heard of William Hancy?**



## WILLIAM HANCY

After 32 years in the colony, William Hancy met his death unexpectedly when riding home at a furious pace from Parramatta in the company of two other men. Galloping at full speed, his horse hit a cow lying in the middle of Windsor Road and he was precipitated onto his head, killing him instantly.

Brothers William and Michael Hancy arrived in the colony as free settlers on the ship "Minorca" on December 14 1801. Born in 1764 in Cork, Ireland, he married Sarah Macdonald on November 9 1794 in St Anne's, Soho, London. Sarah was a native of Barrow, Shropshire where she was born in 1765. Definitely three and possibly four children were born to the couple in England before immigrating to the colony:

Catherine born in 1795, Simeon — 1797, Ann — 1798 and Thomas — 1801. As only three children are listed on the ship from England, Thomas may well have been born on the journey.

Another five children were born in the colony: Frederick born 1803, Margaret in 1805, Elizabeth in 1807, Sophia in 1808 and Charlotte in 1810, all at Parramatta.

As a free settler, William received a grant of 100 acres in Baulkham Hills on March 3 1802 and an additional 60 acres was granted after his death in October 1831, almost certainly to help the now fatherless family. Quite why he uprooted his family from England to come to the colony when the majority of arrivals were convicts, is unknown. The promise of land grants to free settlers may have been an inducement. Brother Michael Hancy, by the 1828 census, was living in Sydney where he was working as a carpenter, but William remained on the land and was very active in the community. Today's Showground Road, running from Castle Hill shopping centre right through to Windsor Road would have cut through William and Michael's land grants.

William signed the Hawkesbury Settlers address to Governor Bligh in 1806, complaining about the Rum Corps and the infringements of their rights by John

Macarthur. His signature is also on the welcome to Lieut. Governor Paterson, praying for a return to law and order. It is possible to deduce the place he held in local society as a yeoman farmer, when he was listed as one of only 47 men qualified to serve as a juror at the General Quarter Session in Parramatta in 1826.

His death caused a minor sensation when a local Parramattan wrote a letter which was published in the *Sydney Gazette* and *NSW Advertiser* on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1830.

### FATAL ACCIDENT

To the Editor of the *Sydney Gazette*

SIR,

*A fatal accident occurred in our little neighbourhood yesterday, to an old respectable emigrant settler, Mr William Hancy, who, when returning home from Parramatta, in company with two other persons, was thrown from his horse and killed upon the spot. — It appears that the deceased and the two other persons were all riding at a smart pace, within a few rods of Wood's house, when the deceased's horse came in contact with a cow lying in the middle of the road, and precipitated the rider with such violence (having fallen upon his head) as to cause immediate death. Information of the accident was immediately sent to Parramatta, but the Coroner for Parramatta and its Districts was absent, at Sydney; in consequence of which the corpse was left exposed, on the middle of the high road, from 10 o'clock yesterday morning, when the accident occurred, till about 6 o'clock in the afternoon, when the body was moved to the side of the road.*

*Now, Mr Editor, as a friend to humanity, I make these facts known to the public, that not only was the corpse of a respectable emigrant settler, and father of a large family, exposed to the vulgar gaze, and to the lamentation of his afflicted wife and family, but the body is still lying on the side of the road, and it is now past 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the second day since the accident happened, and no jury is yet convened. Had the weather been as hot as it usually is at*

*this time of the year, it is easy to imagine what a state the corpse must have been in.*

I am, Mr Editor,  
Your obedient servant,  
A Friend to Humanity  
Baulkham Hills, December 7 1830.

Bodies lay where they were discovered, or where an accident occurred, until the Coroner and jury could be assembled and viewed the body in situ. William Hancy's body was probably moved to the side, after eight hours in the middle of the road, to allow carts to pass unhindered. Unfortunately, it took some time for Parramatta's Coroner to be found in Sydney and returned to Parramatta to view William Hancy's corpse. A rather ghastly end to the life of a yeoman farmer, activist, jury man, husband, father and well respected settler. He is buried in St Patrick's Cemetery and although his stone was broken, it was repaired some years ago at the instigation of the *Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery*. It reads;

**In Remembrance  
of  
WILLIAM HANCY  
Who departed this life  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 1830  
Aged 65 years**



Time has made it hard to decipher the headstone's inscriptions. It is decorated with a Latin cross standing on the three steps of faith, hope and charity and surrounded by IHS the Latin form of the Greek IHCOYC meaning *Jesus*.

Judith Dunn OAM  
Convenor, Historic Graves Committee



# Cause for Celebration:

# A St Pat's Living Treasure turns 95!

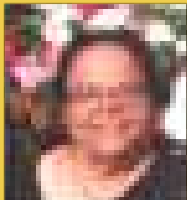


## FELICITAS: 95 & 'FABULOUS'!

By Silvana Rechichi

*'Felicitas', from the Latin adjective felix, means fruitful, blessed, happy, lucky. This name gives you a love of home and family, and as a parent you would be fair and understanding. You remember the thoughtful little expressions of affection and appreciation that mean so much to others, and you have the ability to create a warm and loving environment.* (from the web)

**FELICITAS APPATHURAI**, embodies the above definitions to a "T" and, as her name suggests, is a happy, loving and caring human being, beloved by her large extended family and the Community of St. Patrick's.



Felicitas has been a long time stalwart of ministry and service to this community and beyond. May our Creator richly bless her and protect her all the days of her life.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Fr Bob Bossini, our parish priest and Dean and a good number of parishioners, me included, were honoured to be invited to join in the family's celebration of this wonderful and spritely lady's 95th birthday. Happiness abounded with good food aplenty and dance music that got young and old onto the dance floor.

