

# ST PAT'S MATTERS

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



*Baptised  
in Christ*

February 2022 | Issue 110

## EDITORIAL

**W**e are now into the third year of grappling with the impact of the pandemic on daily life — rules and restrictions accepted by those who do for so the common good; yet still there are dissenters objecting for personal and political reasons.

Luckily, here in the Cathedral Parish the previously long-ruffled routine is slowly returning to 'a new normal'; most parishioners determined to stay faith-focussed.

So to what's on offer in this issue?

Ivy Wallace's beautifully written article opposite, about her son's baptism, expounds on this Sacrament's sacred significance.

Check out the report on the Red Mass, which almost didn't happen, due to COVID concerns.

Travel with Patrick Newman as you read about his journey in learning the organ.

The Dean does a double feature: in sharing his vocation story and educating us about ritual matters.

Meet our new Deacon, Matthew Dimian, the feature covers his recent ordination and excerpts from an interview with *Catholic Outlook*. And read Zara Tai's reflection on her vocational choice as a consecrated virgin.

On the subject of Ministry there's a plethora of input: i.e. people writing about their involvement in Children's Liturgy, in Credo, in service as an Acolyte.

Catch up with what's happened on the hospitality front and read the tribute to Seini Loto'aniu.

Bob Edgar attempts to tempt parishioners to consider attending this year's Memorial Service for the Myall Creek Massacre.

Never heard of the Flying Pieman? In her foray into colonial history Judith Dunn reveals the life of this colourful and amazing character.

See what Modern Mary has to say; read the updates on Sacramental Matters and Special Religious Education; and view the photos from Ash Wednesday, post fire 1996.

But wait, there is more, but I'll leave you to discover that for yourselves.

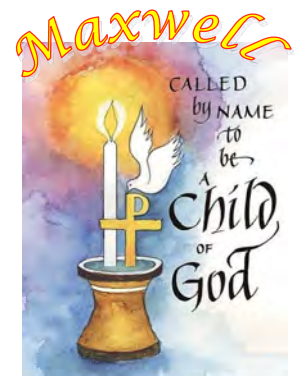
*M Polizzi*

# Sacraments



## Matter

**Those present at the Baptism of Maxwell Wallace were blessed to witness his full immersion. Sharing the joy of that day Ivy explains why she and Tim believe this Sacrament is essential in their son's life.**



**O**n Sunday 23rd January, our son Maxwell received the Sacrament of Baptism. Before Maxwell was born, we had struck up a conversation with Deacon Rod about baptism. Deacon Rod expressed his desire to do a full immersion baptism, and we were very excited about this prospect. Having witnessed full immersion baptisms during the Easter Vigil at St Patrick's Cathedral over several years, I thought, 'Why not for our child?' For me, part of the appeal of this option is that it imitates how Jesus was immersed in the river Jordan at His own baptism. Furthermore, it is a dramatic and theatrical way of using a sensory experience - being washed in water - to symbolise the reality of having one's sins washed away. I have always loved how the liturgy uses all our human senses to point to sacred realities. A full immersion baptism is a great example of this.

We had booked the baptism for 3rd October, 2020. However, due to the lockdown in the middle of last year, Maxwell's baptism was postponed. Sadly, Deacon Rod had moved to another parish in the meantime and was no longer available to do the baptism. However, we are very blessed that Fr Robert Riedling agreed to do a full immersion baptism, helping bring to fruition the seed sown by Deacon Rod, many months before.

Having grown up in the Catholic Faith, and having studied a bit of theology, my husband Tim and I had a fairly thorough understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism. As is the protocol at the Cathedral, we attended a Baptism Seminar, which was led by Fr Robert Riedling who, having recently been appointed as Dean of the Cathedral, was running the session for the first time. We were asked to share with the group why we wanted to have our child baptised. It was heartening to meet other parents and to hear their reasons for their desire to have their child baptised. One of the common threads was the desire for their child to be God-fearing and to be a person of faith. Reflecting on why I wanted my son to be baptised was enlivening because, for the first time, I had to think about Baptism not just in terms of my own faith journey or academically, but now as a sacred reality I desired for the new little person in my life. In my heart I sensed the burning desire for my child to have an indelible mark on his soul, to be claimed for Christ. It's a profound reality that each unique soul, including my son's, is designed for eternal life. I realise that what I desire most for my child is that he gets every opportunity to live a life of holiness, and to be part of Christ's Body, the church. Through Baptism, Maxwell begins his own journey to sainthood.

The Sacrament of Baptism is so rich in symbolism. Of particular note are the Explanatory Rites which occur immediately after the Baptism. The anointing with Oil of Chrism signifies sharing in Christ's everlasting life, He who himself was anointed Priest, Prophet and King. The clothing with the white garment is an outward sign of the Christian dignity of the newly-baptised, of being a new creation and clothed in Christ. I have always been inspired by the prayer associated with the white garment which indicates the role of family and friends: they are to help the newly-baptised by word and example, to 'bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven'. Next is the lighted candle, which is lit by the Godparents from the Paschal Candle. This reception of the light of Christ is a beautiful reminder that the baptised are children of light and that faith is a flame to be kept alive in our hearts. Finally there is the Ephpheta - the prayer over the ears and mouth. The priest touching the child's ears and mouth is a very tactile and earthy gesture, signifying that we hear God's word with our ears and use our mouth to proclaim our faith.



## Sacred Rituals

During the sacred ritual I felt so much joy and peace. I had every confidence that only goodness could flow from the sacred reality taking place. It was truly heartening to see so many of our friends and family in attendance, including those who are not of the Christian faith. Witnessing my child receive so many graces and blessings through this sacrament of initiation was transcendently beautiful to behold. The abundance of oil which was rubbed onto Maxwell's chest and later on, all over his head, made me think of the abundance of God's love and mercy. The Oil of Chrism which has a beautiful scent of balsam lingered as a gentle reminder of what had just taken place. Throughout the whole ceremony I was a little concerned that Maxwell might become upset and irritable, but he was so well behaved! He was so interested in everything that was happening. The music and singing always calms him. He listened to Fr Robert as he spoke, and was interested in the beautiful brocade of the cope which Fr Robert was wearing. Of particular note was how mesmerised Maxwell was by the flame of his baptismal candle. In Maxwell's reactions, I could see how complete a sensory experience the Sacrament of Baptism truly is!

For Maxwell's Godparents we chose our long time friends, Noël and Delphine, because they have been, and continue to be, a true inspiration to us as people of faith who live authentically, lovingly, joyfully, and sacrificially. We have every confidence that they will assist us in our duty as Christian parents, having raised three young children themselves, and because of the depth and unwavering nature of their own personal and lived Catholic Faith. We are truly blessed to have them in our lives, and choosing them as Godparents is a beautiful way to connect our family with theirs even more deeply.

Fr Robert welcomes Maxwell into the Christian community, claiming him for Christ our Saviour, tracing the sign of his cross on his forehead, inviting, Ivy, Tim and the Godparents do the same.



Maxwell is baptised "in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, by full immersion with Fr Robert raising and lowering him three times into the water.



Maxwell, "freed from sin and given new birth by the water and the Holy Spirit" is anointed with the chrism of salvation by Fr Robert.



Godparents, Noël and Delphine clothe Maxwell, 'now a new creation', in his white garment. His baptismal candle is lit from the Easter Candle to keep the flame of faith alive in his heart. Ephpheta: *May the Lord Jesus soon touch your ears to receive his word and your mouth to proclaim his faith.*

# RED MASS

VOTIVE MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
CELEBRATING COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2022 LAW TERM.

The RED MASS for the Legal Fraternity is held in thanksgiving for the work of all those who serve the law. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to JUSTICE and FAITH.

This year's Annual Red Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral took place on Thursday, 3rd February. Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen was the principal celebrant, and Fr Robert Riedling, Dean of the Cathedral, concelebrant. The Assembly prayed for, and gave thanks to God, for all who serve the law; and members of the Legal Fraternity, along with families and friends, came to reaffirm their commitment to justice and faith.

The celebration of the Red Mass was a collaborative effort of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Parramatta and District Regional Law Society, and the St Thomas More Society.

Members of the legal profession participated in the liturgy, with The Hon. Damien Trudhope MLC proclaiming the First Reading, (from Isaiah 42: 1-3) and The Hon Justice Geoffrey Bellew reading the Universal Prayer.



The Hon. Damien Trudhope MLC



The Hon. Justice Geoffrey Bellew

Then the offertory gifts were brought in procession by Dr Hugh McDermott MP, his wife Bettina and daughters, Camille and Geneva.



After Mass, Bishop Vincent, Fr Robert, solicitors, barristers, judges and politicians posed for a photo to record the occasion.



