

ST PAT'S MATTERS

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

Stand Firm in **FAITH**



October 2019 | Issue 100

Editorial

With this issue, *St Pat's Matters* reaches the centenary milestone!

By national standards it's not an earth-shattering event, but at parish level, it's almost an "archival adventure" flicking through earlier issues to discover past parishioners and view long-forgotten happenings.

This 100th issue is as usual threaded with strands of our journey as a parish and at personal levels: Sacramentally, we meet children who with Confirmation are now fully initiated into the Catholic Faith and adults on that same faith journey via RCIA. Read Anna Bui's frank story about finding God through Mary.

In his informative article about initiation at the adult level via the RCIA process, Deacon Rod Pirotta, states emphatically that it is "a journey for the whole parish."

On the ministry front find out which of St Pat's SREs received awards at the annual CCD Mass.

St Patrick's Cemetery again features prominently with Judith Dunn's story on Patrick Hayes buried there, while Terry O'Brien's article reveals the work of the *Friends* to restore the Mortuary Chapel and the protracted fight for the sacred ground's rights.

Meet John Missio and read about his debut as a presenter for *Live Christ Share Christ* Formation sessions. And Andrea and Alan D'Souza write about the value of the *Theology of the Body* course they attended, along with baby Joshua!

Praying Matters touches on the fight against the proposed abortion law through petitioning, the Rosary and Adoration.

Peruse the encouraging regular column, *Modern Mothers Matter*; view the report on the Thank You luncheon for the *Light Up St Pat's* volunteers; be informed about *Patrick's* new playmates; and discover who is the Living Treasure who turned 96 recently.

Copying Andrea and Alan D'Souza, I conclude with a quote from St Catherine of Siena:

**"Be who God meant you to be,
and you will set the world on fire"**

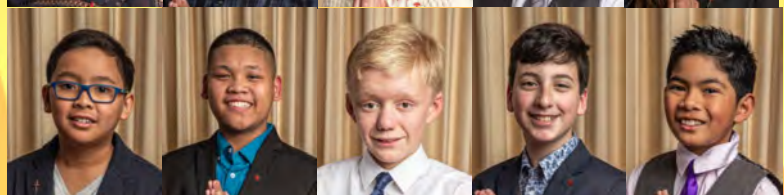
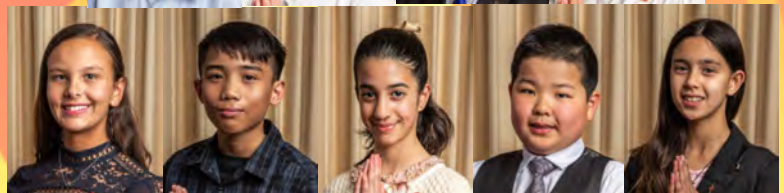
M. Polizzi

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION MATTER



**The Parish Community
congratulates these children
confirmed in the Faith.**

**May you continue to grow
in God's love
and be true ambassadors
for the Catholic Faith.**



The Order of Confirmation



After their names were read out the candidates stood to renew their Baptismal promises.

Then came the *Laying on of Hands*, the Bishop praying that God will "graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with His abundant gifts, and through His anointing conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God", invoking the Paraclete to give them his gifts.

The candidates came forward with their sponsors for anointing with the Oil of Chrism, which Deacon Roderick held. The Bishop dipped the tip of his thumb into the Chrism and, making the sign of the cross on each candidate's forehead, saying, **'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit'**. Then he touched the cheek of the newly confirmed, saying, **'Peace be with you'**, to which they responded, **'And with your spirit.'**



We were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit

Frank Anthony Agostino
Benjamin Alfonso Aguilera
Chiara Sofia Banzato
Chloe Anne Barlow
Jake Hugo Buxton
Isabella Tiffany Cameron
Brian Chen
Alexandra Fiare Elphinstone
Ethan-Jordan Firmeza
James Emilio Fraser

Eoin Charles Gallagher
Luke Cortezano Garcia
Isla Pastora Mary Giron
Finn Patrick Manuel Giron
Cedric Francis Guino
Liam Rafael Jecson
Emily Johnson
Aiden Thomas Kalathil
Aoife Reese Mitchell
Aaron Jude Neroy

Trenton Odtojan
Chloe Julia Oliver
Emily Ivana Orszulak
Carmela Jean Poblete
Zoe Isabella Samar
Gabriel Vincent Simaitis
Christian James Sta Rosa
Elizabeth Toman
Giovanni Luca Alessandro Vitali



The Bishop presented the newly confirmed with a beautiful certificate to remember this life changing event sealing their initiation into the Catholic Faith. The final act? Faces aglow, they posed with Bishop Vincent, the Dean Fr Bob and Fr Chris del Rosario.

TIME FOR A REFRESHER LESSON

For all those confirmed oh so long ago!
....and for the newly confirmed, as well!

Here are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Commit them to memory
AND

Be open to them ever day
in all that you say and do.





Sacramental Programme Report

by Meg Gale, Co-ordinator

CONFIRMATION 2019

Confirmation for St Patrick's Cathedral was held on Friday 30th August at 7pm. We were truly blessed to have Bishop Vincent Long as the main celebrant with Fr Bob Bossini and Fr Chris del Rosario concelebrating for this joyous occasion.

As always, we were delighted that St Patrick's Primary School Principal Bernadette Fabri, Assistant Principal Elly Benkovich, REC Leanda Standring and other teachers were able to join us and would like to express our gratitude for their presence and support for the children as well as the parish's sacramental programme.

St Patrick's School Choir led the singing of the hymns during the Confirmation Mass just as they had done a couple of months prior at First Eucharist. Once again, there was an absolutely terrific turnout of choir members filling the choir stalls. A special thank you to Mrs Venitia Rodricks for organization and preparation of the choir and for leading the choir so beautifully.

Thirty-two children received Confirmation. One child from the Maronite Rite who had completed all the sessions of preparation

also attended and received a blessing from Bishop Vincent for those already confirmed.

With the Sacrament of Confirmation, these children have made the final step for full initiation into the Catholic Faith.

Please keep them in your prayers that now **"sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit"**, they may continue to grow in their faith and be witnesses of the Good News in their daily lives

UPCOMING PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS

We are now preparing to welcome a new group of children for Reconciliation (2019) and First Eucharist (2020). Our most recent event was the Sacraments of Initiation Enquiry Evening for parents only, held in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Tuesday 24th September. We are happy to report that the evening was well attended and have received approximately 50 enquiries for registration for the upcoming preparation sessions.

Registration for the Sacramental Preparation is now open and the online enrolment form can be accessed via the Cathedral website: go to Sacraments/Holy Communion and click on the button **Holy Communion Registration**.

As always the Sacraments of Initiation Team here at St Patrick's Cathedral thank parishioners for their ongoing prayer support of our ministry and for the children participating in the preparation.

Sacramental Calendar

(All sessions are held in the Cathedral Parish Hall)

2019

Enrolment Mass:	9:30 am Sunday Mass 20 th October.
Introductory Session	7:30 pm Tuesday 22 nd October.
Penance 1	7:30 pm Tuesday 29 th October.
Penance 2	4 pm Saturday 9 th November.
Penance 3/	
Practice for Penance	4 pm Saturday 23 rd November.
First Reconciliation	7:00 pm Tuesday 26 th November.

2020

Remembering Baptism 1	7:30 pm Tuesday 4 th February.
Remembering Baptism 2	7:30 pm Tuesday 18 th February.
Remembering Baptism 3	4 pm Saturday 7 th March.
Ritual to Remember Baptism	4 pm Saturday 21 st March.
Sacrament of Eucharist 1	7:30 pm Tuesday 28 th April.
Sacrament of Eucharist 2	7:30 pm Tuesday 12 th May.
Sacrament of Eucharist 3	4 pm Saturday 23 rd May.
Practice for First Eucharist	4 pm Saturday 6 th June.
First Eucharist	9:30 am Sunday Mass 14 th June
(Feast of Corpus Christi)	



Isabella Chivers had already been confirmed in the Maronite Rite but still participated in and completed the sacramental preparation sessions.

She attended the Mass and after the other children were confirmed she received a blessing from Bishop Vincent for those already confirmed.



The children of St Patrick's Primary Choir conducted by their teacher Mrs Venitia Rodricks did a fine job leading the congregation in singing hymns during the Confirmation Mass.





Remembering First Eucharist, Second Sacrament of Initiation

A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Ava Bernardo writes about this important day in her life.



For my First Holy Communion, I felt nervous and excited. Nervous because I might forget what I had to say and excited because I was going to receive Jesus.

Every Mass until now I would walk up to communion with my arms crossed and receive a blessing instead of receiving the body of Christ. I wondered what the body and blood of Christ would taste like. I would ask my brother and sister, but they said it is hard to describe.

I am the youngest in my family and the last communicant. This day was very special for my family and I. My Dad and I went to the classes together, as my Mum had gone before with my brother and sister. In the classes I learnt why we celebrate Mass and the importance of receiving the Eucharist. It is important because we receive Jesus into our hearts and we receive His grace.

I am excited that I can now receive Jesus every Mass.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, REMEMBER YOU ARE RECEIVING THE BODY OF CHRIST.



So cup your hands to receive the precious gift of Himself. Receive Him with joy and great reverence.

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Jelena Talbot comments:

My daughter Madeleine received her First Holy Communion on 23rd June, 2019.

Madeleine is my first child to go through the sacramental program at St Patrick's Cathedral.

We had a very positive experience and I found that Madeleine gained a solid understanding of the importance of receiving Eucharist, as well as strengthening her relationship with God.

I also learnt a great deal from the parent sessions.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From *Rev. Adrian J. Parcher, O.S.B.*

Receive the Eucharist with Faith and Reverence.

Approach the table of the Lord, with deep belief that it is our Lord who is truly present, body and soul, humanity and divinity, who becomes present at the words of consecration and who comes into our lives, into our very beings, assimilates us into himself, through the reception of the Eucharist that is whom we are receiving. We celebrate what Jesus enacted at the Last Supper and on Calvary. We represent that act to the Father and bring its benefits upon ourselves.

The Eucharist, like all the great mysteries of our faith, is not something that one can explain rationally. How can Jesus, how can

God, be contained in what appears to be a small wafer of bread?

But that's our strong belief, that Jesus is truly present on our altars.

Once we have received Him in the Eucharist, He is present in our very persons. We believe that by the reception of the Eucharist we become tabernacles, with our Lord contained within our very selves. That is a marvellous mystery, and that's the first quality that we have to come with to receive the Eucharist, that deep awareness, that deep faith, that deep belief.