A happy night's celebration was had by all.

**HAPPY 95<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, FELICITAS!**

*Ad Multos Annos!*

St Patrick's, Parish Community, Parramatta celebrates with you, salutes you and thanks God for you!

At her party, Felicitas was often besieged by people for snapping sessions in the much frequented photo booth. Here she's with Vigil Mass friends — From left: **Patti, Felicitas, Pamela, Barbara, Clem and Silvana.**

### Fascinating Facts about Felicitas. (in a nutshell version)

Born in Sri Lanka, Felicitas, as a young woman, joined the army and during wartime was a radar plotter for enemy planes.

She married Samuel Appathurai in 1924. They had 7 children — 4 girls and 3 boys. (To day this matriarch boasts of having 15 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. A veritably dynasty.)

The Appathurai family arrived in Australia in 1973, like all migrants, looking for a better life. After 3 years here, Samuel became ill with diabetes, dying 3 years later about 1979. Not content to stay at home Felicitas sought employment and landed the job of machinist at the Lovable Bras, factory, Ermington, even though she had never used an industrial machine in her life! Thus she was able to contribute to the household income. "They were hard times, getting money to buy a home. It meant making sacrifices, going without," she simply stated."

Through all life's trials and tribulations Felicitas has been sustained by a rock-solid faith in God and constant prayer. She confided, "Whether going to visit my husband in hospital or on the way to and from work, my hand was always in my pocket fingering my Rosary."

**Her secret for a happy marriage? "Love is the main thing, patience, understanding and forgiveness. And Faith in God's presence."**

This remarkable font of wisdom still hems the beginning and ending of each day with praying for others.

### Our Living Treasure on THE LEGION OF MARY:

*In the 1990s, during a visit to St Monica's Church, North Parramatta, I met a friend who had joined the Legion of Mary Praesidium there. She invited me to join them. I was pleased to do so, as I had been a member of the Legion in Sri Lanka. I was in St Monica's praesidium for about 6 years.*

*At the time Fr Ryan was the Parish Priest. I was impressed by his duty towards the Legion's activities. He insisted that visitation to homes was very important and I agreed with him, as that was the best way of getting to know people. However, it's not an easy task as some people don't want to know you. But never give up trying. At first you have to make friends with the people you visit; let them know who you are and then after a few visits they might come to accept you. And so once you gain their confidence, the preaching comes in between conversations.*

*Visitation is how you meet the lonely, the sick, the poor, the unwanted, even those with broken marriages. You get to be a good listener. Never leave without saying,*

**"May Our Blessed Mother guide and protect you."**



Legionnaires Margaret Mary, Felicitas, Mary & Gemma visiting a Nursing Home

**COMMITMENT MATTERS: Jesus said, "I came to serve, not to be served."**  
 See how the Rodricks, Cutajars and Hornes take His words to heart at St Pat's & beyond.

As promised in the last issue here's the write up on the mystery couples: The RODRICKS and The CUTAJARS.



The people arriving from the carpark for 11am Mass on Sundays will have come to know Fatima and husband Sidney as they carry out that all important ministry of 'Welcome'.

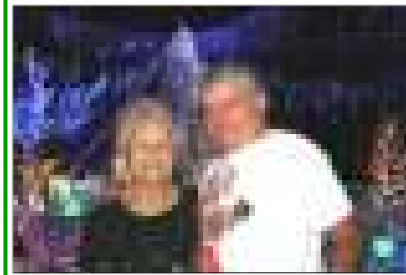


The Rodricks took on the role after reading a bulletin notice requesting volunteers to be Greeters/Welcomers before Masses, particularly on Sundays. And what a wonderful job they do! Fatima flashes her beautiful smile as she hands out the Bulletin and Liturgy guide to people, while Sidney engages in conversation with anyone inclined to chat.

What's particularly inspiring about this scenario is the fact that Fatima, despite having suffered a stroke, is determined to be of service, and is able to do so, encouraged by her devoted husband's support. Until recently you might have witnessed Fatima after 11am Mass, doing slow laps around the Cathedral Cloister aiming to regain mobility — with Sidney, ever-present patient carer in tow. (They now do the rehabilitation programme at Westfield Shopping Centre as it offers a more engaging environment.)

People like the Rodricks are an asset to St Pat's Community. May others be drawn to follow their example, reaching out in service.

**Sidney explains:** *Fatima had her stroke on 4th October 2016, the day she went to hand in her resignation to her School Principal in Auckland, N.Z. because we were migrating to OZ as both our sons were doctors here. Fatima taught Science and Maths. In her spare time she also edited Maths books for an education publisher. We were daily church goers and Fatima also taught Sunday-school and conducted catechism classes for children preparing for First Holy Communion. Whenever we visited our sons in Sydney we would come to St. Patrick's Cathedral for Mass and saw from the bulletins that the parish had a vibrant community. After her discharge from St Joseph's Rehabilitation Hospital, Auburn, and even though all our former plans were now in tatters, Fatima remained very positive in spite of her disabilities. So we waited for an opportunity where we could be of service, without much difficulty. Doing the welcoming not only makes us happy when people smile and talk to us, but their positive attitude helps Fatima regain self confidence.*



Many parishioners will recognise Andy and Carmen Cutajar as the couple who every December light up their house for Christmas to raise money for Ronald MacDonald House. Last

year they raised \$5,500, a sterling effort considering the fierce storm that damaged part of the light display which took Andy many days to repair. For 25 years now he has started about September clambering from rooftop to garden to trail lights around their property like a giant 3-D spider web sprinkled with assorted Santas, deer and other festive accoutrement. At 78 he shows no sign of slowing down, and much to Carmen's dismay, keeps shopping for more stuff. "I now have 4 million lights," he boasts. But what goes up must come down. Packing everything away is undoubtedly a logistical nightmare. Yet Carmen keeps smiling. (To date they have raised \$77000 for the charity)

For ten years at least the Cutajars have been faithful members of St Pat's Hospitality Team serving morning tea in the Cloister Café after 11am Mass on Sunday. In more recent years they took on yet another role as Welcomers before Mass. Taking up the collections during Mass? Andy's on the job! Harking back to all our Spring Fairs, the couple were indispensable, hardworking volunteers, especially on the BBQ scene. Andy's bubbly spirit is always a bonus on the social scene. Engaging and irrepressible.