**DID YOU KNOW?** The celebrants are robed in red liturgical vestments to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit.



## Extract from the Bishop's Homily

Brothers and sisters,

There is no other field of human endeavour that is so deeply connected to justice as the legal profession. As Christians, your mission reflects that of the Servant Messiah who delivers justice, dignity and liberation to the victims of injustice. Modelled on Jesus, the great liberator, you are to lead others, especially the unjustly oppressed to higher levels of inclusion and human flourishing.

Ever since Pope Francis unexpectedly came onto the scene, he has challenged us to reclaim the liberating message of the Gospel. For him, it has little to do with maintaining the status quo, especially when that status quo is less than what God wants for us as individuals and as a community. Australia is a great country, but where it is in terms of its treatment of asylum seekers, the indigenous and marginalised people, we have some work to do still. Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King Jr lamented that the Christian churches were largely adjusted to the status quo, standing as a tail light behind other community agencies, rather than a headlight leading people to higher levels of justice.

We find an echo of King's prophetic stance in Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel. *"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets (with the poor), rather than a church which is unhealthy from clinging to its own security".* We cannot be true to the Gospel if we safeguard our privileges and fail to deliver justice and human dignity to those who are unjustly deprived of it. It is God's vision of justice, mercy and the fullness of life for all that consumes us and spurs us on.....

As we pray at this Red Mass for the guidance of the Holy Spirit on our work, we recommit ourselves towards God's vision of justice, mercy and the fullness of life for all humanity. Let God's total self-emptying in Christ, and his audacious identification with the victims of injustice, be our inspiration. Then we can truly be the servants of justice, the conduit of mercy and the sign of hope for all.

**Mr Michael McAuley**, President of the St Thomas More Society addressing the Assembly at the conclusion of Mass, began by thanking Bishop Vincent for his generosity in again welcoming the legal fraternity to the Cathedral for the Red Mass — and in particular for his homily, *“the words of which, if published, will provide an opportunity for fruitful thought, meditation and prayer.”*



Mr McAuley mentioned that COVID regulations had caused concerns and difficulties throughout NSW prompting the suggestion that the Red Mass should not proceed at all, even by way of livestream. But he strongly stated that to do so *“would be a great loss, for with the law there is a tradition, not merely of legalism, but of respect for the human person, respect for justice, respect for human dignity, and respect for mercy, which must be part of any decent legal system. So whatever practical reasons urged the need [for the Red Mass] to be abandoned, these traditions need to be upheld, improved and become part of our daily lives.”*

*As lawyers we are always at risk of becoming mere legalists. Bishop Vincent tonight reminds us there is more to law than technicality.”*

In closing, Mr McAuley thanked everyone for coming and looked forward to meeting over refreshments in the Cloister Function Room.

## Saintly Matters: did you know?

**Saint Thomas More**  
is the  
**Patron Saint of**  
**Lawyers,**  
**Statesmen &**  
**Politicians**



He was the first lay Chancellor of England, succeeding Cardinal Wolsey. Together with his wife, Jane Colt, they had four children, Margaret, Elizabeth, Cecily, and John. When Jane Colt died while the children were young, More married Alice Middleton.

More was a key figure in the northern Renaissance, a supporter of the new learning which rediscovered, and made accessible, the Greek and Latin classics. In his professional life, he combined law and politics.

In 1496 he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn. In 1510 he became Under-Sheriff of London and was elected to Parliament. In 1517, More became a member of the King's Council. In 1523 he was elected Speaker of the House of Commons. In 1525, More was appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

In 1534, More was arrested and imprisoned for refusing to take an oath to the Act of Succession, following Henry VIII's divorce of Catherine of Aragon, and marriage to Anne Boleyn. He refused also to take an oath acknowledging Henry VIII as head of the Church in England. At the time, More was silent as to why he refused to take these oaths.

However, as More had made clear earlier in less controversial circumstances, each citizen is required to obey the law, but no one is bound to swear that every law is well-made.

More was condemned to death following a trial notable for its lack of natural justice and is famous for making it clear that he bore Henry no ill will, forgiving his enemies, dying rather than doing what his informed conscience told him was wrong. More's headless body is to be found in the church St Peter Ad Vincula within the Tower of London. His head is in a family vault in a church near Canterbury.

In 1935 Thomas More was canonised, and in 2000 he was proclaimed Patron Saint of statesmen, politicians and lawyers by Pope St John Paul II. Saint Thomas More's feast day is celebrated on 22 June. His statue is situated in *The Speaker's Garden* at Parliament House in Sydney.

**Two of St Thomas More's quotes worth reflection:**

***“I die the king's faithful servant, but God's first.”***

***“Two evils, GREED and FACTION  
are the destruction of all justice.”***

### **The VIPs WHO ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO ATTEND THE RED MASS**

**Justice Geoffrey Bellew**, Supreme Court of NSW

**Judge Doug Humphreys & Judge Samantha Murdoch**  
Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia

**Mrs Durga Owen** representing  
**Hon. Julie Owens**, Federal Minister for Parramatta

**The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee**, Minister for Corrections  
and State Member for Parramatta

**Dr Hugh McDermott**, State Member for Prospect

**Mr Guy Zangari**, State Member for Fairfield

**Rev. Hon. Fred Nile**, Member of Legislative Council, NSW

**Deputy Commissioner Malcolm Lanyon**  
representing Commissioner Karen Webb of NSW Police

**Commissioner Corcoran**, Corrective Services NSW

**Mrs Trina Schmidt** representing  
Commissioner Bob Rodgers NSW Rural Fire Services



It was back in 2019, that Solicitor Steve McAuley, President of the Parramatta & District Regional Law Society, initiated the reinstatement of the Red Mass at the Cathedral to mark the new Law Year. At this year's Mass he told *Catholic Outlook*

*“our faith cannot be compartmentalised.*

*We live our faith not only when we got to Mass, but also in our office, in our courtrooms, in the street. The way we practise as lawyers is impacted by the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.”*

# The Matter of Patrick Newman's Organ Journey

## Organ Scholar awarded A.Mus.A

Congratulations to our Cathedral Organ Scholar, Patrick Newman, who was awarded the Associate Diploma in Music performance on Organ (A.Mus.A) last week.

Under the tutelage of our Director of Music, Patrick played a 45-minute program of challenging organ pieces on our cathedral pipe organ for the two visiting examiners (one Federal AMEB, and one state AMEB rep).

The program included:

- ♦ J.S.Bach's Toccata in Fugue in D minor (Dorian);
- ♦ Mendelssohn Organ Sonata no.1 (1st movement);
- ♦ Gigout "Scherzo" and
- ♦ Suite "Captain Logan's Fancy" by Australian composer Colin Brumby.

Well done on achieving this distinguished result, Patrick!

The above notice appeared in the Parish Bulletin, 19th December, 2021.

As editor, reading of Patrick's award in the bulletin, I immediately thought, "this calls for coverage in St Pat's Matters!"

So invitation extended to the Organ Scholar — with proposed questions — and accepted. Enjoy travelling with Patrick on his organ journey.

### • Patrick, what attracted you to this instrument in particular? How old were you?

When I was in primary school at St Patrick's Primary, Mum and I used to walk past the Cathedral every day after she picked me up from school. One day, as we walked past we heard someone playing the organ inside the cathedral, so we went inside to see who it was. This was the first time I saw the Cathedral organ and met Bernard [Kirkpatrick]. Bernard let me have a play on the organ as my Mum told him that I played the piano. I was immediately interested in the pedals on the organ, as to me it seemed impossible to play notes on the feet. However, I was amazed watching Bernard use both his hands and feet to play the music. This was the main thing that drew me into learning the organ.

### • How did your having lessons come about?

After Bernard let me have a go on the organ that time, he must've seen some potential in me because he said that when I was tall enough to reach the pedals, he would teach me the organ. So luckily, a couple of years later, I got taller and Bernard began to teach me how to play the organ.

### • At what age did you begin having lessons?

I began to have lessons around the age of 10 on a Wednesday night and I continue to have lessons to this day.

### • Was Bernard your first teacher and St Pat's organ the first you played on?

In terms of organ, yes, Bernard was my first and only teacher. However, before that, I had taken lessons in violin and piano for 3 and 4 years respectively. However, the teaching style of the piano was very different from the organ. On the piano, dynamics (or loud and soft) is largely determined on how hard you strike the key — for a softer sound you touch the key lighter, and for a larger sound, heavier. But on the organ, to change the dynamics, it is largely determined by changing the registration (different sounds) or the swell and choir boxes. St Pat's was the first organ I had played on. However I have gratefully been given the opportunity to play on other organs such as at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, St Margaret Mary's in Merrylands and many more.