That's what really makes Catholics *Catholic*.

Understanding RCIA matters



Deacon Pirotta,
RCIA Co-ordinator
explains why

*RCIA is a Journey
for the Entire Parish*

The RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), is the process that makes it possible for adults to be received into the Catholic Church.

At St Pat's Cathedral Parish we currently have a number of people inquiring about our Catholic faith. In fact, we have 2 couples and another person, who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation in late November before she goes back to India with her husband for good, 5 catechumens in total, who have been meeting since early August and are in the pre-catechumenate stage of their journey.

The RCIA, is an important aspect of parish life because it does — or at least it can and should — renew parish life. It is a journey of conversion for the person participating in the initiation process, and by extension, can be a journey of conversion for the whole parish! That is, conversion happens when the parish fully embraces the process of initiation and walks the journey of faith with the candidates for initiation.

SO, WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CONVERSION?

The Rite tells us that those requesting initiation “seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion.” This indicates that those who come to our parish saying, “I want to be Catholic,” are indeed “seeking” something. Although they may not articulate it as such, what they really seek is God. So, the parish invites them into this wonderful process whereby they develop, deepen and enrich their relationship with our loving God in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Now, if RCIA really is this amazing journey of conversion to God in Christ, then the sponsors who walk with the candidates, supporting them, praying for them, witnessing to their faith, guiding them along the path, cannot help but experience some kind of conversion themselves.

Likewise, the Christian community that supports, prays for, guides and celebrates with the enquirers also renews its own conversion to God in Christ.

Indeed, we Catholics believe that conversion to Jesus Christ is a lifelong and ongoing process. Therefore, when we witness others changing their lives, giving up old ways of ‘doing’ and ‘being’, and committing themselves to Jesus Christ, it inspires and challenges us to recommit ourselves as well. And when the members of the parish recommit themselves to Christ, then the parish too is renewed.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

The RCIA is not a private process of initiation. It is the community that initiates new members.

We do not talk about an RCIA team anymore but an RCIA parish since all parishioners are to participate, and are part of this process.

Catechumens are supposed to be trained in four key areas: Word, community, worship and witness (RCIA 75). Diana Macalintal in her book, “Your Parish is the Curriculum”, writes that this syllabus should be provided by parishioners throughout the weekly life and work of the parish. “This syllabus is a hands-on course, and in this apprenticeship, the catechumens and candidates learn how to be disciples by doing what disciples do alongside other disciples.” (p. 83).

If you are wondering how you can assist, this is what you can do. We need sponsors and Godparents to make an active and supportive role as companions, witnesses and guides during the RCIA process and beyond. Perhaps take a catechumen to a meeting you attend in the parish, prayer group, marriage preparation, bible study or a choir rehearsal. It is not hard, but surely, a worthwhile commitment.

Let us make our Parish the Curriculum to transform our entire parish into a community of disciples and witnesses to Christ.

PRE-CATECHUMENATE CATECHESIS: UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S INVOLVED.

The invitation to follow the Catholic way of life must be given gradually, convincingly, prayerfully, and with humility. This is the mission of the pre-catechumenate period, the first part of the RCIA process. During this period, according to the guidelines in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, each enquirer “should receive help and attention so that they may purify their intentions and clarify their desire to cooperate with God’s grace.” (RCIA 38).

Initial conversion, the beginning of faith, is the goal of this period.

Conversion is a progressive process, involving various stages of transformation and involves a change in mindset **from something** combined with a **turning towards something else** — that is, conversion to Jesus Christ”.

This turning occurs in many areas including:

- ♦ In prayer: discovering conversation with God.
- ♦ In communio: seeking relationships and the Christian witness within the church community.
- ♦ In the moral life: living out their growing Christian convictions.
- ♦ In perspective: learning to see things through a Catholic worldview.
- ♦ In seeking and study: growing in hunger for the knowledge of God.

The pre catechumenate period’s mission is to influence its enquirers in each of the afore-mentioned areas. This period is not to be viewed as something less than a time to foster initial conversion. It is much more than a preliminary social introduction to the parish and has a clearly defined catechetical and pastoral mission.



A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION:



Deacon Roderick with Shubhneet Singh and his fiancé Sasha, on 24th August after 6pm Mass, during which Shubhneet was welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church, receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

Then on 10th September Bishop Vincent Nguyen Van Long was the principal celebrant at Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, during which Shubhneet, along with other adults from across the Diocese, received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

ON THE JOURNEY TO INITIATION



The lovely young woman above is Mayuri with her husband Mats. Mayuri is mentioned in Deacon Pirotta's article as the person who will be initiated into the Catholic Faith in late November, before the couple return to India to care for their ageing parents.

Mayuri has promised to write about her journey to the Catholic faith in the next St Pat's Matters. A story worth waiting for.

Sharing the Journey matters

The Holy Spirit intervenes yet again! ANNA BUI was one of the young people during Light Up St Pat's in July daring to go into Prince Albert Square to evangelize to the crowds enjoying the Winterlight Festival. When asked to write about that experience she demurred, suggesting instead to write about her long journey to becoming a Catholic. Thank you Anna, for sharing your conversion experience with our readers.



My journey to the Catholic faith has been a long and very emotional one, but it led me to a new home that showed me light after years of darkness.

I was born in Germany and my family moved to Australia when I was three years old. My parents were refugees of the Vietnam War and I was raised with moral values that taught that life was hard and everything relied on your own efforts, because there were a lot of bad people in the world.

Looking back now, it was only because my parents wanted me to have a good future in this country where, unlike them, I had that opportunity. However, it caused me to grow up with a paralysing fear of failure and losing control. I wish I had known God back then so I wouldn't have felt so alone.

When I was in my second year of university, I experienced a nervous breakdown from the pressure. I couldn't sleep and became incredibly isolated and paranoid, shutting out my friends and family because I couldn't stand the thought of failing my classes. Eventually, my studies were up in the air and I had to take time off to get treatment for my insomnia.

I was trying to distract myself and at that time, there was a public figure who was going through a very tough situation that caught my interest.

Unlike me, who was experiencing all of my problems internally, his situation was hung out like dirty laundry for all to see.

His name was relentlessly dragged through the mud by rumors and his so-called friends were all turning their backs on him. However, he didn't seem to be resentful of any of them. In fact, he seemed to not only forgive

the people who threw him under the bus, but he was also humbly accepting the circumstances of his actions, putting his trust in God to take care of him.

There was one thing that had always been known about him; his strong Christian faith.

All I really knew about Christianity growing up was from movies and television, and I only heard of the word *amen* because my primary school had a school prayer that we would recite every week at assembly. There were also scripture classes where Christian catechists visited once a week and I was sent to the library to play with the other children listed under *non-scripture*. I didn't have any concept of what exactly Jesus died for, I just knew he was the ultimate Good Guy and the Christians loved Him. I grew up in a mundane neighbourhood and while I was taught what was right and wrong, nobody really explained to me exactly what sin was.

There were dozens of songs about Jesus dying for our sins, but why would He do that?

I was curious, and God answered my call when that person's pastor shared his sermon on the matter, titled 'When You're Feeling Falsely Accused, Let's Look at God's Bigger Picture'. He spoke about the story of Joseph.

The pastor spoke that Joseph, instead of fighting back, only cried to God as he was in prison, and through this situation, it came to be the fastest path for him to meet the Pharaoh. If you just trust and follow the way that God is leading you, it will turn out to be the fastest shortcut.

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Anna's Conversion continued

I could see for the first time the bigger picture that was God, and that the reason Jesus died for us was because He loves us, and that He would always take care of us if we trust Him. That we know it would be because He loves us.

He loves me. He died for me.

My eyes opened, my heart opened, my fears forgotten. I wanted to know more.

At that time at my campus, there was a very new and small Christian ministry. I don't remember much of these meetings, only that I was surprised at their kindness and how they welcomed me with opened arms and how they loved Jesus. It was different to what I was used to. Here, it felt I could open up about things that would normally embarrass me. The more we talked about Jesus, there was this strange new feeling that dared me to be hopeful and risk letting go of my doubts, just for once. I genuinely thank God for letting me meet these people at that time in my life.

Since I was a young and impressionable non-Christian who was completely new to this, they assigned a pastor's wife to privately teach me the Bible. Her name was Amy.

I appreciate the time Amy took to teach me the story of Jesus because it enriched my understanding of what it was that Christians believed in and how beautiful it was that God loved us so greatly that He would die for us. Amy and her husband would also take me to several different Protestant churches to see which one I could settle in. It ranged from Baptist to Anglican and I got a taste of what would happen inside churches on Sundays, something I'd always wondered about.

There was one church both Amy and her husband told me to stay away from though; the Catholic Church.

There were many things Amy taught me that I never asked further about; she would talk only briefly about Mary and pointed out the terms brother in the Gospel to show that Jesus had siblings, as if to counter before I could ask about the Catholic belief of Mary as a virgin. I never really gave Mary any thought at all and I was never exposed to her veneration except an extremely memorable rock rendition of Caccini's *Ave Maria* by Rebecca Luker from a television drama series I watched as a teenager with my mother, something that would randomly pop up in my head every now and then throughout the years. It always made me think of majestic statues, stained glass and the Church as something exciting, melodramatic and sacred even though I didn't know what sacred even meant.

Amy also mentioned baptism in passing, telling me that I could have one if I wanted but it was more symbolic since I already had the Holy Spirit. I went along with this explanation since I didn't know enough to question her, but this became a major conflict for me.

The ministry would tell me that once the Holy Spirit entered my heart, meaning when I accepted Jesus, I was saved. From then on, everything was supposed to be okay and I was fine with that for a while, until it began to feel like I kept asking for things from Jesus every time I prayed. Gradually, I began to feel bad for still being unable to deal with these problems even after being 'saved'. I had salvation, why didn't it feel like it was enough? Even after all Jesus had done for me, I still had the audacity to not feel grateful or at peace? The guilt piled up more and more

until I stopped praying altogether. I took time off from my studies so I didn't go to any more meetings with the Christian group, and it was silent again for a very long time.

The year was 2016 and God decided it was time.

I felt an increasing pressure to conform to the secular society's expectations, most of which had been taught to me throughout my life from television and media. I felt almost ashamed of what people had told me was a goody-goody reputation, and I wanted to get rid of it. Of course, listening to what the media told me would only end up badly, as I found out the hard way. After that, I began to search for the meaning of life and wanting to find a new identity for myself.