Beyond parish? Faithful to the nation of their birth, the couple are very involved in all things Maltese. This year alone they were on the committee that organised **the 25th Annual Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day** held at Gumtree, Wentworthville. It was a grand occasion with around 300 invitees. Mass was celebrated and a lavish luncheon followed with entertainment, singing and dancing given components. All committee members, Andy & Carmen included, received certificates of appreciation presented by the Maltese Consul General, Mr Lawrence Buhagiar.

For Andy and Carmen, serving at St Pat's and beyond is a labour of love. God bless you both for your commitment to Good Works.



Who do you know that is an asset to building community spirit and a server extraordinaire. Consider writing about them to inspire other parishioners to follow their example of getting involved in the parish's community life beyond coming to worship.



## COMMITMENT MATTERS:

**But a third couple, the HORNES merits inclusion for their service to the parish community.**



Peter & Beverley in 2010

Beverley and Peter Horne are looking forward to celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in May with a gathering of extended family and friends before they say goodbye to Parramatta in the near future. Their move? It's a sea change to Laurieton Residential Resort for over 55s.

Yes, that's right we are losing this wonderful couple from the parish scene. So as a farewell gesture of good will, this usually low profile duo agreed to be interviewed so an article could be formulated as a farewell gesture, show-casing their commitment to service 'in church' and beyond.

For twenty-six years the Hornes had lived in Penrith, attending St Nicholas of Myra Parish. When their three children had flown the coop, they moved to Parramatta and St Patrick's Cathedral became their place of worship and parish of choice. That was twenty-one years ago.

When asked, "What motivated you to become active in parish life?" Peter simply said, "We just continued what we were used to doing at St Nick's." Not sure what that involved, but here it meant they volunteered to be Readers together soon after arriving in 1998 and joined the Hospitality Team in 2007. Peter recalls, "On our first rostered day, October 21 we did not have a good start. Bev was called to assist a niece having problems in labour and was not able to turn up for duty. But all OK since then."

About their involvement in our 5 parish spring fairs, Peter comments, "The first Spring Fair was a Godsend for Bev, who having just retired from a busy and rewarding working life as a Technical Officer in Westmead Hospital, was wondering how to fill the gap. The fair provided an outlet for her love of sewing, knitting and crocheting for the Craft Stall. Being busy and involved, maintained her sanity in the transition to retirement. Ditto for subsequent fairs and occasional stalls." (Ed. Peter's modest claim to being involved as a helper if needed has to be corrected. Bev would surely say his help was invaluable.)

"Bev noticed used stamps (brought in by St Pat's parishioners as well as from surrounding parishes) accumulating in Sister Susan's office and volunteered to take on the job of trimming them with assistance from time to time from a few other parishioners. The trimmed stamps are sold by the Josephite nuns and proceeds sent to their missions in Peru. The Josephites have raised many thousands of dollars through this venture. Then, when Sr Susan remarked on the high cost of commercially-made baby baptismal robes, Bev began sewing more affordable ones."

Volunteering beyond parish? Living on the border with Holroyd (now Cumberland) Council area, they became involved with the Wentworthville Community Garden, which Peter claimed "is a wonderful activity, especially for apartment dwellers such as ourselves. Bev volunteered with Parramatta Community Services Craft Shop until it closed to make way for big buildings in Parramatta Square. Now she volunteers with The Hobby Hut craft group in Warragamba." Since retirement in 2002, Peter has volunteered with yard duties at The Leukaemia Foundation Accommodation Units at Westmead.

The question, 'What will you miss about St Pat's?' elicited the following answer: "A lot. The wonderfully diverse, friendly, caring parish community. The sense of belonging. The grandeur of the Cathedral. The magnificent organ music. The beautiful voices of the Cathedral Choir and the visiting Tongan Choir. Meeting and serving fellow parishioners and visitors at morn-ing tea. The dedicated priests and office staff. The enthusiasm of Credo youth. We have enjoyed our years at St Pat's. We will miss you and wish everyone peace and blessings for the future. However, we will surely become involved in Camden Haven Parish at our new church, St Peter, The Fisherman."

## Lenten Almsgiving matters



Again this year, parishioners rallied to the Lenten Appeal for food items to donate to **ARRUDE HOUSE**, which is run by Jesuit Refugee Services, (JRS).

So over the 6 weeks of Lent a steady stream of grocery items were brought into the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and appropriately placed at the foot of the Cross, symbol of sacrifice.

JRS personnel regularly collected the items, to put in their store from which people in need can take whatever supplies they need.



At left  
Bev at 2012  
Spring Fair.  
Below  
Bev & Peter  
at this  
year's St  
Pat's Day.



Beverley  
and  
Peter,  
thank you  
for your  
years of  
dedicated  
service in  
St Pat's  
Parish.