### • What do you value about Bernard's tutelage during your 'apprenticeship'.

I have valued a lot of things during my time with Bernard. The first was being taught by one of the best in the business. Bernard was able to greatly develop my technical skills on the organ which enabled me to go from very basic pieces to eventually pieces at AMUS level. There was never a time when I was with him that I did not learn something new and am also grateful that he gave up his own time to teach me each Wednesday for the last 9 years. Definitely, I would not



↑ then, novice 9 yr old



↓ now, accomplished almost 20 yr old

Patrick with his first and only teacher, Director of Music, Bernard Kirkpatrick.

be at the level I am at now without him and cannot thank him enough for his help over the years.

On top of that, Bernard gave me the opportunity to play at numerous events which helped a lot with my confidence. When I had learnt a postlude, he would give me the opportunity to play it at the end of 11 o'clock Mass. As I progressed, I was given the opportunity to play at significant Masses such as Christmas, Easter, Feast Days and Ordinations. I am greatly appreciative of these opportunities and hope I will continue to be offered to play at these liturgical celebrations in the future.

Finally, there has been a large support network which has always been in evidence as I have progressed over the years. Whether it be members of the cathedral choir, priests and deacons or parishioners, they have always been around to support me. I very much appreciate their support.

### • What has been your practice regimen throughout all your years of training?

At first, I would only come in for my lesson on Wednesday once a week with

To next page

## PATRICK'S ORGAN JOURNEY. cont'd

Bernard to learn some basics on the organ. After a few years I was given a key to the organ and I would come in one additional day, on a Friday, to do my own practice. Eventually I would come in when necessary to practice, (during preparation for Associate Diploma of Performance this was almost daily).

When I came into practice, I would usually start with a warm-up of either pedal or keyboard exercises. After that I would start practicing my pieces. Bernard taught me a good way of practicing which involved a single hand with the pedal. This allowed the piece to be essentially 'pulled apart' and then brought back together. On top of that I would occasionally do sight reading exercises, which is essentially playing a piece the first time you see it. I found that it added depth to my organ playing and also provided a base for improvisations.

### • Favourite pieces?

I have a lot of favourite pieces however the main ones are:

Boellman Toccata  
Vierne – Toccata in B flat Minor  
Vierne – Symphony No 1 – Finale  
Brumby – Captain Logan's Fancy  
Bach Dorian Toccata and Fugue

### • Future aspirations? Where to now, Patrick?

I am currently finishing off my Actuarial Studies/Commerce Degree at UNSW and hope to pursue a career in that area. However, I don't intend to stop music and hope to still continue playing regularly at the Cathedral to assist Bernard and further develop my skills as a musician.

### • Comments on parental support?

I also could not be at this point in life without my parents. They have always been around to provide support and have provided me with the opportunity to learn and grow. I wouldn't be where I am now without them.



Patrick, with his parents, Peter and Priscilla, at the **Blessing of the Bells Ceremony**, in September 2020. They are standing beside the bell they donated and named after St Michael the Archangel.

## PRIESTLY MATTERS



*Congratulations  
to  
Fr Peter Williams AM*

*A*mong the 1040 Australians named on the 2022 Honours List publicly announced on 26th January, Australia Day, was that of Fr Peter Williams.

Fr Peter was named a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)**, the award bestowed upon him in recognition of his significant service to the Catholic Church in Australia, and to tertiary education.

When congratulated on receiving the award, Fr Peter said he was honoured, but also surprised at his inclusion on the list. He expects to receive his insignia at a ceremony to be held later in the year, possibly April.

Fr Peter commented to Catholic Outlook that *"It is an award for all of us who are living the mission of the Church."*

Notable ways Fr Peter has served the Church:

- Over his 30 years in the Diocese of Parramatta, he has served as parish priest, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia since 2011, and Administrator of the Diocese 2014 to 2016 prior to Bishop Vincent being installed as the fourth Bishop of Parramatta;
- being part of the design team for the rebuilding of the Cathedral post the fire in February, 1996.

Beyond Parramatta Diocese Fr Peter

- served as the Executive Secretary of the National Liturgical Commission from 2000 to 2011;
- was Director of Liturgy for World Youth Day Sydney in 2008;
- was elected a Fellow of St John's College, University of Sydney and was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University from the Australian Catholic University in 2014; and
- continues to teach Liturgical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, in Strathfield.

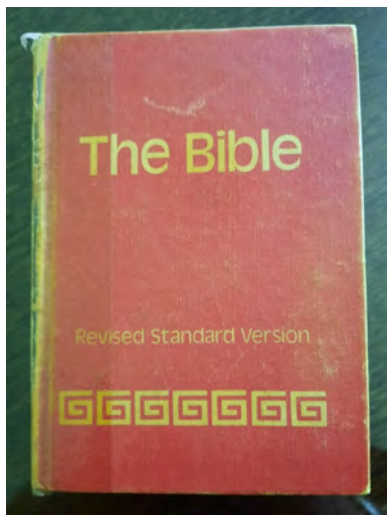
In comments to *Catholic Outlook* former ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Emeritus Professor Greg Craven AO, GCSG, described Fr Peter as *"a religious polymath, able to turn his hand to anything, from building Cathedrals, to developing liturgies, to helping establish a university campus in Blacktown. He is a credit to his country and his Church."*

**Well done, Fr Peter!**

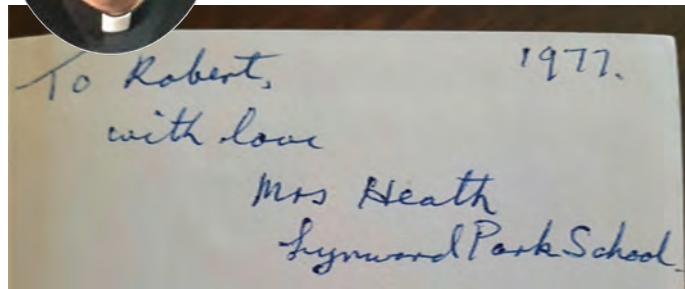


**Rev Christopher del Rosario.**  
recently appointed Director of Vocations  
for three years from 1 February 2022.

Fr Chris will now be even busier, adding this new role to his priestly duties as Assistant Priest here at the Cathedral and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies!



WHAT DOES THIS BIBLE AND ITS INSCRIPTION  
HAVE TO DO WITH FR ROBERT RIEDLING?  
READ HIS VOCATION STORY TO FIND OUT.



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**I**n the last edition of *St Pat's Matters*, [109] I shared something of my upbringing in a home with no explicit religious activity, focusing particularly on my memories of family Christmas celebrations as a child. In relation to that, a couple of people expressed an interest in hearing my vocation story, especially coming from someone who didn't have the usual "cradle Catholic" background. So I present the first part of an abridged version of my vocation story here in this edition for those who might find it of interest. The second part will follow in the next edition.

As an attendee of state schools, I did get some religious input, as scripture classes, given by volunteers, (just like our own wonderful SRE volunteers here at St Patrick's) seemed to be compulsory throughout much of my schooling. I still have a copy of the Bible given to me as a prize when I was in Year 4 for reciting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm from memory. It is inscribed inside the front cover: "To Robert, with love. Mrs Heath, Lynwood Park School, 1977".

I don't think I opened that Bible for many years but I have kept it to this day as a memento of the first contact I had with Christian faith in any systematic way.

Scripture classes were less frequent in high school and by the time I attended university in 1986 I had basically lost contact with any faith input, this situation only deteriorating throughout my time at university, put off as I was by the aggressive approach of some of the religious groups on campus which appeared to be interested only in proselytizing.

Living away from home after university was the opportunity God seemed to take to make himself known to me. I recall one day having a very sudden realisation that God was real and not a mere fiction, and for the first time in my life I knelt and prayed a prayer of thanksgiving, adopting the posture that most people unacquainted with the practice would feel is most characteristic of prayer. I consider this to have been a mystical experience since I can't explain any reason for its occurrence other than God

reaching out to me despite my lack of interest in God.

I moved back home soon after this and realised that, if this experience was going to go anywhere, then I needed to associate with a Christian community of some sort, people who had a meaningful and loving relationship with God.

I started attending my local Anglican church on Sundays, making this choice purely on the basis that my parents had been baptised in the Church of England. I found a very nice group of people and approached the minister after attending for a couple of months, asking about the process for baptism. He was very patient with me and sat down and explained what sort of commitment I would be making in becoming a baptised Christian.

I was looking forward to this important step in my new-found relationship with God but then started to think that it might be wise to investigate some other Christian denominations before taking this momentous step in my life....