The presidential election was happening in the United States at this time and all of the media outlets became completely obsessed with it. I watched as the propaganda reached the point of absurdity, demonizing one party while almost worshipping the other, and in the end when it all came crashing down, I finally opened my eyes and realized the media narrative I had been told to follow was not reality at all.

It made me rethink about all the things I'd learned; how can the complexity of the human be divided into just two sides of supposed good and supposed evil like we were poorly-written cartoon characters? How can a collective of people be so two-dimensional to think the same and have the same prejudices and experiences to warrant being labelled simply as evil by the opposing side?

This new perspective made me evaluate everything I had ever known and eventually what crossed my mind was the Catholic Church.

It was the single church Amy had warned me to stay away from. But why? It was the single church the media would only ever report in the news for ever bad things. But why?

Why should I believe what the media is telling me without question, like a mindless sheep?

If Mary's queenship and importance were so easily dismissed, why were there beautiful statues, paintings, songs and cathedrals dedicated to Her for so many centuries? Why was it that this one church, the oldest church in the world, was only in the news whenever horrible things happened? Of course, I knew these horrible things did happen, but why was the media super focused on details only when it was the bad?

The only real experience I had at this point was going to Mass with my uncle's family when they came over from France. I was about six and I remember the ceremony feeling very military and cold, and it affected my reluctance to approach the Church. The only other exposure was from Hollywood films that distortedly portrayed priests as strict and uncompassionate, and I specifically remember a scene where a priest refused to baptize a baby of an unwed mother and coldly turning his back when she started to cry.

Nonetheless, I never had any real prejudice or resentment towards the Catholic Church and always admired it from afar as being very beautiful, and though I didn't understand it, I was envious that Catholics could share a culture with each other from across the globe.

I became more and more intrigued about Mary and though I never pursued learning more about her, I pondered the arguments against her.

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Anna's Conversion continued

Why were the Protestants so against her title as Mother of God, among all things? Yes, they knew Jesus was God so that meant Mary was His mother, so why did they so fervently oppose it? How can we have a Father but not a Mother?

During this time, I was doing a summer semester at Parramatta campus and I was pondering whether to contact the chaplaincy. There were a long list of denominations, one of which was Catholic. I was apprehensive to just go straight to the source, so I called up the head of the chaplaincy, who was a lovely lady from the Uniting Church of Australia. She gave me some information on the Catholic chaplaincy, which was relatively new. All I had to do was email the priest and he could meet up with me, but I was still pretty reluctant because I had never met an actual priest and the thought of being confronted by one still intimidated me. I decided I would just wait for a sign to go ahead with this.

On December 19, 2016, there was a terrorist attack in Berlin, Germany where twelve people were killed and more than fifty others injured by a truck that drove through a Christmas market. I was really affected by this, not only because it happened in Germany, but that my younger brother Alex was currently in Europe and he'd only been in Berlin just the week earlier. Even though he wasn't there and he was safe, a sense of helplessness I'd never experienced before came over me. I couldn't sleep, even though I called my brother and he assured me he was going to be fine. But what if something happens again? What was I supposed to do when he was on the other side of the world?

I wanted to do something, anything, even though it didn't seem possible. My brother couldn't teleport himself back home, nor was he with anybody who could really physically protect him from something like this. Who could I call on to keep him safe?

God.....God could protect him.

I was still reluctant to pray, that guilt from asking and taking was still holding me back. But I was so desperate to do something, to call on someone who understood why I was so worried.

Mary.....If there was someone who would understand my anxiety, it would be Mary because she was a mother.

So, for the first time, I prayed to Mary. I prayed that she would protect my brother, and pray to God to keep him safe until I saw him again. I didn't know about the *Hail Mary* or anything else about Mary, but I prayed to Her because She would know the anxieties I had about my little brother. I prayed and went to sleep; when I woke up, I had an urge to hear *Ave Maria* again in a more traditional performance so I searched it up and listened.

Something in my heart stirred, and I knew this was it. I contacted the priest who agreed to meet me at the campus. That priest was Fr Piotr Kruk.

I'd never seen or spoken to a real priest before so I wondered what he would look like as I waited for him at the campus. I naturally pictured an old man in black robes with a long beard, who spoke slowly and was extremely serious. Instead, he was much younger than I expected and was wearing a Dominican habit, grabbing people's attention that a priest was in the area. I also remember feeling as if I was splashed in the face with cold water when we spoke, because he was a real person who had none of that Hollywood scariness, and he wanted to listen to my story of how I found God and how I came to be here.

After we'd chatted for a while, he asked me the question, "Do you want to be baptized?"

It was a genuine question. It wasn't like when Amy asked if I wanted to, as in if I wanted to have a ceremony to make it special. He was asking if I wanted to go through the process of officially becoming a Catholic. At this point, I still didn't really know anything about the Catholic faith except that it would be my choice to start the journey. I said yes.

Fr Piotr drove me to St Patrick's Cathedral where we sat in front of the Tabernacle for the first time. It was a strange feeling being there even though I really knew nothing back then, but Fr Piotr told me that the flickering candle at the altar was there to show Jesus' presence. I felt it in my heart at that moment as I watched that dancing flame — *'He's here with me'*.

I was excited to step into this new world but also still quite intimidated by all that I saw, so Fr Piotr entrusted me to Deacon Willy Limjap to look after me so I could join the Rite of Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and start preparation for Baptism.

We had meetings every week and I began attending Mass on Sundays as my knowledge and confidence in what I wanted grew. It was so different from how things were at the Christian ministry; there was order and structure, and there were answers to questions that made sense. It made me start to see humanity as God's beloved, and I understood the significance of suffering rather than it being something far away from God, something to be ashamed of.

I was baptized at St Patrick's Cathedral at Easter Vigil in 2017 by Bishop Vincent. Since then, I have remained as a member of the RCIA formation team to help those who have also found their way to the Church every year and hear their stories as well. My soul is still on fire for the Lord every day, my faith deepening as I see Him in everything I do.

The best part of this story comes just a few months ago; when my dad told me that after I was born and was still in the hospital in Hamburg, a Catholic priest was doing his rounds, and he came to me and gave me a blessing. Who knew this is where I would be, all these years later?

God saved

my life and healed my wounds, giving me wisdom and courage from all the hardships that got me here, that I would never ask for Him to erase any of my experiences.

Because I know He will always be with me.



Anna & her parents, with Bishop Vincent and Deacon Willy following her Initiation.



SRE MINISTRY MATTERS

Serving GOD and Community



St Pat's awardees with Bishop Vincent after Mass. From L-R: Ray Love, Najwa Takchi, Norma Alphonse, Margaret Climpson, Marian Polizzi.

For Margaret Climpson, her 45 years as an SRE has been "a labour of love."

It is often said some things happen for a reason. Well, something wonderful happened to me 40 plus years ago.

One day I had a call from Parramatta East Public School, which was close to my home. The teacher asked me if I could come up to the school as they were short of a Scripture Teacher that day and read a Bible Story to the children. The teachers knew that I was Catholic.

So began my wonderful journey. I stayed on and on at that school for many years later moving on to other schools in the district, Parramatta Public School in Macquarie Street being one of them. I did all my Scripture courses twice over the years.

I truly believe that God has a plan for each of us. What was His plan for me? Just a simple, ordinary Mum of six, yet he gave me His love and grace to go into the Public Schools to teach those precious little Catholic children about the love of Jesus in their lives. They were very eager to know about everything.

I often think back over those years and of all the children whose lives I touched, teaching them how to talk to God in their prayers and to answer their questions in a gentle simple way that they could understand. I hope that they will remember some of what I taught them about Jesus being always with them to guide them to know what is good and the right way to act in their lives.

Back in the early years, Scripture Day was a happy time for the children and for me. The bell would ring and they would come running down the path all smiles and give me lots of hugs. Having the care of these little ones while teaching them was a big responsibility, but knowing that they trusted me meant a lot to me. Apart from raising my own family, those years teaching Scripture were the happiest of my life.

I am so glad that I answered the call all those years ago. I thank God that I did and I hope I made a difference in the lives of the children I taught.

The Annual Mass for all Special Religious Educators, (SREs) of Diocese of Parramatta organized by the CCD, (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) took place at the church of St Andrew the Apostle on 13th September, 2019.

For five SREs of our parish, it was a particularly memorable Mass because they were among those receiving awards in recognition for their years of service to this ministry.

St Patrick's Community congratulates them and thanks them for their years of commitment as representatives of the parish.

Margaret Climpson for 45 years,

Ray Love for 40 years

Marian Polizzi for 30 years

Najwa Takchi for 15 years

Norma Alphonse for 15 years

Interestingly Norma and Najwa are a sister act, both working at Macarthur Girls High School.

It is hoped that advertising the years of dedication of the SREs above just might spur some people to volunteer their time to go out and spread the Good News!

Catholic children in state schools need catechising!

Ray Love's comments about his time in the Ministry of SRE.

Teachers have a saying, "To learn a subject one needs to teach it." So I have found it with my forty years of catechising Catholic children in State Schools.

Preparing a lesson, reading the curriculum considering the main points of each lesson and how best to transmit the message to the children — this certainly stimulates one's faith and sharpens one's understanding, literally of our wonderful religion.

If I remember it was Paula Cowling, (St Paula) who invited me to commence teaching when she was Catechist Coordinator back in the 1970s. Parramatta Primary was within a short walk from the Parramatta Tax Office where I was employed. I was allowed to use "flexi-time" to make up for the fifteen minutes late start each Thursday during school term. Very convenient. When I retired from the Taxation Office in 2009, I was able to transfer to Macarthur Girls' High for the subsequent years till now.

When the children start asking questions it is generally very gratifying, although occasionally a bit disconcerting. For example, having spoken about Confession, one year 6 boy asked, "What are your sins, Mr Love?" Of course, I was too slow to respond, "When you're a priest, Bill I'll tell you." Again, recently I mentioned Fatima and Our Lady's prophecy of a worse war unless people repented. One girl asked, "Were you born before the Second World War, Mr Love?" I responded by skipping an imaginary rope half a dozen times and proclaiming, "I'm still pretty fit." I think I convinced a couple of them.

When I was in Secondary School Fr Ryan, our Latin teacher, had the habit of using the exclamation, "Huh?" to make a point during lessons. I remember he'd occasionally digress from Latin to say, "No matter how bad you get (huh?) never stop going to Mass. (huh?)" And yes, I have sometimes mentioned this story, (huhs? and all) when teaching the children about the importance of our greatest prayer, the Mass.

I thank God for the privilege of teaching catechetics, knowing that without His help we can do nothing.