# HOLY WEEK: *Journeying with Jesus to the* *& New Life*

JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY into JERUSALEM leads to BETRAYAL, DENIAL, TRIAL, PASSION, DEATH...and GLORIOUS RESURRECTION!



## PALM SUNDAY

witnessing in the public domain

This coverage of Palm Sunday focuses on the procession, organized by Diocesan group Catholic Youth Parramatta, through the city's streets. The crowd gathered in front of the Town Hall listened to Deacon Willy Limjap read the Gospel account of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, to people's 'Hosannas' welcoming him as a political Messiah. But the waving palms were heralding the King of Love heading for Calvary, self sacrifice and ultimately victory over Death. Then once Bishop Vincent had blessed the palms, it was time to start the journey. The procession, comprising clergy, acolytes, seminarians, Catholic high school students, laity of all ages headed off, with palms in hand or proudly waving national flags that bespoke the church's multi cultural identity, made its way to St Patrick's for the 6pm Youth Mass.

(For other Palm Sunday Liturgies at the Cathedral prior to each Mass, people gathered in the Cloister for the blessing of the palms. For 11am solemn Mass, the presence of the Cathedral Choir further enhanced the Blessing of Palms ceremony in the cloister and subsequent procession into the Cathedral for Mass, celebrated by Bishop Vincent. Unfortunately unlike previous years, no one was on hand to record the occasion pictorially.)

The entrance procession for the evening Mass was a grand sight with the sea of flags preceding the line of red-robed priests. It was indeed affirming to see the cathedral packed to capacity for worship at the start of Holy Week, the most important and sacred week of the Church's liturgical calendar.

Credo Youth had the privilege of being involved proclaiming the



Word, reading of the Passion and the Offertory Procession, as well as in the music.

Before the final blessing Bishop Vincent expressed his gratitude and admiration for the laity commending them for staying faithful, particularly in the light of recent scandals besetting the Catholic Church.

Focus then shifted to the hall for the Official Review on World Youth Day 2019. It was good to see the Bishop in the thick of the young crowd listening attentively as several pilgrims gave stirring testimonies of their experiences in Panama.





# HOLY WEEK:

# Liturgies directing our focus to Jesus

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



9

This year's Office of Tenebrae, a centuries old, sacred monastic ritual saw the best attendance ever since its introduction at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Monday of Holy Week about six years ago.

Bishop Vincent, Presider, Clergy-in-Choir, (the Dean Fr Bob Bossini, Vicar General Fr Peter Williams, Assistant Priest Fr Chris Del Rosario and visiting clergy), Deacon Willy Limjap, MC Dominic Franssen, Acolytes, Servers, Seminarians, and the Cathedral Scholar all formed part of the solemn entrance procession.

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



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

For many people, the most absorbing feature of this liturgy is the gradual extinguishing of the fourteen candles on the Tenebrae until a single candle, — symbolizing the Lord — remains at the apex.



With the Christ Light then processed from the Cathedral, all present, for a brief time, remained in silence and darkness, to reflect upon the mystery of Christ's death and the apparent victory of darkness and evil in our lives.

But a sudden, loud noise (strepitus), symbolising the earthquake at the time of Christ's resurrection, broke the silence.

Then the Christ Light returns to be restored atop the Tenebrae hearse. All prayed briefly before departing in silence.

Never attended Tenebrae? Then resolve to come in Holy Week 2020.

## CHRISM MASS



The annual Chrism Mass once more drew priests and people from all parishes of Parramatta Diocese, to St Patrick's Cathedral for the celebration of this Solemn Mass on April 17th. The long procession of priests entering to reverently kiss the Altar is truly an emotive experience to witness.

What are the elements that pertain only to the celebration of the Chrism Mass?

### 1. THE RENEWAL of PRIESTLY PROMISES to the BISHOP:



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

The Bishop then exhorted the Faithful to pray for our priests and for him, that they would always stay true to following the Lord, in their ministry as shepherds and servants of all.

### 2 CHRISM RITE:

The oils to be used in all parishes for celebrating the Sacraments were processed to the Bishop, (and his presbyters), — Oils of the Sick and of



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



### 3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY OILS:

What a grand sight to behold priests and representatives receiving the Holy Oils from Bishop Vincent for their communities, then their file extending from the Sanctuary into the Blessed Sacrament Chapel ready for procession from the Cathedral. Unforgettable!



# THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

begins on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, recalls the passion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

THE TRIDUUM'S PINNACLE IS THE EASTER VIGIL.

IT CLOSES WITH EVENING PRAYER ON EASTER SUNDAY

## HOLY THURSDAY: SOLEMN EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**What does this Mass highlight for us?**

The focus is on three important actions of Jesus, which those who profess belief in Him, His Mission and the Catholic Faith, need to accept as fundamental to acknowledging His being sent by The Father.

### .1. THE 'MANDATUM' The Great Commandment.

*"Love one another as I have loved you"*

A true disciple aspires to follow this directive unconditionally.



Before their last supper together, Jesus, though Master, amazes His Apostles by assuming the role of a lowly servant to humbly wash their feet. His action speaks wordlessly of His call, not only to them but to us today, that to be His follower involves humble, loving service in all facets of our lives. Emulating Jesus,

Bishop Vincent washed the feet of twelve people, (men and women),

thereby reinforcing what Jesus expects of all of us — to be ready to genuinely help others.

### THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST AND PRIESTHOOD

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



And so at the celebration of the Eucharist we proclaim, **"Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death O Lord until you come in glory."**

### THE ALTAR OF REPOSE: TIME to WATCH and PRAY.

At the end of Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was solemnly processed to the cloister for Exposition. As Jesus had exhorted the Apostles in Gethsemane to "stay awake and pray" so we are urged to do likewise, to pray and share in His Agony contemplating His impending death on a cross, the supreme sacrifice He made to save us.