*Father's Story continues next issue*

*I recall one day  
having a very sudden realisation  
that God was real  
and not a mere fiction,  
and for the first time in my life  
I knelt and prayed  
a prayer of thanksgiving,.....  
I consider this  
to have been a mystical experience  
since I can't explain  
any reason for its occurrence  
other than God reaching out to me*

# A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE: New Deacon appointed to the Cathedral Parish



**MATTHEW DIMIAN** arrived to take up residence in the presbytery in late January as a seminarian, most likely counting the days to Saturday 5th February, when he was to be ordained a Deacon by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, at Holy Family Church, Sacred Heart Parish, Luddenham-Warragamba.

He began his appointment in St Patrick's Cathedral Parish as Deacon on Monday 7th February, (the position had been vacant since late 2021 when Deacon Rod Pirotta was appointed to South Mount Druitt Parish). While Deacon Pirotta is a member of the Permanent Diaconate, Matthew, as a Deacon, continues his journey to ordination to the Priesthood.



SACRED MOMENTS: MATTHEW'S ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

In his words of thanks following his ordination, Deacon Matthew paid tribute to his family:

**"To my family – in ways you may not realise, you have been preparing me for this ministry. Thank you for being a home where God is at the centre and you have been such massive supporters of my vocation."**

He ended by asking everyone to

**"pray that I may exercise this new ministry of the diaconate with faithfulness and humility."**

Prior to his ordination Matthew was interviewed by Mary Brazell for *Catholic Outlook*, his responses revealing a young man whose focus is firmly fixed on Christ.

Selected parts of that interview appear below:

**Why did you decide to become a priest? What called you to the priesthood?**

**Matthew:** *I have wanted to be a priest since I was four or five years old, and that desire was still there by the end of high school. But at that time I was scared and unprepared, so I decided to pursue a couple of secular degrees at university instead. I quickly found that I was restless and unsatisfied there and it became clear to me that I would only be happy if I followed God's will for my life and not my own plans. But I seriously questioned: how can I really know what God's will is for me? When I looked at this desire to be a priest, tugging at my heart, I wondered: Is God speaking to me through this desire, or is it just my own fantasy? Does it come from God or just from me?*

*I examined my intentions and I found that my motivation to join the priesthood was not personal gain or an escape from something else in life. Rather, my desire flowed out of a love for God, for his Church, and for the Eucharist. I noticed that my longing to be a priest grew and developed the more that I deepened my relationship with God. These were clear signs that God was behind the desire. I spoke with spiritual directors,*

*family and friends, and they confirmed that I was suited to the priesthood and that the calling might be real. So I became convinced that God was calling me there.*

**What message do you have to other young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood?**

**Matthew:** *The Gospel reading on the day of my ordination is providentially a Gospel that I love, and one that is very relevant to vocational discernment. Christ calls Peter to put out into the deep, and Peter hauls in a miraculously overwhelming catch of fish. In response to this manifestation of divine power Peter recognises his weakness: "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." I felt very similarly to Peter when it became clear that God was calling me to the priesthood. I felt (and feel) completely unworthy and incapable. Christ's answer to Peter is the answer he gave to me, and the answer he gives to each of you: "Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch." Do not be afraid. If Christ calls, he will enable you to fulfill this vocation by a free, undeserving gift of his grace.*

**Have you received any great advice on your vocational journey?**

*Keep your eyes firmly fixed on Christ. This advice may seem generic, but I found it powerful because it was applicable to so many situations in which I found myself. Feeling weighed down by your own inadequacies? The solution is to focus on Christ, whose power is made perfect in weakness. Discouraged by church politics? Focus on Christ, who is the Head of the Church, and who is in control of it all. Overwhelmed by work? Focus on Christ, who can multiply your small efforts just as he multiplied the loaves and the fish. Is life dreary and dull? Focus on Christ, who came that we might have life and have it to the full.*

**Deacon Dimian, the parish community of St Patrick's Cathedral bids you a warm welcome.**

**God grant that your ministry with us is fruitful AND long.**

# Sharing Matters

It's very likely that many people have not even heard of the vocational choice of life as a consecrated virgin. Yet that is the path that Zara has chosen. In sharing her story she hopes to enlighten people as to how this vocation has shaped her life of service to God and to the community.



**T**he *World Day of Consecrated Life* was on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (2 February). This year marks 6 years since Fr Peter Williams sent me to Rome to attend the Conference on Consecrated Life. People from all forms of consecrated life, Pope Francis and the leaders of the Dicastery of Consecrated Life celebrated Mass as a sign of unity of all forms of consecrated life.

It is a far cry from where my vocation began over 20 years ago, on the western edge of the Diocese, in the little parish of Blackheath. When I gained employment near Parramatta, I attended Mass here [at St Patrick's Cathedral]. The community adopted me. I studied a theology degree during this time. Parishioner Pat Batistic proofread my assignments, for which I am so grateful. I graduated in 2020; one of the first consecrated virgins to gain a degree from the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Many parishioners supported me as I took a private vow of celibacy often. However, the private vow was only a prelude to what was my real vocation. On 13 August 2017, Bishop Vincent consecrated me and I became the first consecrated virgin in the Diocese. Family and friends from parts of NSW, Victoria and Queensland attended. Parishioners came to witness this wonderful occasion and to show their support.

I am thankful to the parishioners and priests of the parish who have supported me, including Marian Polizzi, who always encouraged me to tell my vocation story. I am especially grateful to Fr Peter Williams and Bishop Vincent and previous bishops for their support.

Although I have moved away from the Cathedral Parish, I do come to the Cathedral from time to time, particularly for the major liturgical celebrations.

My life as a consecrated virgin is quite good. I feel I am in the life God called me to. My service to the Diocese is simply to be Church in places least expected, like my work in local government, travels to remote parts of the world and sporting pursuits. I have had conversations on religious matters on dive boats, on the beach, at work — pretty much anywhere because

when people ask me if I am married and then the truth of my life comes out, this becomes a conversation starter. I have also raised funds for worthy causes — and not for causes where one would expect. Last year, when I did my first ocean swim, I raised over \$3000 for the Rainbow Club which provides swimming lessons to children with disabilities.

I have also been of service in writing. Avid readers of the *Catholic Outlook* know that I have written articles on consecrated life and spiritual matters. The most important article I have written is called "*Consecrated Life and the Spirit of Unity*". It explains what consecrated life is, the different forms and the essential parts of them. It reflects what I learnt in Rome. Through social media, I have connected with consecrated virgins from around the world. The growth of the vocation in Central and South America and Europe has been phenomenal. The Central and South American consecrated virgins translate my articles into Spanish and incorporate them in their online-newsletters which are circulated around the very large Catholic Spanish-speaking world.

Like all new ways of life, there have been some challenges. One of the biggest challenges is inclusive language. "Religious" refers to religious orders only. The word is still used in some parts of the Mass and Church documents. When this occurs, other forms of consecrated life such as my own, are excluded. Since I was consecrated, I have been at peace. I have fulfilled God's call. I feel God's presence in guiding me to pioneer a new vocation in the Diocese and to face the challenges that brings. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when I write articles and when I have religious discussions in places where the Church is not. I look back at where I have come from and in doing so, remember the parish of the Cathedral.

Please, continue to pray for me as I pray for you.

**Zara Tai OCV**  
**Consecrated Virgin**  
**Diocese of Parramatta**



On 13 August 2017, when Bishop Vincent consecrated Zara, she became the first consecrated virgin in the Diocese.

**MODERN MARY, a modern mother, states that 'the Church, as a universal mother to its congregation, is tasked with embracing the weak, minorities, and those whose voices are muted by the institutions that govern them,' but also acknowledges that we are individually challenged to consider what it means to be part of a 'truly global community.'**

February 2022

In recent editions, we considered how the Church, as the ultimate matriarch, embodies the characteristics of motherhood in service to its children. Unlike patriarchal institutions motivated by profit and power, the Church as a universal mother to its congregation is tasked with embracing the weak, minorities, and those whose voices are muted by the institutions that govern them.

One of our parish's most loved women suggested to me the concept of the pandemic being akin to this generation's world war. Although we acknowledged the proportionality and devastation aren't comparable, there are certainly similarly subversive and far-reaching impacts.

It led me to think about what it means to experience something that impacts the whole world. What does it mean to be a global community facing one crisis? As Catholics, can we ask what it would mean to have a truly 'universal' response to this challenge?

On his 'Coronacast' podcast last month, Dr Norman Swann noted the great need for us to vaccinate less developed nations if we want to stop fielding the random strains that rapidly spread and evolve there. And although many may not find his accent as hypnotic and alluring as I do, he certainly makes a point about the futility of only vaccinating developed countries and failing to vaccinate the global population. The argument

is, new strains will just continue to evolve and spread if we ignore half the world.