Editor's Note: Ray and Pam married 53 years, have raised 6 children and now have 7 grandchildren. Ray values his faith and family, which has obviously influenced his becoming a Catechist as well joining the St Vincent de Paul Society 18 years ago to help those in need.

SREs serving God and Community in spreading the Good News



The overflowing church at the Annual Mass was a stirring sight and wonderful witness to the commitment of SREs around the Diocese to teaching Catholic children in state schools about the Faith and God's never-ending love for us. Even more emotive was the presence of students from 19 Catholic High Schools, involved in assisting SREs in their lessons. This initiative began several years ago to encourage students to consider joining the Ministry beyond their school days. Meanwhile, here in our parish we welcome two newcomers, Antony and Eric to the SRE fold. Here they write about how they came



Antony Prashanth

I arrived in Australia in July 2018 from Chennai, India to pursue my post graduate course, a Masters in Translation and TESOL (Teacher of English for students of other language), at Western Sydney University.

Coming to Australia meant I was unable to continue with my youth group activities back home — I was part of the youth choir group at Risen Christ Church, Peravallur. The choir sings at Mass every Sunday.

It just so happened that one Sunday when I was attending Mass at St Pat's Cathedral, I came across pamphlets about volunteering as an SRE teacher in public schools.

Though I wished to take part in the programme, I was a bit reluctant initially. However, the 15 sessions of Level 1 training that were held over a span of months gave a precise overview of how to proceed with teaching children. Each session covering a wide range of topics, including a variety of activities and workshops animated by some of the most qualified faculty, provided immense support and guidance.

Soon I was into the role of being a helper at the public school next door to the Cathedral. I now realise the importance of SRE for Catholic children in public schools, as for some children these classes might be the only source through which they get to know about Christ's love. Christ himself has already prioritized the young ones through His statements 'Feed my lambs' and 'Let the children come to me' and the Church has rightly taken up this task.

Wanting to be of some help to this mission in the smallest way possible, I feel blessed to having been given the opportunity to sow this seed of Christ's love in the minds of young children.

At this time I would also like to thank the senior SRE teachers who constantly guide and assist me in the process.

The way children respond with awe and eagerness to the questions and activities during lessons inspire me to be more dedicated and I look forward to continued involvement in Special Religious Education.

to volunteer.

Speaking of volunteering. At right is Pam Bain, St Pat's SRE co-ordinator praying the Prayers of Intercession during Mass. She would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming part of this vital ministry.



Next year, another school will require SREs and we face the prospect of teachers having to take multiple classes, unless the ranks can be swelled. Pam herself is a prime example of this dilemma, even this year having to take up to three classes in one day on several occasions.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING UP! Call Donna or Pat at the Parish Office on 8839 8400 and they will put you in contact with Pam.

Here's hoping you hear God's call and answer YES !



My name is Eric Grant and I am currently studying at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

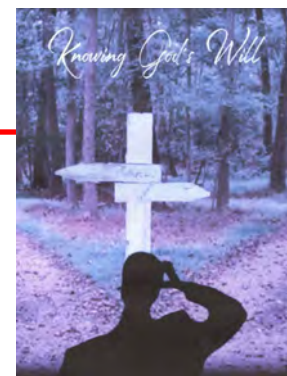
Late last year I volunteered to be a Special Religious Educator. It was during a break in my studies and I wanted something fulfilling to do with my free time, so I decided to join the SRE team. I

had heard of how rewarding involvement in this ministry was from talking to volunteers I knew.

I started at the beginning of the school term as an assistant to Pam Bain, (SRE coordinator for St Patrick's Parish), teaching Kindergarten children at Parramatta Public School, currently operating in the former Kings School next door to the Cathedral.

Early this year I started the Level One Training Course which ran every Wednesday evening from 7 – 9. I found the course, organised by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, (CCD) interesting and motivational. Last month, I went solo teaching and find the task both challenging and rewarding.

I encourage anyone with free time to volunteer. For some of these children, although Catholics, these lessons are their only opportunity to know and learn about God, their faith and religion.



Michael and Marietta Guillema, Co-ordinators asked John Missio to give a testimony about becoming involved in the Live Christ Share Christ movement.



This is what John had to say.

I came to hear about **Live Christ Share Christ (LCSC)** Formation Sessions and talks through my wife Donna, who is the Parish Receptionist for Saint Patrick's. Whilst we don't live in the Parramatta area, we both work in Parramatta

and being able to share in a formation experience about our faith, well that's where we gain additional graces and blessings for ourselves and the communities in which we live.

Experience before LCSC (e.g. Pre-Experience)

In my home parish, I've been active in several ministries including Reader, RCIA, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, taking Communion to the sick and Acolyte. I travel a bit with my work so there's some juggling that I need to do at times. It's a privilege to be able to serve in a liturgy as a representative of the community. I enjoy being able to come along and learn more about our faith through the formation talks that are on offer through the Live Christ, Share Christ program.

Motivation for participating in LCSC

In my "work life" I am a trainer. I pass experiences and/or knowledge I've learned onto those whom I come into contact through my role in what I do at work. It's no different in my life with the Church. We're called in our Baptism to be Priest, Prophet and King. The Holy Spirit has given us all different gifts. I share the gifts I've been given in the way of knowledge and faith with whomever I meet. Learning something —taking it with you and keeping it to yourself — is no better than the servant in Jesus' parable who took his master's one talent, buried it in the ground and presented it back to the master on his return.

Effect of LCSC involvement in personal life

I talked in August on the topic of *"Knowing God's Will"*. I included 3 main points and a number of other themes around them. That was the first time I've actually delivered a talk on a faith topic for a large group of people. There have been many other occasions when I've shared with others in small discussion groups, though. I now find that I'm calling myself out where I don't measure up to the themes and points on which I've spoken. As we're called to a life of daily conversion. I've set a bar at a certain level in my talk, it's now time to walk the walk, so to speak.

Parting advice for potential participants

Preparing for the talk for the evening gave me the challenge to get to the nitty gritty of the topic. Given the opportunity, any one of us would possibly be able to speak about a given topic for hours and hours. But having to bring the presentation back to around 40 minutes from so much content made me focus on the key point messages I wanted to get through to those who were in attendance for the night.

Keeping the message simple was an important key factor.

On 23rd August, John Missio was welcomed by Michael and Marietta as the guest speaker, who would be speaking on the topic, **"Knowing God's Will"**. This was John's debut as a presenter for LCSC. He started the evening talk with two stories.

In the first one he spoke of a young man who, whilst full of faith, completely missed how God was trying to get him to take action to save himself through a number of people God was working through. But unfortunately the young man failed to respond to the calls of all the people God sent to get him to move away from the imminent danger that ultimately cost him his life.

The second story covered the growing stages of new neighbours meeting for the first time and how, after running into each other on other occasions, they struck up a friendship, which turned into a lifelong relationship.

John used these two different stories to show that what we expect at times might not come to fruition and that in the times when we're open to what is happening around us, great things can happen.

John focussed on three main points in his talk. His main points being that we need our lives to be in a State of Grace, that we are meant to be doing the things on our "today" list, today and the need to pray each day.

He added that in doing what we're saying we're going to do each day, we also need to show love, respect and humility in each thing we do — to be patient in waiting to hear what we're being called to do, to be extraordinary in the ordinary, to be courageous in living our faith and uncompromising in what we believe as true.

In John's final summary he said:-

"For if we don't feed and nourish our faith, how would we be able to recognise the beauty and magnificence of each new day, and, how each one is different to the one before? How can we say we know, see, and love Jesus our Brother in each person we see? How can we do our ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way? How could we fully participate in the Mass?"

"When we spend this time nourishing our heart, mind, body and soul in our prayers, in our quietness and in our daily activities we share that time with Him because we hold dearly to the fact that God has given us this moment and in sharing it with Him, God reveals to us His plan for that time."

At the conclusion of his talk, a number of people came up to John and said how much they enjoyed the talk that night.

Learning about the Theology of the Body matters.

Alan & Andrea D'Souza
write about the value of this course.



For nine weeks every Tuesday, the group above were blessed to attend the **Theology of the Body (TOB)** Course conducted by **Fire Up Ministries** in the Cathedral Function Room (hall). Each week, presenter Simon Carrington took us on an incredible journey, almost giving us the profound experience that we were walking along with St Pope John Paul The Great himself.**

Today's culture challenges the very essence of who we are and our purpose. Questions pertaining to the core of our existence has left the world confused. Many doubt the relevance of the Catholic Church's teachings on human dignity, sexual identity, marriage, contraception and so on. **Seeking the truth and getting these questions answered from the right source equips us to live fruitfully and with meaning.**

TOB is that 'right source' we've all been longing for. Attending the course enabled us to dive deep into the profound mysteries of life and marriage, answering not only the fundamental questions related to church teaching, but also why she teaches them. It challenged each of us to live a life of chastity and purity — purity in singleness, while dating, in courtship and marriage.

For us, the learning from TOB has always been at the core of our marriage. It has shaped our thinking about who we are and what we are created to be. We found that it was in being able to love each other as Christ loves and making a total and sincere gift of ourselves, that we were able to lead a meaningful life both as individuals and as a couple. After all the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation (with the book of Song of Songs right in the centre), speaks of marriage. Isn't that amazing! As a communion of persons - Father, Son & Holy Spirit, the triune God wants to unite with us so intimately with Him that we may experience the Free, Faithful, Total and Fruitful gift that He makes of Himself.

The highlight of the course was Mercy Night — an evening spent adoring the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament while

also partaking of the Sacrament of Confession. It was a night where God's outpouring mercy enveloped our entire being and redeemed us from the burden of sin.

From the sessions to the Mercy Night, it was a remarkable experience for us. We've been married now for nearly three years and the course strengthened our marriage and led us to a deeper intimacy with each other. Not forgetting our little Joshua who was also present and was an amazing participant. We must admit that we are falling in love with him more and more each day after this experience.