## GOOD FRIDAY: The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God, His immeasurable mercy.

**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** The faithful crowded into the Cloister to walk with Jesus to the cross and tomb. Credo Youth led using Pope Francis' version of Scripture readings, meditations and prayers.

### SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION:



At 3pm, Bishop Vincent and ministers entered the cathedral, overflowing with silent mourners, to reverence the Altar; the Bishop prostrating himself in total submission to the power and grace of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



St John's version of The Passion was sung in traditional Gregorian chant tone, Fr Chris taking Christ's part and Bernard Kirkpatrick the role of narrator.



### VENERATION of the CROSS

Three times the Responary, *'Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the Saviour of the world.'* was intoned as the Cross processed in by Deacon



Limjap was slowly unveiled. The clergy were first to reverence. Then four long lines of faithful of all ages edged silently, slowly forward to reverence crosses on either side of the altar.

Finally the reserved Sacrament was brought in procession from the Tabernacle for Holy Communion.

The always intensely emotive commemoration of Christ's Passion ended as it began — in silence. ✠



# THE EASTER VIGIL: Pinnacle of the Triduum

**The SERVICE of LIGHT:** The Faithful gathered in the Cloister to witness Bishop Vincent bless the new fire for lighting of the Paschal Candle into which he had first cut a cross, traced the Greek letters 'alpha' above the cross and 'omega' below and 2019 between the arms of the cross, finally inserting 5 grains of incense representing the wounds of Christ.

**Beginning of Initiation: The Catechumens renounce sin and make their Profession of Faith**



Lighting the candle from the new fire, the Bishop prayed,

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

The Paschal (Easter) Candle was processed into the Cathedral, where the Assembly's candles were lit from its flame, passed on from one to another.



Walking through the font each girl knelt before the Bishop to receive the Sacrament of **Baptism**.



Then The Exsultet, the Easter Proclamation, was sung by Bernard Kirpatrick. This invokes God's blessing, traces the salvation history of His people, praises the candle as a burnt sacrifice and presents Christ as the Morning Star.



**LITURGY of the WORD:** As usual there were readings — 2 from Genesis, then Exodus and Ezechiel — proclaimed in darkness, before the cathedral was illuminated for the joyful rendition of the Gloria, reading of the Epistle and Holy Gospel Luke 24:1-12.

Back in the Cathedral, the neophytes now clothed in white, signifying new life, received their Baptismal candles, (the Light of Christ) from their Godparents.

## CELEBRATION of CHRISTIAN INITIATION:

As the Litany of Saints was chanted, **Detine Moyi** and **Jasmin Krol** the two catechumens, wanting to become Catholics were led in procession to the Baptistry.



Then, the Bishop, with the Laying on of Hands and anointing with Holy Chrism sealed each girl with the gift of the Holy Spirit in **Confirmation**, ending by saying, "Peace be with you."



As the Bishop prayed, Deacon Willy lowered the Paschal into the font three times, thereby making the water blessed.

In receiving First Eucharist initiation into the Catholic Faith for Jasmine and Detine was completed



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



# Pilgrim Matters: World Youth Day Panama 2019

St Pat's pilgrims, in answer to questions posed to them, share experiences of this life-changing occasion. Questions such as: *What was Panama like? What were some of the cultural differences you experienced? Most memorable moment? Most important lesson learnt?*

Melissa and Jerick were small group leaders for the pilgrimage. Dylan, Genevieve, Rachel and Olana attended as pilgrims.



## MELISSA FARDEZZA

The Panamanians were very welcoming. The place itself (Panama) was a lot more built up than what I had expected.

The most memorable experiences were the ministry visits in Mexico. I went to a place called *The Crete* - a place for children with neurological disabilities. For me, communicating with the children was the most memorable as even though we didn't speak the same language, we were able to communicate through actions and say 'hello' through a smile. It really reminded me of Mother Teresa's quote, **"Peace begins with a smile."** Although these children have their own hardships, being with them, gave me a sense of peace. I later found out that *The Crete* was founded on Mother Teresa's principles, which made my visit even more special.

The most important lesson I learnt during the pilgrimage was the importance of making prayer and Adoration a priority in my life. We did pray a lot whilst on pilgrimage, but the challenge is to bring this habit back with us into our everyday lives, in the middle of work and all the busyness that is thrown at us. This ensures we continually build our relationships with God. For me it affirms my identity and purpose, reminding me that I am a daughter of God.



## GENEVIEVE LEE

As a young person, going to World Youth Day was such an amazing opportunity. The Panamanian culture has a rich and yet contemporary feel. Rich in the way they have been able to maintain their Aztec roots whilst maintaining their Catholic faith. It was amazing to see how open they were to their faith.

I have come to learn that faith is an ongoing journey and continually changing. It is heavily dependent on how open you are.

I knew it was going to be a busy time, knowing we would be challenged in different ways. The most challenging for me was on the first day of World Youth Day week. We had just come from a spiritually-enriching experience in Mexico and I was just tired. Exhausted mentally, spiritually and physically, to the point that doing anything was too hard. My brother, Chris, noticed me and he pulled me aside and just said, *"Let's go do a decade of the Rosary and go to Adoration."* As reluctant as I was to go, it wasn't until afterwards that I had realised, this was exactly what I had needed. Going to the chapel for Adoration made me realise what is really meant by the saying, *"Your faith will get you through."* The small sacrifices we make in following the will of God is what gets us through difficult times. It made me realise that, something as simple as Mary's 'Yes' to God's plan is instrumental in our faith, too.