It's time for us to consider what being a truly global community looks like. The West is always cheerfully touting globalisation and global citizenship as it reaps the benefits, but now is the real test, when the health of our people and our economies are under threat. As we attempt to grasp a sense of normality in our lives, it certainly feels like **'I am a stranger on earth'** [Psalm 119:19].

**What does it mean to be a global community facing one crisis?**

**As Catholics, can we ask what it would mean to have a truly 'universal' response to this challenge? [of the pandemic]**

As a Catholic, one part of a universal whole, I consider what it means for me to be a global citizen. I have my own risk appetite and understanding of this threat, whether I dismiss it as a mild flu or not, I consider the vulnerable individuals around me.

We're filled with gratitude as we consider those less fortunate than us, those without access to health care,

those in nations where the virus is the least of their concerns, those in vulnerable communities, the immuno-compromised... Perhaps being truly 'universal' is to hold a place in our hearts and minds for those who aren't as privileged as us.

Share your stories with us at [modernmarymums@gmail.com](mailto:modernmarymums@gmail.com)

Join the conversation about how on earth to survive the challenging vocation of motherhood as modern Christian women.



## Take TIME to REFLECT on Mothers - Women - Church

"The New Year begins under the sign of the Holy Mother of God, under the sign of the Mother.

A mother's gaze is the path to rebirth and growth. We need mothers, women who look at the world not to exploit it, but so that it can have life. Women who, seeing with the heart, can combine dreams

and aspirations with concrete reality, without drifting into abstraction and sterile pragmatism.

And the Church is a Mother, this is what makes the Church feminine. For this reason, we cannot find a place for women in

the Church without allowing the heart of the Woman and Mother to shine. This is the place of women in the Church, the great place, from which other places, more concrete and less important, are derived. **But the Church is Mother, the Church is woman.**

And since mothers bestow life, and women "keep" the world, let us all make greater efforts to promote mothers and to protect women. How much violence is directed against women! Enough!

**To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity. He did not do it through an angel; nor did he come directly; he did it through a woman. Like a woman, the Mother Church, takes the humanity of her sons and daughters."**

From Pope Francis' Homily on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (01 January 2022)



**Judith Dunn OAM** once again takes a trip into our colonial history. This time her subject is a person who, despite his eccentricity, or because of it, achieved fame for his amazing and often bizarre antics.

When submitting the article Judith commented, "I just hope he was proud of his achievements which were remarkable."

Sad to know that this extraordinary, 'larger than life' character died destitute, unrecognised for his earlier fame and buried in an unmarked grave.

# History Matters

## THE FLYING PIEMAN

William King was born in London in 1807 and arrived in the colony in 1829, probably as a remittance man. This means he was, for some reason, an embarrassment to his family and was sent to the colony and paid a remittance by the family to stay here. At that time, it was common for the first son to inherit the family fortune, the second son was bought a commission in the services and the third son was offered to the church. William's father intended him for the church but the church was reluctant to have him. Newspaper reports describe him as being, "of unsettled temper" and "of a boisterous nature" not befitting the sacred office. He loved the great outdoors and was very fond of riding, hunting, shooting and fishing. William's father was Paymaster of Accounts in the Treasury at Whitehall and it was shameful for his son to be rejected by the church so William was sent to the colony.

On arrival he was expecting to obtain a post as clerk in the Treasury in Sydney but that did not materialise and he took a post as clerk at Bong Bong near Berrima. He later became tutor to the sons of Mr William Kern of Campbelltown, a post he held for some time, until it was discovered he was teaching more hunting, shooting and fishing than Latin and Greek.

By 1834 he was working at the *Hope and Anchor Inn* where he fell in love with a convict lass but was refused permission to marry her, so they decided to return to England. Only having enough fare for one person, King had his love sealed in a wooden crate and taken on board. His plan to join the ship went badly wrong when he misjudged the tide and arrived at the wharf to see the ship already under way down the harbour. Today, a ship sails at the appointed time but in the 1830s it sailed when the tide and wind was right. Despite seizing a horse and galloping to the heads waving his hat, the ship sailed on. His manner deteriorated after this incident when he was described as, "peculiar and vivacious" and shed the usual conventions of dress and behaviour – becoming quite eccentric.



The Flying Píeman  
1832-33  
THE FLYING PIEMAN, 1872

Dressed in a blue frock coat, white open neck shirt, top hat with multi coloured streamers, red satin knee breeches and white hose with sturdy boots, he became a well-known sight in Sydney, striding round with his own little stove. William from then on began making and selling meat pies around Hyde Park (then a race track) and the wharves at Circular Quay. His boisterous bellow of, "Pies, hot pies! Kidney, pork or mutton pies," became a familiar cry in Sydney. In increasingly unusual feats both as a pieman and in pedestrianism\*\*, he would

sell hot mutton pies to the passengers boarding the ferry to Parramatta and when the boat pulled away, he would run the sixteen miles to Parramatta wharf and sell the remaining pies to the same passengers getting off the ferry.

He became known in newspapers as *The Flying Pieman* and reams of newsprint related many of his memorable pedestrian achievements. Wagers were laid on his walks and he became a well-known figure of entertainment as his feats of endurance became more and more remarkable. From *The Flying Pieman* he was eventually noted as *The Celebrated - Ladies - Walking - Flying - Jumping - Running - Pieman*.

All roads in the colony were measured from the obelisk in Macquarie Place, Sydney, so he wagered to walk from there to the sixteen-mile stone at Parramatta and back again in six hours. Remembering a normal walking pace is four miles per hour, his times were remarkable.

Starting with smaller wagers, the Pieman bet he could walk from *Titterton's Hotel* to *Ireland's Hotel* on the Parramatta Road and return (a distance of eight miles) in one hour and ten minutes. Having made and sold his pies, he set out from Titterton's at 10.15am and walked to Ireland's and back with three minutes to spare to beat the bet.

Always eager to outdo himself, he walked from Sydney to Parramatta and return twice a day for six consecutive days. That totals 64 miles a day for six days. He raced the coach from Windsor to Sydney managing to arriving seven minutes ahead of the coach.

Increasing the difficulty and complexity of his wagers, he carried a dog weighing 70 pounds from Campbelltown to Sydney between the hours of 12.30am and 9am arriving with twenty minutes to spare. Next, he carried a live goat weighing 92 pounds from the *Talbot Inn*, Sydney to Mr Nash's at Parramatta in six hours 48 minutes, beating the set time by twelve minutes. "Mr Nash" was Andrew Nash, who ran the well-known *Woolpack Inn* whose licence still exists today, although in a different building.

Imagine the interest and excitement created by this man in a harsh colony, where most of the population was a convict or emancipated convict. There was little entertainment and the fun he created was immense. People stood outside their rude bark huts to watch him pass and cheer him on as he walked between the major settlements. Children joined in, jogging along for a mile or two before dropping off and returning to their homes.

Bustling Parramatta came in for its share of the excitement. King walked from St John's Church, Parramatta to St Matthew's at Windsor for three consecutive days, a distance of 43 and a half miles, the first day taking eight hours, the second day seven and a half hours and the third day seven hours and twenty-five minutes.

Either life in Sydney began to pall or the Flying Pieman wanted to amaze people in far-flung areas. He moved on, first to Maitland where his arrival was met by the town band, then on to Morton Bay. Feted by hundreds in these bush towns, his wagers became increasingly peculiar. He offered to walk a mile, walk backwards for a mile, pull a coach for a mile with a lady sitting in it, to pick up and place in a bag, 100 rats placed at one-yard intervals along his route. These bets were not taken up. One wonders who would have gathered the rats and how they would have been induced to stay a yard apart as he gathered them.

After some time, he returned to Sydney. Despite all the wagers, he did not appear to have reaped any advantage for himself except for the self-gratification at having acquitted himself in his set tasks. His bent for such undertakings and readiness to back himself plus his peculiar and vivacious manner made him the dupe of many. Maybe he did not have a head for business as he was eventually reduced to entering the Liverpool Asylum for destitute men where he died in 1873, apparently unrecognised for his earlier fame. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Catholic section of St Luke's Cemetery, Liverpool.

A man larger than life, he achieved fame firstly for his pies and then his pedestrian feats and gave the newspapers pages of harmless copy. He created much innocent amusement in a harsh colony where entertainment was scarce.

I am sure if he was alive today, he would be in the Olympics! The world is poorer when there is not room to celebrate such a lively and harmless, if eccentric, character.

Behind many of the homeless, destitute and eccentric people on our streets today may lie interesting stories of the ups and downs of life, of fame and fortune, of love and loss. A story such as that of William King, The Flying Pieman, may give us a new perspective.