Well, it wasn't us alone who were left edified. Here's what others had to say:

"The Theology of the Body course was excellent; I was thoroughly enriched by St. Pope John Paul II's teachings. Simon gets to the core of the content and explains it not only confidently but also in a very thought provoking and inspiring way." *Elizabeth.*

"I highly recommend the course. Simon teaches the content gleaned from his own personal experience, which inspired me to grow in the knowledge of Truth and purity of heart. He genuinely cares about each of his students and participants, and desires to see real transformation in their lives." *Dan.*

"I really enjoyed these nine weeks, especially the teachings on life, death and purgatory. It was an eye-opener for me. So many questions and doubts were answered to questions that I had and those I didn't know I had." *Stacey (High School Student).*

"The Theology of the Body course conducted by Fire Up ministries should be taught to everyone, especially high school students to better their understanding of what God intended for us and why we were created male and female. Simon enlightened us with these rich teachings and directed us to the Bible and to embrace God's calling for us." *Anna Bui.*

"Simon's passion for this topic was felt from the very start of the course. It is his conviction that Theology of the Body is the solution to the problems the world is facing today. He gave me the tools to live a life of purity." *Andy.*

We were honoured and blessed to be a part of this nine-week long journey and certainly would recommend those who wish to study TOB to grab any opportunity that comes their way. Look up Fire Up Ministries' website (fireupministries.com) for details on forthcoming talks and courses. We are ever grateful to Simon and the parish team for organizing the course and for igniting this little fire in all of us with the desire to study St Pope John Paul's teachings more fervently. It is through such engaging courses that we are able to unpack the mysteries of life in all its beauty and be transformed by it.

As St Catherine of Siena said,

**"Be who God meant you to be
and you will set the world on fire"**

** In *Theology of the Body*, John Paul II intends to establish an adequate anthropology in which the human body reveals God.

He examines man and woman before the Fall, after it, and at the resurrection of the dead.

He also contemplates the sexual complementarity of man and woman. He explores the nature of marriage, celibacy and virginity, and expands on the teachings in *Humanae vitae* on contraception.

According to author Christopher West, the central thesis of John Paul's *Theology of the Body* is that "the body, and it alone, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It was created to transfer into the visible reality of the world, the mystery hidden since time immemorial in God, and thus to be a sign of it."

JUDITH DUNN OAM FPDHS, continues to amaze us with her prodigious knowledge of those interred in historic St Patrick's Cemetery. Here she writes about Patrick Hayes and John Ryan, not only drawing us into their lives, but transporting us back to the Parramatta of yesteryear.



PATRICK HAYES – INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR PARRAMATTA COUNCIL

When Patrick Hayes died on January 11 1890, his obituary filled much space in the local paper, the *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*. Noted as the foremost businessman of the old town, he had been active in the life of Parramatta trade in one form and another for many years. His remarkable career spanned innkeeper, contractor, baker, seaman, brewer, Small Debts Bailiff, valuer, explorer of the Clarence River area, miller and latterly, Inspector of Nuisances for Parramatta Council.

Born in the colony, Hayes was educated for the clergy but for some reason did not continue to become a priest. He next turned to the sea but found that did not suit his constitution. From then on he became a leader in the commercial enterprises of the colony. When young, Hayes was one of the leaders of an expedition to the Clarence River and instrumental in setting up saw mills and pastoral activities in the area. Next he operated a mill which was later known as Breillat's Mills. In the 1830s he settled in Parramatta and managed Messrs. Tingham and Walker, a well-known merchant business.

The one part of Hayes' business life that was most outstanding, has the slightest mention in his obituary. He ran the very successful Emu Brewery until 1845 at the top end of George Street near the park gates. There was some suspicion on behalf of the authorities regarding activities at The Emu. John Ryan, Inspector of Distilleries was certain something stronger than ale was being brewed but over several months could not prove it, despite several inspections.

In December 1844, a cask of spirits was seized in Sydney with the Emu Brewery brand on it, raising suspicions that Hayes was distilling spirits rather than brewing ale. Yet again, despite a thorough search, nothing was discovered. Rumour had it that Governor Gipps, leaving Government House nearly adjacent to the brewery, sniffed the air and wondered what he could smell. Two men stole ale

from the Emu and to their astonishment very quickly became roaring drunk, despite their protests they had only stolen a little. Had they inadvertently stolen illegal spirits? All these clues added up for the Inspector of Distilleries.

In June 1845, the Parramatta Chronicle broke a huge story under banner headlines of "TREMENDOUS WICKED VILLANY." At last, a snap inspection by John Ryan had caught Patrick Hayes tasting spirits that he was running off from two artfully disguised stills, one holding 300 and the other 500 gallons, with 2,000 gallons of wash and 75 gallons of completed spirits, the largest illicit distillery ever seized in the colony. Despite overwhelming evidence, Patrick Hayes pleaded not guilty. Unfortunately for him a new act had recently been passed with heavy penalties for illegally distilling spirits – up to a two hundred pounds fine for each vessel found and confiscation of the brewing equipment. After a lengthy court case Hayes was fined £110 and £600 worth of brewing equipment was seized, an enormous penalty for the time.

One would think that this very public court case and subsequent fine would ruin a man from taking part in business for the rest of his working life but it was after these events that Patrick Hayes became Inspector of Nuisances for Parramatta Council. He must have possessed a great deal of charm to continue in public life and continued for the rest of his life on friendly terms with all classes from humble locals to the Hon. James Byrnes and the Australian orator, William Bede Dalley.

Patrick Hayes was still working for the Council at the age of 80. Although not in his usual robust health for the two preceding weeks, the townspeople were shocked by the death of this well-known character in 1890. His evident failing health brought his children, friends and relatives to his bedside, while Father Placid Quirk attended to his spiritual needs. When he died in the early hours of Sunday 11th January, he was one of the last links between colonial Parramatta and the mercantile life of the

growing town. Father O'Reilly performed the funeral and burial service and the pall bearers – Alderman Taylor, MP, John Booth, W Tiernan and ex-alderman F C Cox - showed the esteem in which he was held by Parramatta people.

Patrick Hayes was survived by two sisters, three sons, a daughter and twenty grandchildren. A man with remarkable resilience who managed to survive plunging from wealth to disgrace in business, then worked his way back into the warm regard of his fellow man through his work for Parramatta Council as "*Inspector of Nuisances and Hackney Carriages*".

It is a great irony that John Ryan, Inspector of Distilleries, is buried a few rows from Patrick Hayes. He died an alcoholic in 1857.



Hayes memorial in St Patrick's Cemetery

The writing on John Ryan's headstone is hard to decipher from the photo. It reads:

Sacred
To the Memory of
John Ryan
Who departed this life
January 18th 1857
Aged 51 years
May he rest in peace. Amen



John Ryan's headstone

Judith Dunn's history lesson continued



The building with veranda is the Red Cow Inn, which stood in George Street Parramatta, where the District, Civil and Criminal Court now stands.

The two story building to the left of the Red Cow, was the Assembly Room where dances, grand dinners, meetings, court cases and entertainment were held with stables below.

Between these two buildings and slightly to the rear, is the bakery built by Patrick Hayes when he was landlord of the Red Cow. It was said 2,500 loaves a day were baked here as he was the contractor for most of the Government institutions of the day, including the Female Factory.

ANOTHER HISTORY LESSON DID YOU KNOW?

The Female Factory, Australia's first purpose built establishment for convict women sent to the colony of New South Wales was built on a 4 acre portion of land previously owned by Governor William Bligh on the upper reaches of the Parramatta River next to Reverend Samuel Marsden's property. By 1840 the Female Factory would share a common boundary wall with Australia's first government-owned orphanage for Catholic children - the Roman Catholic Orphan School. First occupied on 31 January 1821 with the transfer of convict women from the nearby Factory above the Town Gaol, the Female Factory operated as an assignment depot, prison, place of industry and medical facility until 1847 when it was re-purposed as a convict Invalid and Lunatic Asylum.



An evening with Parramatta Catenian Circle 333

A report by Michael Tan

The Parramatta Catenians hosted a most informative and inspiring visit by retired Police Commissioner Ken Moroney on Thursday 22nd August.

It was a Ladies' Night with several other visitors and guests in attendance. After introductions and a short prayer, all present enjoyed a two-course dinner.

Retired Police Commissioner Ken Moroney spoke of his experience in the Police Force, including his involvement with the Thredbo landslide in 1997. He emphasised the importance of good role models for our young people, and commended the Catenians for their commitment to being good role models for their children and grandchildren.

After his talk, he was presented with a donation from our Circle to his preferred charity, the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, which focuses on helping kids in hospital.

For more than 28 years, the Humpty Dumpty Foundation has

been purchasing essential and often-life-saving medical equipment for sick and injured children in Paediatric Wards, Neonatal Units, Maternity and Emergency Departments in hospitals across Australia.



↑Mr Ken Moroney, former NSW Commissioner of Police, with Mr Michael Lilley, President, and Mr Chris Worthington, Vice President, of the City of Parramatta Catenian Circle following presentation of the donation for his charity of choice.

THE PARRAMATTA CATENIANS: MEN JOIN US!

The Catenians is an international Catholic men's organization which began in England in 1908 and is present throughout Australia, the Parramatta Circle having formed in 2000.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month for drinks, a formal meeting and a meal, all at a local restaurant.

We provide an environment for expression and discussion of faith among other Catholic men, with occasional guest speakers at our meetings.

We have a diverse membership from all walks of life.

Visitors and membership enquiries welcome.

For more information
contact Ian Goldthorpe on 0414 716 005

THE CATENIAN MOTTO: Strengthening family life through friendship and faith.



A week or so after this wonderful Parish Outreach, the volunteers, numbering more than 50, were surprised to 'get mail'. It was an invitation saying,

***Thank You for your support during Light Up St Pat's.
Please join us for lunch on Sunday 28th July in the Cloister Function Room.***

Those who RSVPd 'Yes' were treated like royalty, well almost!...a sit down meal with REAL cutlery, plates and glasses, (the environmentalists present gave this the thumbs up), a 2-course meal, and plenty of liquid refreshments!

But before the "feast" began, Fr Bob expressed his gratitude to those gathered for rallying to this community building/evangelizing cause, insisting it was the volunteers' commitment and support of the event's organising team that ensured the event's success.



Mindy, Naomi, Olivia, Melissa, Liz, Helena, Mili, Debbie and Jerick spoke about their experiences during the 2-week event and how that involvement affected them in their interaction with people in the precinct and over in the park.



Years may divide, but commitment unites.

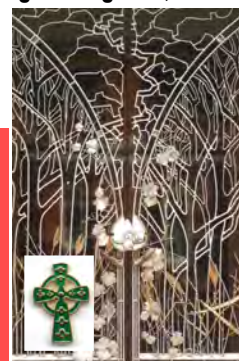
STACIE, *Light Up St Pat's* youngest volunteer, was particularly impressive in bravely stepping into the deep, i.e. evangelizing in the park at Council's Winterlight Festival.

As in 2017, ANDY, St Pat's Lights Magician, again transformed Murphy House, and other places with garlands of twinkling coloured lights. Fairyland.