Like Mary, we must make sacrifices for the greater good and to follow God's plans. The challenging part is taking that first step in saying, 'Yes!'



## JERICK REUEL

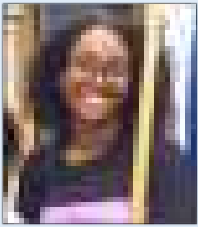
Going to World Youth Day as a group leader, I knew it was always going to be a different experience to being a pilgrim, such as always worrying about what our pilgrims were up to rather than having a full experience to ourselves.

What was an eye-opening experience was how friendly and welcoming the Panamanians were and how open they were to their faith. From my experience with customs, they would usually be straight faced, making you wonder whether or not they would let you into the country. When we arrived in Panama, we thought it was a good idea to have a photo, to remember our experience. Next minute, the customs officer started running up to us, and we were thinking, *"Oh no, we must have done something wrong."* As she approached, she was smiling and trying to catch up to us before we moved so she could take a photo with us! Even walking along the streets in Panama as a pilgrimage group, we had people, ambulances, fire trucks and ambulances beeping their horns, just to say hello.

The most memorable moment was my experience at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Surprisingly, it wasn't the image of Our Lady. I was in the old basilica and decided to go to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Any basilica you go to, there are people everywhere, so it is usually noisy. As I walked into the Chapel, I saw huge black gates on either side and right in the centre was the Blessed Sacrament in a golden monstrance. As soon as I saw this, I heard complete silence, sank to my knees and started crying. It was as if Jesus Christ looked right into me. I only realised the magnitude of this experience afterwards, because whenever you go through intense experiences it's not until afterwards that you really comprehend what happened. It was then I realised that God was truly present and working through my life. I also had a similar experience when I saw Pope Francis. When he passed by the first time, he was smiling at everyone. I felt I was in the presence of such a holy man that I wanted to sink to my knees and cry again.

As a leader you're always concerned about the welfare of the pilgrims under your care, but the greatest part is having the privilege to see how you and the other pilgrims grow. As leaders, we supported each other by reflecting and discussing our experiences each day. It was amazing to hear leaders' stories of how they have seen the pilgrims in their group have an experience of God's presence. It was even greater being part of our parish group and seeing how the pilgrims from Credo have grown in their faith. I am so blessed and feel very privileged to have been able to be part of facilitating these experiences.





### RACHEL TOUCHE

**Panama was** ..different across the various areas. Most of it was very suburban and very much like a city. My favourite was a place called Old Town which was full of ancient and colourful architecture - It reminded me of Italy.

**In Mexico...** I learned and was opened up to how rich the people were in their faith and how it is intertwined in their lives. I also had never realised the impact Our Lady of Guadalupe had on the local community's lives.

**The most memorable moment** ...was visiting this Church of Santa Maria in Mexico. As it was heritage protected, we were not allowed to take photos. As soon as I entered the church, all it had was faces all over its architecture. I was shocked as I didn't know what to expect. I then felt very overwhelmed and did not know what came over me. It wasn't until I reflected on this experience that I had come to terms with the realness of my faith. To see the detail in the architecture in this church gave me a sense that the builders must have had some sort of help that could only come from God. It was there I really felt God's presence.

This presence came over me again when we were in Panama at the Fiat night. The evening was run by a group from the United States. Many pilgrims from Parramatta diocese, and from other nations attended. With such a large crowd, from all-over, the session was in a large warehouse. Not knowing what to expect, Adoration began. Seeing the Blessed Sacrament brought me to tears. I had no idea what came over me and this was different from any other Adoration I had been to before. It was a very emotional experience and another realisation of how true and real my faith is. It taught me that God's presence can really change people.

**Most important lesson learned**...something that has stuck with me was what Fr. Fernando told us at the end of World Youth Day: ***"Don't get caught up in the world and don't lose what you've learnt there. Don't fall back into old habits."*** This has really helped me in maintaining my prayer life and to seek to continually grow in my faith.



### DYLAN LAL

#### **What was Panama like?**

Panama was filled with such a beautiful community of people, so welcoming of all. We couldn't walk anywhere without being honked at by cars and buses. Everywhere we went people were cheering for us, asking us where we had come from and what we thought of Panama. Even though everyone came from different parts of the world, it really felt like we were all united.

#### **What were some of the cultural differences experienced?**

In Mexico, there was a rich Aztec culture which was visible everywhere we went. This included things like designs of clothes, music, dance, and their culture's food. It was the same in Panama, there was a great mix of all the Central American cultures and traditions — we experienced this especially during World Youth Day week.

#### **What was your most memorable experience?**

I visited the Casa del Sol Orphanage and Primary School in Mexico. It was here that I had my eyes opened, realising just how grateful I should be for everything I have in my life. Being able to spend a day and play with these children felt like Heaven on earth.

#### **How has World Youth Day deepened your faith?**

I've previously struggled with connecting with God, but thanks to the days and evenings of reflection and prayer, I felt that I had been found again, and made my way back onto His path.

#### **What life-changing effect will WYD have on your future life?**

With this reconnection to God my life has been changed forever, and I can see myself participating more within my church, as well as doing more for the community in terms of youth and sharing my experiences.