Sources:

Australian Dictionary of Biography and myriad newspaper reports

**\*\*Pedestrianism** was a 19th-century form of competitive walking, often professional and funded by wagering, from which the modern sport of racewalking developed.



Judith notes:

The photo seems to have been taken at the destitute asylum judging by his clothes and seems a sad picture to me. W F King is William Francis King and the writing says it was taken about 1869/70. Died 1874. (but ADB\*\* says he died August 1873.)

The sketch on the previous page is dated 1872, so must have been from the memory of N Mackintosh who sketched characters of Sydney. He looks in his athletic prime.

\*\*ADB is the Australian Dictionary of Biography. It's a terrific resource. — a whole set of books with biographies from the First Fleet on.

A touch of humour  
from IAN GATES  
in his Pearly  
Gates cartoon



# MINISTRY MATTERS: SERVING GOD & COMMUNITY AS AN ACOLYTE

*From Altar Server to Acolyte.....Michael Lilley shares some memories of that journey.*

For those who are new to St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, my name is Michael Lilley and I serve as an Acolyte at the 8:00am Sunday Mass and 6:30am Masses on Monday and Wednesday mornings. I have been a parishioner here for 39 years, from childhood, and have attended Mass at St Patrick's since 1983, before it became a Cathedral in 1986.

I started in ministry as an Altar Server in the late 1980s continuing to eventually become a Senior Server as a young adult. In 2010 I won a trip to Rome, (in a Raffle at the St Patrick's Spring Fair), to attend the Canonization of Australia's first Saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop. While in Rome I served at Mass for my pilgrimage group. Being in Rome was an honour in itself with the presence of the Vatican and the Papacy, central to our faith as Catholics.

It was while in Rome that I felt inspired by my love of serving at our Lord's Altar to deepen my commitment to that role.— It was a calling, a vocation, a desire to now serve our Lord in the Office of Acolyte.

So back home after the pilgrimage I enrolled at the Diocese of Parramatta's *Institute for Mission* at Blacktown to do their Liturgical Ministry Course which was very in-depth, with the last unit applying to men wishing to be instituted as an acolyte in their respective parishes within the Diocese.

Usually, in June every year there is special Diocesan Mass for the Institution of Acolytes, but for the past two years, due to COVID, no courses were held and consequently no new acolytes were instituted.

The word 'acolyte' derives from the Greek work 'akolouthos', which means 'server', 'companion' or 'follower'. In the Catholic Church, a man is installed in the Ministry of Acolyte to assist the Deacon and Priest in liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass.

The first reference to the Office of Acolyte dates from the time of Pope Victor 1 (189-199) and was mentioned frequently in Roman documents after the 4th Century. Acolytes existed in North Africa, but were unknown outside Rome and North Africa until the 10th Century when they were introduced throughout the Western Church. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) defined the Order and hoped to reactivate it on a pastoral level, but it became only a preparatory rite or minor order leading to the priesthood.

A directive of Pope Paul VI (effective 1st January, 1973) decreed that the Office of Acolyte should no longer be called a Minor Order but a Ministry and it should be open to laymen. In my ministry as an acolyte for the Cathedral Parish and for the Diocese of Parramatta, I am not assigned to a particular parish like a priest or deacon. I can serve as an acolyte in any parish of the Diocese, with the permission of the parish priest, but I choose to fulfill my ministry here at St Patrick's, Parramatta.

As an Acolyte I can distribute Holy Communion at Mass and take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound; I can conduct Communion Services in Nursing Homes and in emergencies if a priest is unable to celebrate Mass. (We are very lucky here at the Cathedral, as we don't have a shortage of priests.

The most fulfilling aspect of being an Acolyte is serving the Lord at His Altar in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Another joy for me is training young boys and girls who wish to become altar servers and watching them grow within their ministerial roles. I have trained a few in my time here at the Cathedral, — Stacey Touche, Jorel Mateo and Jerick Nubla, to name just some — all of whom are now teenagers or young adults. I am currently training Anthony and Francis, brother and sister, who are serving at the 8am Sunday Mass. Both are keen, progressing well and growing in confidence week by week in carrying out the tasks assigned to them.

The year 2021 saw a milestone in my ministry as an Acolyte at the Cathedral, as 11th June marked 10 years since my Institution as an Acolyte. by Anthony Fisher, then Bishop of Parramatta (now Archbishop of Sydney).

A few months after my institution, I was on a plane with Geraldine, my fiancée (we were newly engaged) headed to World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, spending a week in the Holy Land prior to World Youth Day. I was part of the Parra O4 Group, led by Bishop Anthony Fisher. Amongst our group was Fr Robert Riedling, now Dean of the Cathedral.

Whilst we were in the Holy Land, I was asked to serve as an acolyte at Masses in some of the most iconic places where Jesus carried out his ministry and places we hear about in the Gospel. — such as the *Church of the Annunciation*, a minor basilica in Nazareth and the *Church of the Transfiguration* on Mount Tabor. Serving as an acolyte in these places was an experience I will never forget.

My role as an acolyte has been, not only a very fulfilling one, but has served to strengthen my commitment to the Faith.

I'm very grateful that Geraldine, now my wife of 9 years, has always supported me in my ministry as an Acolyte.



Good Friday 2016:  
Michael carrying the cross for Veneration



Red Mass 2022: Michael preparing the Altar  
for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



# Our Knowledge of Rituals Matters

## The Dean explains: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

A desire has been expressed by several parishioners for *St Pat's Matters* to offer a little explanation in each edition about some of the different ritual actions that are part of the Mass, either by clergy, laity or both. I think it is good that we know "why we do what we do" at Mass, otherwise our actions are simply robotic and thus somewhat meaningless. If you have any suggestions on this topic for future editions of our parish magazine, please let Marian Polizzi know.

Firstly, it is important to understand that the manner in which Mass is celebrated is governed by instructions in the Roman Missal, the "big red book" you see placed on the altar at Mass by the server as preparations are made for the Eucharist. The first 100 pages or so of this book contain 399 paragraphs, called The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), which outline how Mass is to be celebrated. Naturally, these instructions cover a wide range of circumstances and priests will not need to read through the vast majority of them terribly often. Some of them are theological or pastoral in nature and therefore are less about how to celebrate Mass than they are about outlining the reason for certain actions being called for during the celebration of Mass. Incidentally, the GIRM is readily available online for anyone to read.

It is important to know that the Roman Missal only covers Masses in the Latin Rite; Eastern Catholic Churches (Maronite, Melkite, Chaldean and so on) have their own missals for their particular celebrations.

In addition to these hundreds of paragraphs in the GIRM, there are more immediate and practical instructions contained in the pages of the Missal which the priest will use each time Mass is celebrated. These instructions are written in red and are called "rubrics". The word rubric comes from Latin and means "red chalk" or "red ochre". Traditionally, medieval manuscripts used red lettering to highlight certain words or phrases and modern rubrics in the Missal hearken back to that tradition.

The rubrics cover the whole celebration from the time people gather for Mass until the dismissal after the final blessing, but the majority of them are concentrated in the celebration of the Eucharist, from the offertory through to the prayer following communion. Some of the rubrics are quite short ("He bows slightly"), and some are more detailed, running for several lines. If you are wondering why it isn't obvious that the priest is reading the rubrics and pausing on numerous occasions during Mass, it is because the priest doesn't need to read them! Obviously, a priest has learnt most of those that are of greatest importance before being ordained and will only need to refer to them if he is uncertain about

something such as when celebrating a more complex Mass like the Easter Vigil (which seems to have more words in red than black!)

I look forward to sharing more with you about the ritual side of our Eucharistic celebrations in the next edition of *St Pat's Matters*.

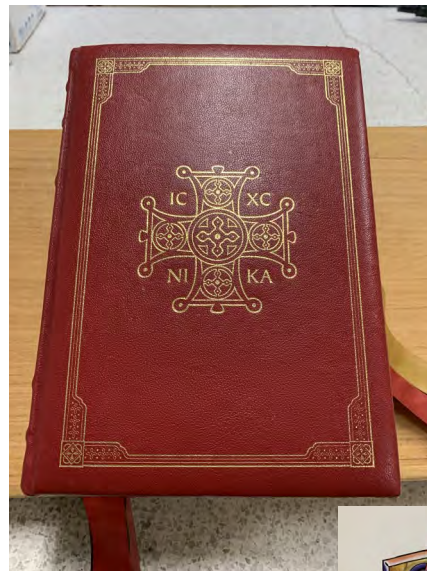
### *From the Editor*

*Dear Fr Robert,*

*I already have some questions that you can hopefully address in your next lesson. — all to do with 'bowing' and 'incensing'.*

- *Why does the priest bow to the Altar?*
- *Why does the priest kiss the Altar at the beginning and end of Mass?*
- *Why does the Priest incense the Altar?*
- *Why is the celebrant, then the Assembly incensed by the Acolyte?*
- *Why do we genuflect to the Tabernacle, and bow to the Altar?*

*And parishioners, do take Fr Robert up on his offer to give him suggestions.*



THE ROMAN MISSAL  
'the big red book'.  
and fronts piece:  
Depiction of  
The Last Supper



# Ministry Matters:

In issue 109 the focus was directed to the Team leading the Children's Liturgy held during 9:30am Sunday Mass: Marilyn Cook spoke of relinquishing her role as the Co-ordinator, passing the baton to Kirrily Aguilera; both emphasized the liturgy's value for children; and 'new kids' Karemeah and Helen shared their reasons for volunteering to join this Ministry Team. Here, read what other team members say about involvement in ministry.