A MOST THOUGHTFUL GESTURE:

Definitely, volunteers signed up not expecting any reward. However, receiving a hand-written *Thank You* card with a Celtic Cross Keepsake Pin enclosed was very touching.

And to be sure most people will be happy to volunteer for the event in 2020, no 'payback' strings attached.



MODERN MARY: surviving the challenging vocation of Motherhood as modern Christian women.

Modern Mary (September 2019)

The trials and tribulations of modern motherhood are infinite. As a Christian mother of two boys aged 3 and 7, I find myself asking how on earth Mother Mary must have coped? Thrust into motherhood through no choice of her own, given the most stressful mandate a woman could ever consider: give birth to, and raise, the saviour of the world. And here I am complaining about coping with flu season!

Every year, Spring starts and we're gifted a few hot days - Nature's aperitif. Lulled into a false sense of security, we completely forget that Nature played this very same prank on us 12 months prior. The cold strikes again and everyone catches yet another cold to cap off a long flu season. This time around, I got sick. I complained to anyone who would listen. Though, my self pity wasn't about being sick, it was about being a sick mum.

Motherhood in itself is isolating. Motherhood whilst being unwell is just cruel. By Day 3, an irrational panic sets in. You realise it's getting worse, not better, and the world around you won't wait. I thought about what was driving my panic. It was the resounding fear that I was unwell and potentially unable to care for my children.

My cancer-ridden friend, Sarah, (a single mother who's just had a mastectomy at age 35), tried to calm my nerves. The ludicrousness of this wasn't lost on either of us. But it also led to

us considering a mother's fear during illness. We spoke about the children who simply cannot wait for you, or on you, whose demands only increase and whose needs remain paramount to your own.

Society fondly jests about 'man flu', a hyperbole and dependency that we look upon affectionately, the way we look lovingly at a helpless newborn. There's no expectation that this thing will care for itself. But when a mother is sick, she dare not complain, she has an unrelenting duty of

All I wanted to say to my atheist friend, Sarah, is the message we're given as Christians: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" [2 Timothy 1:7]. You don't think Mother Mary was terrified she'd be too weak to cope?! Yet ...she is forever portrayed with such a vivid clarity of mind, a deep love and an extraordinary power. THIS is the type of strength I want!

care that stops for no one. You just push on. [Disclaimer: #NotAllMen, ...although the stats don't help]

My friend Sarah told me about the isolation she felt once her chemotherapy had finished. She was simply expected to just pick up where she left off. Ironically, she feels more helpless now than she did when she was ill! All of her motherly duties are there waiting for her, yet all the helpers are gone. *Congratulations! You're well again! Here's all the rubbish from your former life for you to pick up!* Don't get me

wrong, she's ever so grateful for her health, for the years that she thought would be taken from her, and for her beautiful daughter who lights up every day like sunshine. But being thrown back in, back to the grind... That same fear and anxiety starts to set in again. How am I going to keep this up? Will I be able to keep on keeping on?

This fear plays on the minds of strong, nurturing and resilient mothers a lot. We're not immune from fear, in fact, I'd argue we have so much more to lose and the gravity of that drives our fear beyond reason. All I wanted to say to my atheist friend, Sarah, is the message we're given as Christians: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" [2 Timothy 1:7]. You don't think Mother Mary was terrified she'd be too weak to cope?! Yet this most glorified of Saints is forever portrayed with such a vivid clarity of mind, a deep love and an extraordinary power. THIS is

the type of strength I want! This is the type of woman I want to be! Although I appreciate I have a fair way to go from whining into a blanket for 7 days to attaining the power God promises.

If this resonates with you, share your stories with us at modernmarymums@gmail.com

This column is a regular feature in *St Pat's Matters*, inviting us to share these little gems. Maybe we can start a conversation about how to survive this challenging vocation of motherhood as modern Christian women?



"Mary's life....shows that God accomplishes great deeds through those who are the most humble." Pope Francis

"Abandon yourself to Mary. She will take care of you." Padre Pio

"All my work began with a simple Hail Mary for Our Lady's help."

St John Bosco

Praying and Protesting for the Voiceless Matters

Lukewarm No More: St Pat's Prayer and Vigil for the Unborn

"These Lukewarm souls wound My Heart most painfully. .. They were the reason I cried out: 'Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will.' For them, the last hope of salvation is to run to My mercy." (diary of St Faustina 1682)

Jesus compared Lukewarm souls to ice and to corpses. He described them as "Souls without love or devotion, souls full of egoism and selfishness, proud and arrogant souls full of deceit and hypocrisy, lukewarm souls who have just enough warmth to keep themselves alive: My Heart cannot bear this. All the graces that I pour out upon them flow off them as off the face of a rock. I cannot stand them because they are neither good nor bad." (Diary 1702).

It took an "abortion bill till birth, for whatever reason" to motivate our parishioners and other laity to stand up for Christ and "be salty" Matthew 5:13.

Catholics united, coming to St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, from as far afield as Maroubra, and Blacktown, to pray and ask God to protect and save the unborn and to seek His mercy.

The turn out on 16th August for the prayer and All-night Vigil was amazing. The chapel was constantly full of people despite problems with the boom gate and other technical issues that arose that night.



The reflection on the Glorious Mystery prior to the 12-hour vigil was "The Breath of Life from God" Genesis 2:7.



And the Lord God formed man of the slime of the earth: and breathed into his face the BREATH OF LIFE and man became a LIVING SOUL.



The engagement of **mankind in constant Spiritual war with God** : meaning, God creates everything good. Mankind destroys, disobeys and offends God. The Rosary reflections on the Glorious Mysteries were a reminder of Our Lady's warning at Fatima and Akita of

what is to come if Mankind does not change, but also the message of hope: if we continuously repent, confess our sins, change, receive Communion, offer sacrifices, pray the Rosary and establish a devotion to the Holy Mother, God has promised that in the end, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart will triumph.

After the Rosary, we sang the Divine Mercy Chaplet before proceeding to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. at about 7pm for the 12-hour Eucharistic Adoration.



The Chapel was constantly full. When one group left, another arrived to keep watch and pray.

At 10 pm a group of women from Blacktown lead the Rosary for the Unborn. It carried beautiful reflections and intentions which Father Bob agreed to use in our daily weekday Rosary and at the Friday Cenacle. Two women stayed with Jesus for over 12 hours straight. At 3am, the Divine Mercy Chaplet was recited and three men lead the singing of *How Great Thou Art*.



On the following Sunday, volunteers — mostly young women helped and stood outside the Cathedral after every Mass to gather signatures for the petition protesting against the proposed abortion bill before NSW Parliament. About 900 to 1,000 signatures were gathered at the Cathedral on that day alone.

However, it was sad though, that there were still a handful of uncatechised Catholics who argued that abortion should be allowed, forgetting that it defies the 5th commandment of God, thus a mortal sin. We must always put God above all and others next.

It was beautiful to see people coming together to spend time with the Lord and unite in prayer against the proposed abortion bill. God 's blessing on all who stood up for what is right.

Let us unite in prayer as Catholics and be lukewarm no more.

Praying

PATTI MURPHY WRITES ABOUT TAKING PART IN
A NON VIOLENT ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

On Friday, 16th August, fellow parishioners, Barbara, Margaret and I attended a prayer vigil at St Patrick's to try and stop the Government from passing the latest abortion bill. This non-violent opposition was organised by Bernadette Ching.

It was a lovely mild evening, but the devil did his best to try and stop proceedings with lots of electronic problems occurring. However, the organisers not to be deterred from their mission, kept on trying and eventually succeeded in "righting" the problems.

We said the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the forecourt. It was the first time we had participated in the sung version of the Chaplet and found the experience really beautiful and emotional.

We then moved into the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for further devotions and reflections.

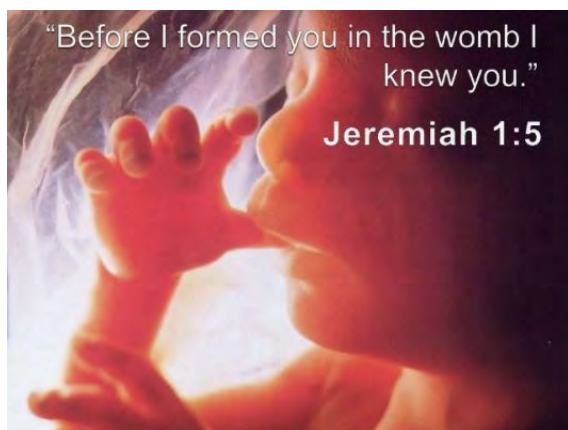
The whole evening was a very wonderful spiritual experience and we were very happy to take part in something really worthwhile. To think that human life is so easily dispensed with is abhorrent and unbelievable. How anyone can wantonly destroy a small, helpless baby is impossible to comprehend.

I recently read a definition of abortion, which really aptly defines the crux of the problem —the misguided belief and thinking of the people, who condone such action.

"Abortion is when a baby gets the death penalty for someone else's actions."

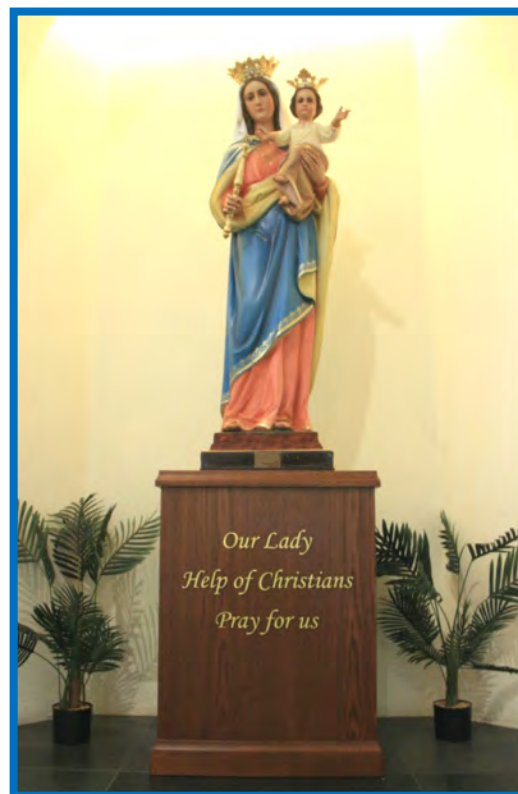
Let us all pray without ceasing to save the unborn and to change the mindset of those who think it is OK to end the lives of these innocent, voiceless victims.

Life
is a gift
from GOD



Matters

OUR LADY is EXALTED.