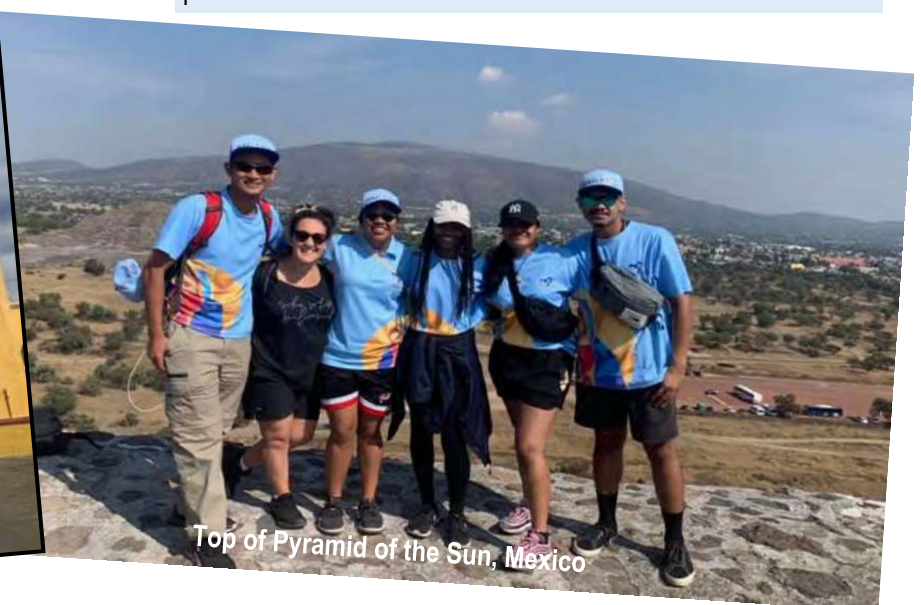
#### **What was the most important lesson learnt?**

One thing that will resonate with me because of WYD is this: ***God will never give up on you, no matter how much you think you don't deserve His love, He will stand by you until you find your way back to His love.***

Still to come: Olana Lal, the sixth pilgrim, regrets missing the deadline for submissions, but is keen to have her comments published in the next issue.



Our Lady of Remedies Church, Cholula, Mexico



Top of Pyramid of the Sun, Mexico



# CREDO RETREAT

**Mindy Mercado**  
Youth Coordinator  
reporting

**O**n the weekend of March 8th - 10th, twenty-two Youth and Young Adults from Credo, together with Fr Chris Del Rosario, went on retreat at the Benedict XVI Centre, Grose Vale.

The retreat's theme was based around the Gospel passage from John 1:38:

**“When Jesus turned and saw them following, He said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’”**

The young people had come to engage in deepening their faith, using the opportunity to experience an encounter with God and to reflect on what each of them is called to do in their lives.

Each day began and ended with morning prayer and evening prayer.

Fr. Chris began the Saturday morning session with the topic, **“Who Am I?”** reminding the youth that each of them is a child of God and that they are the beloved. Dylan Lal gave his testimony about his World Youth Day experiences in Panama and reminded everyone that, having faith is a journey and that we are all at different stages of the journey. Matt Bretania spoke about how each person is part of the Body of Christ and that each in their uniqueness, contributes to this Body. He challenged the youth, asking them to seek how they will do this.

The afternoon session had the youth working on a challenge, **“Float Your Boat”** with each team given a \$10 budget to collect materials to create a raft which floats, with a person sitting on top.

The peak of the retreat allowed the youth to reflect on the past two days with an extended Adoration in the evening followed by s'mores around a bonfire and games. Sunday concluded with my reviewing the talks and guiding the youth in a period of reflection and discussion.

Below are some comments from the young retreatants, given when feedback was requested.

*Adoration was fairly long, but I also noticed during and after that a lot of people really got in touch with themselves and God. I even spoke*



Credo after the final Sunday Mass in the Chapel at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre.

*to a few people and just hearing what they had to say was so beautiful because I witnessed a big change in a lot of the members of the group.*

*Adoration was my favourite part of the whole retreat. Wouldn't change a thing. I would've liked it to be longer.*

*I enjoyed every aspect of Adoration. I loved the length of it, I was also able to pray the Rosary, go to Confession and reflect a bit more.*

*I liked learning more about our bond with God, we always hear that he loves us but in this talk (Fr. Chris') I really felt God, He loves us.*

*The retreat gave us an opportunity to experience and reignite our faith. It was great to have the time away to reflect and have that intimacy with God and the people I have grown up praying with in my faith.*

*Thank you so much Credo leaders, this retreat was an amazing experience and I hope we can do it again.*



Dylan giving his testimony at retreat



Engaging in an intense game of scissors, paper, rock to find the winner.



Fr Chris, Russell, Paolo, Stacie and Dwayne during the Float Your Boat challenge

Interested in joining  
CREDO Ministries?

**JUNIOR  
TEEN  
YOUNG ADULTS**

Contact  
**Mindy Mercado**  
Youth Coordinator

EMAIL:  
[credo@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)



## Inaugural Red Mass *from page 3*

**A veritable feast for the eye  
and one to tantalise the taste buds, too.**



**M**ass concluded, people gravitated to the Cathedral Hall for refreshments. A sumptuous repast, 'fit for a king', awaited them. Everyone was amazed at the buffet's first-class quality, quantity and visually beautiful presentation. The room was abuzz with chatter and lively repartee as everyone enjoyed the supper's relaxed, inviting atmosphere.

Both priests and Cathedral Parish staff were very pleasantly surprised when their efforts as hosts for the occasion were duly acknowledged. Not only did Steve McAuley send flowers to Olivia Lee, our Events Coordinator, but both the St Thomas More Society and the Parramatta and District Law Society sent generous donations in appreciation of St Patrick's meticulous organization and hospitality.

One wonders, what will the organisers plan for next year's supper?