## From GRACE BONDOC



I joined the Children's Liturgy group of St Patrick's Cathedral back in 2005. Since moving to the parish in 2001 I was involved with other ministries at the Cathedral like the youth group, the RCIA, Eucharistic minister, reader, Cathedral choir and hospitality group.

Having known the Cook family - particularly Marilyn and Graham Cook — I got to watch them in action and it looked like a lot of fun to teach children. It was easy to say yes to joining them and helping out with the Children's Liturgy. Marilyn is an experienced teacher and it was a great opportunity to learn some skills in teaching and managing the children. Sarah, her daughter, is a long-time partner and a very creative whiz in preparing materials to aid in the children's lessons.

We have excellent resources in helping to prepare the Sunday liturgy so as a newcomer back in 2005 I did not run out of ideas. I had a framework for building the lesson as well as reflection points that focus on the heart of the gospel for each Sunday. The reflections have also helped my own personal understanding of the Word of God.

The Children's Liturgy is an excellent program that brings alive the message of the Gospel to the children in our parish. The lessons are structured with the Penitential Act, an Opening Prayer, the reading of the Gospel, the lesson/activity, the Creed, Prayers of the Faithful and a closing prayer to dismiss the children to go back to the church to join the continuation of the Mass.

The framework follows the pattern of the mass and familiarizes the children with the prayers and responses said during the Liturgy of the Word. The Gospel stories and the prayers are an enriching tool especially for the children who are preparing for their first Communion and Confirmation. It is a building block in establishing a prayer life as well as a deepening of faith and values.

I remember one particular lesson that stood out to me. I had the difficult task of explaining the Holy Trinity as it was Trinity Sunday. I simply told the children about the three persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. I asked them what does that tell us about God? I was totally blown away by one child who summarized the very heart of the matter: GOD IS NOT ALONE. Theologians have written books and various thesis on this complicated subject and the child, which I firmly believe was prompted by the Holy Spirit, explained it all in 4 words. Being made in God's image, we are not alone either. This was a great comfort to me, knowing we have a loving God who will not leave us orphaned or lonely and who will accompany us throughout all the ups and downs of life. I always go back to this teaching moment whenever I have upheavals and great changes in my life - God is the one constant I can rely on.

It is my hope that the Children's Liturgy will provide the children with an understanding of God, the message of love through Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit and build in them the joy and hope of being a child of God and a member of the Catholic Church. I hope that it encourages a love of learning the Word of God and look forward to each Sunday as a way of becoming closer to God, loving their neighbour and strengthening family relationships.

I certainly look forward to each Sunday I am called to serve in the Children's Liturgy. It has enriched my faith in the same way. I guess that is why I am still serving in this ministry for the last 16 years.....and I'm still at it!

## From JESSY SEBARATNAM



I have been a parishioner of St Pat's for 22 years. From the time my daughters' education started at OLMC Parramatta, we have enjoyed coming to St Pat's, a great community to be part of.

My daughters were altar servers while at school and one of them also assisted me at Children's Liturgy. I also volunteered for the Hospitality Group several years ago and recently joined the Catechists, (Special Religious Educators).

There are many sad stories we have heard due to the pandemic, but with God's blessing, working from home over the past two years has given me the time to accomplish the necessary online and ZOOM courses to become a Catechist..

I believe the classroom is a good environment for all children to learn the God's Word. This helps to develop and increase their commitment to their baptismal calling. Children's Liturgy sessions assist parents in their responsibility of passing the faith onto their children. Experiencing the children's innocence and inquisitiveness, either at Children's Liturgy or in classroom lessons during SRE is, for me, a precious and unforgettable time. So grateful to be part of St Pat's Family.

## From EDWARD SAFARDI



I joined the Children's Liturgy Team in 2016. I volunteered because I love learning, teaching, my faith and children.

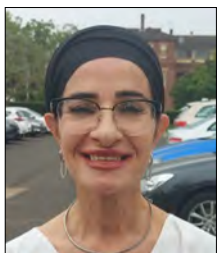
Children attending this special liturgy benefit, because we cover the Sunday Gospel at a level they can understand and enjoy. We do this by discussion — asking them questions, watching short animated clips of the Gospel and doing activities, such as games, craft or worksheets.

It also helps the children learn more about what happens in Mass, as we follow the same procedures — doing the Collect, Penitential Rite, Gospel Reading, Creed, Prayers of the Faithful and closing prayer. In this simplified practice they become more familiar and comfortable when they attend Mass with their parents.

Preparing lessons for the Children's Liturgy sessions helps me get a better understanding of the Gospel reading for that week.

# Ministry Matters:

From PAULA MELI



Since becoming a parishioner of St Patrick's Cathedral in 2019 I have joined several ministries very dear to my heart. Being in the Cathedral is a lovely, peaceful experience — I feel particularly drawn to the uniqueness of the ornate cross of Jesus and the grand organ pipes. For me, it is a sanctuary.

I am active in four areas of ministry: Children's Liturgy, as an Extra ordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass, taking Holy Communion to the elderly in a nursing home and to a lovely lady in her own home. I am fairly new to Children's Liturgy, only commencing in April 2021. Jessy, a member of the Children's Liturgy Team approached me, asking if I would like to assist her. I was very happy to do so, although so far, due to lockdown last year, I have not had many opportunities to participate.

I have a great love for young children, am currently studying a Diploma in Early Childcare and have previously been a volunteer at a local Childcare Centre. My eagerness to involve the children in the true love of and devotion to God, Jesus, the teachings of the Bible and the whole experience of sharing what we as Catholics know to be true to our faith, are the reasons for volunteering to be involved in the Children's Liturgy, which the children benefit greatly from attending during that time away from the 9:30am Sunday Mass. It gives them the opportunity to learn at their level, interacting with other children, the teachers and with God. It is a reflective time of reading the Gospel, doing various activities and praying together, which I believe enriches the children's faith and gives them a true sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit during this time.

In October 2019 I began monthly visits to the elderly in Lillian Wells Nursing Home, North Parramatta. Unfortunately, due to lockdown last year I could not visit and this year strict conditions are still in place. Prior to this however, I was very content to visit the elderly to give them Holy Communion on a one on one basis, and to pray with them. The opportunity for them to receive Jesus, this special gift from God, enriches their lives. I am eager to begin visitation again as it gives me much joy to know I am contributing to the elderly's spiritual well-being by giving them Holy Communion and inviting God into their lives.

In May 2021 I began home visitation to a lovely lady named Maria every Sunday after either 9 30am or 11am Mass to take her Holy Communion. In brief, Maria is a true country girl, originally from Leeton, has always been a practicing Catholic, although her father was an officer in the Salvation Army. Maria has been in the city since she was 14 years old and loves to socialise with friends and family —she has six children, and moved from Narwee to North Parramatta. In regular contact with the Cathedral Office, she is greatly cared for with regular visits from Fr Riedling, who spends time with her and also gives her Holy Communion. My relationship with Maria has grown, we enjoy each other's company and she is very appreciative of my bringing her Holy Communion. I believe her zest for life, her strong faith, and charismatic personality are blessings from God. She has faced many obstacles in life and I hope that in some way my weekly pastoral visits increase her contentment.

I became an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in 2019 and it brings me great joy and strengthens my spiritual journey in life. Completing the Liturgical Course prepared me for this sacred role.

Participating in these different ministerial areas continues to be such a blessing. I pray that God will give me the strength to continue serving St Pat's parish community for many years to come.

## Visiting the Sick matters



**T**here are many ministries here at St Patrick's in which parishioners can consider becoming involved.

**One such is Visitation to the Sick and Housebound, though which concern for the spiritual and pastoral well being of others is acted upon.**

It is an important ministry as it helps those who are unwell and unable to receive the sacraments in church to know that they are not forgotten by the parish or by God.