New Plinth for Our Lady Help of Christians

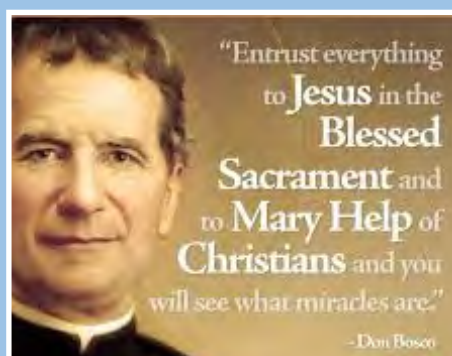
From the outset, when the statue of Mary Help of Christians, donated by Dr Therese Harb in remembrance of family members was placed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in May 2018, the Dean, Fr Bob Bossini has always maintained that she should be raised up so people could look up to her as they prayed. (Mary MacKillop's statue had occupied this niche from the opening of the new Cathedral, until being relocated to the chapel to the right of the altar during Bishop Anthony Fisher's tenure.)

Finally, on Thursday, 1st August, Father Bob's dream was realised with the installation of the new long-awaited plinth, so generously donated by the Sawant Family.

The parish community is most grateful to both the Sawant family and Dr Harb, certain our Lord's blessing will be upon you, all, for as St Paul ensures us in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "God loves a cheerful giver."

Our Lady's statue is a popular prayer stop for people seeking her intercession.

Fr Bob was formerly a member of the Salesian Order, and like its founder Don Bosco, has a special devotion to Mary Help of Christians.



Noreen McLean turned 96 on Tuesday, 10th September and what better way to celebrate this birthday milestone than to come along to 12:30pm Mass in thanksgiving for all the years of life and blessings God has given her?

Thanks is due to staunch parishioner Annette Hartman, instrumental in contacting parishioners who through regular attendance at the Vigil Mass over the years have become friends with this remarkable 96-year old to join her at this thanksgiving Mass.

Unfortunately, Noreen has been unable to attend Vigil Mass for some time now, so when she entered the Cathedral accompanied by Kaye, her "guardian angel" daughter, and spied all her "buddies" in her usual pew, her blue eyes seemed to twinkle more brightly than usual and her broad smile spoke volumes.

Before Mass Fr Bob came and greeted Noreen in her pew and at the beginning of Mass acknowledged her presence there for this special occasion.

After Mass, the obligatory group photo session took place amidst happy reunion chatter. Especially poignant is the picture captured by Gabriella Hilliker of Noreen and Fr Bob. Noreen's trusting gaze and hands clasping Fr Bob's could bear the caption

"The shepherd and one of his flock."

Remembering a Living Treasure's Birthday matters



Noreen, the Birthday Gal enthroned on her walker, with Fr Bob and most of Vigil Mass friends who came to the Mass that day.

Long-time parishioners would be well aware of Noreen's many years of service to St Patrick's Parish and beyond. — Catechist for about 40 years, a member of St Vincent de Paul, Foundation member of Parramatta branch of the Catholic Women's League, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Welcomer, visitation to Nursing Homes, and more. In 2013 she deservedly received the Diocesan Medal of Honour in recognition of her many years of humble service.

Back in 1997, June Barrett wrote an article about Noreen and her sister Marie for *St Pat's Matters*. Interested in a copy? Contact M Polizzi.



Ministry matters



Sr Mary Louise (in red cardigan) with ministers in the Cathedral for the second part of the 4-hour course.

On Sunday afternoon, 4th August over 60 parishioners attended a Training Course for Liturgical Ministers — Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers — presented by Sr Mary Louise from the Office for Worship.

Attendees included people already in the Ministry and those expressing the desire to serve at the Table of the Lord. The course was a chance for ministers to refresh their knowledge of what is the correct liturgical practice for their roles.

This is of paramount concern especially here at the Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese. Special thanks to Sr Mary Louise Walsh for her time in presenting the Formation Day.

MATTERS BEHIND THE SCENES

Terry O'Brien's in-depth article on matters pertaining to St Patrick's Cemetery reveals a passion for fighting for its "rights", a cause he doggedly pursues even to this day.



What is your response if asked to define "friend"? Most respondents might be expected to give an assurance that it is a person with whom one has a bond of mutual affection. What about the equally acceptable **"a person who supports a particular cause or organisation"**?

Would you believe that over a quarter of a century ago, this Parish had a very active group of **Friends**. Friends of a most unlikely inanimate cause surrounded by some 400 stone monuments, all that remains on the surface, marking the last resting place of some eight hundred, and probably more, of early parishioners of St Patrick's, in an untidy, neglected due to lack of funds, under care transferred years previously to Parramatta Council. Hence the name *Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery*.

I could stand corrected, but it's probable that the adoption of the name *Friends* parallels that at Gore Hill Cemetery formed in September 1975 to "work for the spiritual, historical and social significance of the cemetery, and to retain the original landscaping and siting of monuments and graves, as nearly as practicable." The Gore Hill Cemetery Act 1974 closed the cemetery to burials and dedicated the land as a public park. Willoughby City Council was appointed as Trustee and was required to improve the cemetery as a 'rest park and garden'.

With limited regular maintenance work carried out by Parramatta Council, due to lack of funding, the *Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery*, endeavoured to clean up, maintain and restore the Cemetery and present a neat appearance at one of the main entrances to the City of Parramatta. Principally, through Catherine Whitelock, the Friends enlisted the assistance of the Department of Corrective Service (Periodic Detention Centre) from the then operative Parramatta Gaol in nearby O'Connell St. Members of the *Friends* provided supervision of groups of men who, Instead of being locked up in bleak cells each weekend, and faced with prison foods, enthusiastically took part in labouring tasks under the regulatory supervision of at least two of the Friends. Smoko sessions, a BBQ lunch (meat provided by Catherine), cooked by a detainee, and the opportunity to yarn with non-prisoners, were an obvious incentive to be included in the roster.

Suters Architects Snell Conservation Plan Report, commissioned and adopted by Council after consideration by its Heritage Advisory Committee in May 1995, noted that "*The site is currently maintained to give a neat and 'uncluttered' appearance with broad sweeps of grass for efficient mowing.*" The close cutting of the grass was in fact a mistake, later rectified with higher cutting heights to encourage growth and propagation of native and exotic species of bulbs, herbaceous perennials and groundcovers unique to cemeteries.

Transfer of Trusteeship of St Patrick's Cemetery from Sydney Archdiocese by Deed to Parramatta Council in May 1975 whereby Council was to procure the conversion to a public park pursuant to the provisions of Part II of the Conversion of Cemeteries Act 1974, created local hostility and objections similar to Gore Hill. Annexed to the Deed was provision of a Fence and other measures to improve security and reduce rampant vandalism. There is provision in the Deed that after two years of the transfer, the Church, in writing can request the reversal of the Trusteeship. As far as I am aware, there have been no offers by

the Parish or Diocese to reclaim ownership. The enclosing fence has eventually been erected within the last decade, a gap of 40 odd years!

Fascinating story as to how the site was acquired and when Father Therry "acquired" tenure of a block of land at the more valuable Pennant Hills Road junction for the purpose of a Catholic Cemetery in 1826, whereas three headstones date from 1824. Major Mitchell the Surveyor General was advised in Sept. 1834 that Felton Matthew had surveyed a fenced portion said to have been "retained possession of ground" by the Roman Catholics for a period of twelve years. You do the maths.

In 1956, a strip of 5 roods 2 ¼ perches along the Church St frontage as part of Sydney Regional Environment Plan No.18 was designated as part of **the Baulkham Hills, Hoxton Park Transport Corridor**. The massive entrance gates were relocated to the new Cemetery boundary.

Between 1964 and 1974, the tenth Parish Priest of Parramatta Monsignor Francis Kerr, after a 1964 Council resolution, was asked to clean up the Cemetery. A newspaper report indicates that even with a committee and working bees, parishioners soon got tired of that. A parishioner, now deceased, informed me that a number of headstones within that strip were removed to facilitate mowing, on which eventually Mons Kerr spent his "spare" time. It was reported that while working at the cemetery it was one of his jobs to ask a number of elderly men not to use the Chapel as sleeping quarters.

On the basis of estimated requirements for employing two full time gardeners and cost of buying necessary equipment, the cost of which the Parish could not meet, Council was asked to take over the job of keeping the area tidy. Understandably, Council could not do so unless under its ownership. Hence, the transfer effected in May 1975 as noted above.

I became involved with *Friends* from 1993 to 1997 following redundancy from the RTA after 35 years as a civil engineer working throughout the state, the last 15 years of which my family lived in St Pat's Parish. Fr John Boyle, Dean and Parish Priest of the Cathedral was contesting a City Council and RTA 1993 proposal to provide a two stage six-lane widening of Church Street between Victoria Rd and By Street, North Parramatta and utilisation of the apparently vacant reserved strip of the Cemetery. I contested the proposal on his behalf.

On 19th July 1994, the Parish had been advised by the Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing that, on the Heritage Council's recommendation, the *Friends* were successful in obtaining a NSW Heritage 1994/95 Grant of \$22,500 on a dollar for dollar basis, for restoration of the Chapel in accordance with Heritage guidelines, to be completed within the twelve months.

Judith Dunn President of Parramatta and District Historical Society after three years of detailed work had published in 1988 a comprehensive record of graves and headstone inscriptions in St Patrick's Cemetery.

In 1994, with the assistance of a \$4,000 Heritage Grant from Parramatta Council, to mark the Sesquicentenary (150 years) of the laying of the foundation stone of St Francis Chapel in the Cemetery, the parish published a brochure, [to next page](#)

"Cradle of Faith, Grave of the Faithful", based largely on material in Judith Dunn's earlier book.

Fr Boyle instigated the **first formal meeting** of the *Friends* at Murphy House on 3rd February 1995. Present were lawyer Lois Hagin, (as Chairperson), Judith Dunn (now **OAM**), Catherine Whitelock, Pam Coleman, Rob Power, Parramatta Councillor Brian Prudames, Margaret Smith, Terry O'Brien, Heritage Architect, Ron Edgar, (later joined by, Kay Gill, Miranda Mouthaan and Max Rawnsley). The aim of the meeting was conservation and maintenance of St Patrick's Cemetery and curtilage, and also to raise local and national awareness of the cemetery's historical significance, as well as identifying and pursuing opportunities for funding those measures.