## ST PATRICK'S Playgroup UPDATE



*Diane Jaitana reports:*

**E**ach Wednesday the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral hear the hustle and bustle of toddlers, preschoolers and prams rolling towards the cathedral hall for another fun playgroup session.

The sessions are filled with no less than eight families, the sounds of children's laughter (and often cries) and parents chatter.

Cars and figurines thrown across the floor, preschoolers rummaging through the boxes for that last block to help them build their 'humongous tower', babies attempting to crawl, our playgroup has become a great place to let the kids enjoy free play time or craft time while the parents can enjoy some adult conversation (or try to!)

We were saddened to say goodbye to Elissa and the Gorham family in 2018. Elissa's youngest started kindergarten this year and her family's time with us came to an end.

Elissa and I started playgroup together here at St Patrick's and continued running it jointly until the end of 2018. Elissa will be missed.

This year has seen many new families joining our playgroup, The Kazzaz family in particular, has been a Godsend.

2019 brings us a blessing in Mirna Kazzaz who has helped take over the playgroup's activities. Mirna, with her childcare background, has become an indispensable resource in our community. Our thanks to Mirna who makes time every week to come in early, set up and organise activities for the children. That's on top of being a Mum to four young children!



In the second last session for Term 1, Mirna organised for our children to make Easter hats for the next week, to celebrate with an Easter party. Adults and children alike really enjoyed the creative activity.

We welcome all families to join us Wednesday mornings inside the St Patrick's Cathedral hall from 9.30-11.30am, during school terms only.

**Please join our Facebook page for weekly updates:  
*Parramatta St Pats Playgroup.***

### SOME THOUGHTS ON PARENTING BY *James A. Fowler.*

**The essence of Christian parenting  
is the life of Jesus Christ  
lived out before our children.**

**What children learn best  
(and they learn it early in life)  
is what they OBSERVE  
in the actions of their parents' lives,  
the behavioural expressions  
and the underlying motivations thereof.**

**The dictum is true:  
"What you DO speaks so loud,  
I can't hear what you say."**

### JUNIOR/TEEN CREDO: JUST A GLIMPSE



Ollie, Stacie, Daniel, Jade, Melissa, (Junior Credo Leader) Mark, Rachel and Genevieve leading a Friday session of the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Junior Credo kickstarted in February. During term I, the children discussed, learned and wrote about what they can do over Lent.

They also made rosary beads, which they gave to people attending the Stations of the Cross in their last session in April, as an act of Almsgiving. Over May, the children will be learning about Mary and our devotion through the Rosary. (*Melissa Fardella, Junior Coordinator thanks Teen Credo helpers, Rachel Touche and Olana Lal.*)



# Good Friday Night Walk

**O**n the morning of Saturday 20th April, around 5:30am, over 1300 youth, young adults and young-at-heart from across the Diocese began arriving at St Patrick's Cathedral. The pilgrims had been engaged in an all-night walk, reflecting on Jesus' final hours before His death, whilst meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

For the first time this year the walk consisted of two routes: the original route from St Patrick's Parish, Blacktown, through Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, St Anthony of Padua, Toongabbie, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wentworthville and Sacred Heart Westmead. The new route began at St Patrick's, Guilford and travelled through Holy Family, East Granville, Holy Trinity, Granville, St Margaret Mary's Merrylands and St Oliver's, Harris Park.

On arrival at each church, the hosting parish welcomed the pilgrims by praying a decade of the Rosary and reflecting on one of the sorrowful mysteries. The two pilgrimage groups converged in the Parramatta CBD on the way to St Patrick's.

A tableau of the Sorrowful Mysteries staged by Credo youth greeted the weary walkers as they filed up the steps of the Cathedral's main entrance. Inside, The Walk concluded with the Rosary's final prayers and reflection on Pope Francis' Homily from this year's Stations of the Cross (at World Youth Day): **Mary, a woman of strength and guardian of hope, who stood by her Son at the foot of the cross.**

Special mention: Thanks to all St Pat's parishioners who came at 4am to cook and set up the space for the pilgrims' arrival: your hospitality—and food—was much appreciated by the hungry walkers. Thanks, too, to all the Credo Youth who led the pilgrims through a prayerful and Spirit-filled reflection in the Cathedral. *Mindy Mercado, Youth Coordinator*



**NEXT ISSUE:** It's hoped that Credo Youth can be persuaded to do an in-depth write-up about the impressive finale of the Good Friday Night Walk to the Cathedral.



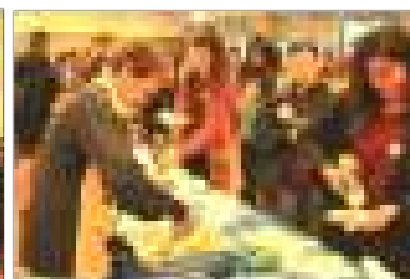
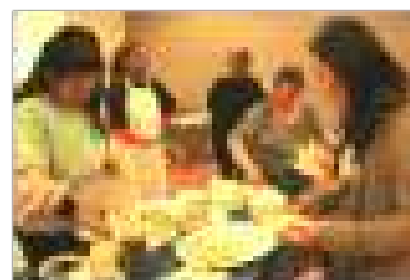
**Hats off yet again to St Pat's Volunteers!**



**I**t's no mean feat to feed 1300 hungry, parched pilgrims, who arrived unexpectedly at 5:30am, well ahead of schedule.

Luckily the brigade of ever-efficient volunteers, were unphased, battling the invasion with equanimity—and smiles. After all, most of them have been tackling the task for a number of years now.

It was heart-warming to see the ranks swelled by faces of many new volunteers, who will hopefully sign up for next year. Regrettably, not everyone was caught on camera!



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