Records show a total of 2,155 burials were made in St Patrick's Cemetery. However, only 400 grave monuments, including headstones, vaults and wrought iron enclosures, remained in 1979, recording the burial locations of some 800 people. In its entirety, St Patrick's Cemetery is valuable as a place of cultural heritage. It is of national importance as the earliest formalised Catholic Cemetery in Australia, with as a central design feature, the oldest Mortuary chapel in Australia. The Cemetery is located at the junction of Windsor Rd/(Church St) and Pennant Hills Rd, the principal western and northern entrances to Parramatta.

Omission of the Cemetery from Council's draft Heritage Local Environmental Plan (LEP), deemed as an "oversight", by Council officers, triggered a strong response, jeopardised the start of renovation work covered by the grant for the Chapel restoration and met with strong criticism by the Hon. Barry O'Keefe AM, Q.C, Commissioner for ICAC and President of the NSW National Trust when Guest Speaker at our fund-raising Breakfast at the Atrium, in the Commonwealth Centre. The Mayor at the time, in a March 1995 Press report stated that he could not explain the omission. It had nothing to do with any planned road widening, he said.

It is my cynical view, that without any regard of the possibility of hidden burials, a soft option was chosen, to allow the RTA and Council to construct a six-lane option on a seemingly vacant strip of land on a realignment boundary and in so doing, appearing to ease congestion without consideration of existing road capacity southerly towards Victoria Rd. Installation of a solo Traffic signal with Commonwealth funding through a black spot program may have influenced promulgation of the road widening proposal. The coincidence of changes of Government in State and Federal election results of 1993, 1995 and 1996 would have of course been just that.

In July 1995, Council, as property owner gave its consent for the *Friends of St Patrick's* to proceed with conservation works to the mortuary chapel with an estimated value of \$50,000 partly funded with a \$25,000 NSWHPA grant. The works were to be consistent with the Conservation Plan prepared for Parramatta City Council by Sutera Architects Snell. Council's representative on the project was Dinah Fisher, Heritage Development Planner. The heritage work was to be strictly in accord with the Burra Charter. A complication in the renovation was removal and disposal of multi-notched asbestos cement shingles installed by Council as replacement of the original slates.

Acknowledged as contributing useful information in preparation of the Snell report were Judith Dunn, for extensive and meticulous research as President of the Parramatta and District Historical

Society, Fr Boyle, the *Friends of St Patrick's* and myself as an individual.

The actual grant was up to \$22,500 on a dollar for dollar basis, posed some problems in raising the Parish's share. The capabilities and experience of Ron Edgar of Heritage Architect Form, allowed the Chapel Renovations to be completed at a cost of \$36,045. This allowed me as Project Director to concentrate on duties as Treasurer, and Acting Secretary, from September 1995, and on work associated with the Urban Design Study, the Review of Environmental Factors (REF), EIS, and on negotiations, discussion and correspondence on the widening proposal, on behalf of Fr Boyle. It included involvement in technical aspects of archaeological and geological investigations and studies through boreholes, trenches and non-destructive radar along the seemingly vacant strip in question. With the latter I was able to continue and compare my dowsing techniques, utilised during my professional career.

Mediation through the Accord Group in early 1996 resulted in broader consideration of Transport options through a Regional rather than Local Environmental Plan, scrapping by the RTA and Council of the Stage 1 six-lane widening adjacent to the Cemetery, and reversal of the staging to provide four lanes south of Pennant Hills Rd to Victoria Rd.

It is ironic that the Catholic Weekly edition of 10th November, 1996 had a **front page** feature article and photo of the first religious service in the ruins of St Patrick's Cathedral since gutted by fire eight months earlier. The **back page** (p.28), under the Heading *Inspirations*, had photos of the fully-restored Cemetery Chapel's rededication in a simple ceremony on 6th October 1996: Mass in the renovated Chapel concelebrated by Fr Boyle and a Franciscan Friar. It was the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi. The lectionary used was that rescued from the Cathedral after the fire.

There has been very little further communication with me as Secretary of the *Friends* except advice from Council in 1997 of proposed removal of woody weeds and diseased trees and 2003 advice of a matching \$10,000 dollar for dollar basis for repair and restoration following an inventory and assessment of damaged headstones some of which were affected by falling trees during a severe storm in February 2002. A consulting heritage advisor Siobhan Lavelle, provided a listing and priority ranking and estimated costing of repairs of some 16 monuments, linked and cross referenced to Judith Dunn's inventory and the detailed Snell 1995 report. Only one of five stonemasons responded to the request with individual costs considerably higher than the estimate, resulting in projected reduction in the number to 12 likely to be repaired within the limits of the allocation. Despite the continuing degradation of the Cemetery fabric, I am not aware of what if any funding has been budgeted by Council.

Comment on a revised REF was requested of me by the RTA seemingly unaware of the ongoing construction of the Bus T way through Westmead to Parramatta by taking away a high proportion of the bus traffic to Parramatta, thus justifying our earlier stand for rejection of the six-lane proposal in 1996. I understand the Diocesan Office has dealt with a subsequent referral of Bus lanes from RTA.

With the route of Stage 1 of the **Westmead to Parramatta-Carlingford Light Rail** planned to occupy the Transport Corridor adjacent to the realigned Cemetery boundary, I consider further exploration is needed for at least seven burial sites of the strip if excavation is in excess of 1.2m, the depth limit to next page

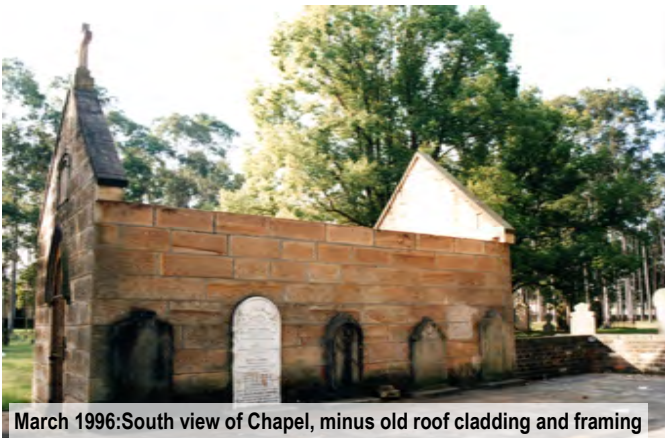
From page 22)

the depth limit in the 1993-96 site explorations. Enabling works are in progress currently in O'Connell, Factory and Barney Streets North Parramatta.

Since the Diocesan Office appears to have taken over matters affecting the Cemetery, the question arises — who is going to raise the red flag, and when, with Parramatta Light Rail Contractors, State Government or Council, before major site work on the corridor adjacent to St Patrick's Cemetery begins, in view of the demise of its *Friends* group twenty plus years ago?



← Feb. 1995:
asbestos cement
roof shingles
Pre-restoration.



March 1996: South view of Chapel, minus old roof cladding and framing



March 1996: Chapel with new timber framing.



April 1996: Eastern view of Chapel with new corrugated iron roof.



GOOD NEWS!!

Our dear 'Patrick' — pictured here in storage after the 1996 fire, waiting to return "home" to the bell tower once the cathedral was rebuilt — won't be lonely anymore, for he will soon have eight playmates to hang around with.



Undoubtedly, that news is most appealing to him! (Pun definitely intended.)

His new companions, — eight in all — arrived at the Cathedral precinct on July 29th, all the way from England. They came in grand style, cocooned carefully in individual crates. Once unhoused from their wooden abodes, 'Patrick's' future playmates were placed on display in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, in transit so to speak, until they arrive at their final destination in the Bell Tower to reside with their new playmate. One wonders, will they play together nicely with 'Patrick'?



'Patrick' is tolled at noon on weekdays to announce the praying of the *Angelus* and before 11am Mass on Sundays. The sound of bells call out to our community announcing that worship is about to begin, and to invite them to join. 'Patrick' has also been rung on other special occasions like Remembrance Day, for weddings and funerals. When 'Patrick' was reinstalled following the 1996 fire, he was placed higher in the bell tower in the hope that a peal of eight bells would be installed in the space below.

As this issue goes to press, Parramatta Diocese has just launched ***The Bells of St Patrick's Cathedral Appeal***. Pamphlets have been printed, and campaigning for donors has begun.

It is hoped that the Bells will be installed, blessed and christened sometime in 2020. Will you consider being a Bell Benefactor?

Final Words: Mixed Matters

A JOKE WORTH SHARING:

When my husband, Baldo and I travel to the Snowy Mountains, we always stop for a coffee break at a roadside cafe just before Goulburn.

It is also a popular stop-over for truckies, and last year Baldo came across a magazine, **Highway Evangelist**, the Voice of the Christian Truckie. Its heading read: For the Aussie Truckie: Serving the Trucking Industry of Australia.

It was encouraging to read the many stories therein that talked about brotherhood and dared to mention God or Jesus.

In the last edition there was what I thought was a delightfully clever joke titled, **Man-making Contest**. I felt compelled to share it with everyone. I hope you find it as "rib-tickling" as I did.

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to tell him that they were done with him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're at the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so we do not need you any more."

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man. After the scientist had finished talking God said, "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest?"

The scientist replied, "Okay. Great!"

But God added, "Now, we are going to do this just like I did back in the old days, with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure. No problem," and he bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You get your own dirt."

DING DONG MATTERS

DID YOU KNOW?

A **bell-ringer** is a person who **rings** a **bell**, usually a **church bell**, by means of a rope or other mechanism.

The term **campanologist** is popularly misused to refer to a **bell ringer**, but this properly refers to someone who studies **bells**, which is **known as** campanology.

Suffer the Little Children:

BLESSINGS FOR CHILDREN

(who have not made their Holy Communion)

You may have noticed that recently our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have started a new practice of gently touching the ciborium on top of the head of children who join in the procession along with people who are going to receive the Eucharist.

This issue was discussed at the Diocesan Liturgical Commission as a way to include children within the procession when they approach a lay Extraordinary Minister who cannot give a blessing. This custom now adopted at the Cathedral is currently the practice used by the Maronite Church as an acknowledgement that these children will one day participate in the life of the Church as fully initiated members.

Children who come forward in a line where Holy Communion is being distributed by a priest will still receive a blessing from him as has always been the practice.



Oh!
the innocence
of childhood
and enjoyment
of
simple
pleasures!

YOUR HELP MATTERS!

Please share your Photos with us, for sake of the parish archives.

You are urged to fossick through your photo albums for photos of former clergy, parishioners, important parish events etc to contribute to recording our parish's history for posterity. We'd love to publish them. Accompanying information/anecdotes would be a bonus!

Email any photos unearthed in your treasure hunt to M. Polizzi at balmap5@bigpond.com Older photos can be scanned at the parish office without causing any damage.