If you know of someone who is unable to get to Mass, and would like a visit to receive the sacraments, or even just to have a chat, please let one of the clergy know or else contact the parish office on 8839 8400.

And if you feel CALLED TO SERVE in this ministry, advise the clergy of your desire to do so.

“I was  
sick and  
you visited  
me ...”

Matthew 25:36

# SACRAMENTAL MATTERS UPDATE

## WHERE WE'RE AT NOW

Sunday 6th February the Cathedral Precinct was awash with parents and children, this being the day for Enrolment at 9:30am Mass, which families attended to mark the beginning of their children's preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Forty-two children were enrolled.

The preparation programme is comprised of three sessions: the first being for parents only, while both parents and children will attend the next two sessions together. The children will then receive the Sacrament, (i.e. going to Confession for the first time.)

### Dates and Times:

Session 1: Tuesday 15th February, 7:30pm

Session 2: Saturday 26th February, 4:30pm

Session 3: Saturday 12th March, 4:30pm

Reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 15th March at 7:00pm in the Cathedral.



For any enquires about the Sacraments of Initiation at St Patrick's Cathedral, do not hesitate to contact Meg Gale, the Sacramental Co-ordinator at [sacrament@stpatricks cathedral.com.au](mailto:sacrament@stpatricks cathedral.com.au)



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SACRAMENTS PARENTS: KEEP IN MIND

- ♦ The Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation — provide the grace of God to guide and nourish your child through his/her Christian life
- ♦ Celebrating the Sacraments enables your child to make a life-long commitment to God.
- ♦ When your child receives a sacrament, he/she is participating in the life of God, forging a deeper relationship with Him and is growing in the life of Christ.

# THE EUCHARIST MATTERS



Jesus invites us to view him as a physician rather than a censorious magistrate, offering us a place at His table where, as St Irenaeus put it,

***"He offers us 'the medicine of immortality'."***

This vignette is echoed beautifully in the words of Pope Francis:

***"The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak."***

Despite everything, we are invited to recognise and receive the healing presence of the Risen Lord "in the breaking of the bread".

At His table, we are restored to a healthy relationship with God and others.

From the Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn  
15 January 2022



## How to receive Holy Communion

When the Priest or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist says, "*The Body of Christ*", the communicant responds, "Amen."

For those who receive on the tongue, open your mouth and put your tongue out, so that the Sacred Host can be placed on your tongue. It is not meant to be received between your teeth.

For those who receive on the hands, place one hand under the other to receive the Sacred Host in the palm of your hand. Then immediately pick up the host with the underneath hand and place it in your mouth. You should not bring your hands up to your mouth, nor juggle the Sacred Host between both hands.

## Communion: A Matter worthy of Reflection

Communion  
is an embrace of holiness  
"bringing holiness to completion"  
(II Corinthians 7:1).

Communion  
is becoming holy with the holiness of God  
as the holiness of Jesus takes up residence.

Communion  
gives home to the Son, a guest who brings to birth  
peacemakers, sons and daughters of God.

Communion  
utterly transforms the bread and wine  
born in the earth of this world  
to ensure that the bread of earth  
be transformed into the bread of heaven.

Communion  
is where the presence of Christ lodges in order  
to create a heart listening to the pain of the world.

Communion  
is a temporary residence working  
to create an eternal home.

Communion  
is love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness  
finding an inn of many welcoming rooms.

Communion  
is an enabling Presence that touches  
a bleeding woman and  
cleanses a leper in the synagogue.

Communion  
is a Real Presence, not a Real Absence.

Communion  
turns scorpions of the mind into calm.

Communion  
spurs potential into action.

Communion  
turns strangers into Church.

Communion  
resurrects disciples into the body of Christ.

Communion  
is knowing you are loved.

*Joseph O'Hanlon is a biblical scholar and senior priest  
of the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham (England).  
He is the author of several books on scripture and spirituality.*

*Submitted by Annette Hartman.*

## SRE MINISTRY MATTERS

WHERE  
WE'RE AT NOW

***"This is the job of the catechist:  
constantly to go forth to others out of love  
to bear witness and to talk about Jesus,  
to proclaim Jesus.***

***This is important because the Lord does it;  
it is the Lord that impels us to go forth."***

*Pope Francis*

**T**he new school year has begun with COVID regulations still causing organisational headaches for teachers, especially in Sydney.

Such is the case also for SREs throughout the Diocese of Parramatta. Here at St Pat's, co-ordinator Pamela Bain faces the challenge of having less volunteers returning to take classes. The reasons vary, and the dilemma remains — how to cope? It means asking those SREs who've returned to double up on classes, perhaps having to prepare extra lessons for different grades and even attend more than one school. For some this is not a possibility, again for various reasons.



As Pamela prays for the diminished rank of volunteers to say 'yes' to taking extra classes, please keep her and all our SREs in your prayers, that a positive solution will materialise. Pamela has confided that, when faced with what seems like insurmountable difficulties, she resorts to Saint Mary of the Cross Mary McKillop's intercession.

For all those SREs being asked to do more and feel they can't cope, maybe Ian Gates' cartoon will remind them that in all problematic circumstances,

**TRUST [in GOD] is A MUST!**



IAN GATES  
Pearly Gates Cartoon

**PS Good News!** There's a rumour going around that our recently ordained Deacon, Matthew Dimian has put his hand up to take a primary class for SRE lessons. Yea!

**Please heed the plea of Pope Francis:**

***"Let us pray for the catechists,  
summoned to announce the Word of God:  
May they be its witnesses,  
with courage and creativity  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit."***

# HOSPITALITY MATTERS

Living by the motto:  
Great occasions for serving God come seldom  
Little ones surround us daily

**The Hospitality Group is glad to be back in the Cloister Cafe.**

2021 — is a year everyone would like to erase from memory, on numerous fronts, thanks to you-know-what's presence.

And the Hospitality Group members are no exception!  
Our plans to open the Cloister Café for the three Sundays in December in the lead up to Christmas Day were thwarted by the ever-hovering COVID cloud.

But a little ray of sunshine broke the gloom when we managed to squeeze in serving Morning Tea on Sunday 19th December before the usual break until the new year.

It just so happens that Cora Mercado, at right, asked someone to



take this snap of her and other members who did duty that day: from left Clara Atkinson, Dorothy Soh, Marian Polizzi and Marthe Nalletamby. Apologies to the other people on duty that day for not being on the record for their presence

**2022:** We had hoped the new year would see a return to normal routine. But with COVID restrictions still in place with regard to hospitality venues we kept wondering if the café would be able to begin as usual, the first Sunday in February.

After much discussion with Mili Lee, the Office Manager, to ensure we would cautiously comply with COVID regulations, the

Matters behind the scenes.....



February 6th. Sesilia was not on duty, yet her mother sent her along with two trays (smaller!) of scones and two slab cakes! Needless to say they were snapped up eagerly. Such a treat to welcome the café's reopening.

The Loto'aniu Family has a L-O-N-G history in the parish. If the **Getting to Know You** section in the weekly bulletin does not reappear in 2022, maybe it should be instigated in St Pat's Matters? **What do parishioners think?**

**MEET SEINI LOTO'ANIU.....Generous hearted, loyal St Pat's Parishioner**

**S**einia has long deserved recognition for her constant giving to the parish community, in so many unsung ways. But here we pay tribute to her cake baking skills, especially for Sunday Morning Tea when her daughter Sesilia is rostered for duty after 9:30am Mass. Seini's cake baking has been going on now for too many years to count.

It's always a sight to behold! Sesilia, with an entourage of relatives arriving with the donations, usually two HUGE bread trays of scones dolloped with fresh cream, as well as two Swiss style jam rolls and two iced slab cakes (these usually destined for the presbytery to increase the priests' girth by consumption of the home-baked concoctions.)

And what a surprise for the first morning tea on



doors were flung open on February 6th. Mind you, procedures were altered from our usual set up and routine, but everyone coped admirably, both servers and served.

It was a last minute decision to catch the 9:30 team for a tongue in cheek photo at the end of their duty. Just who are behind the masks? From left: Ursi Lelyveld, Cora Mercado, Romeo Saracin, Sandra Hui and Diosey Montesco, who on arrival after 9:30am Mass excitedly exclaimed, 'Oh we've missed coming to do duty. We are glad to be back.' As coordinator, I have affectionately dubbed them the '**Filipino Contingent**.' Long time committed volunteers, like so many of the group.



Regrettably the 11o'clock crew missed out becoming famous. But that oversight has led me to realise it's time for a full page spread in the next St Pat's Matters of the **Who's Who** of our hospitality dispensers. That's a promise!

And ,who knows, by then our routine might have returned to normal.

**M. Polizzi Co Ordinator for Hospitality**

# SOCIAL JUSTICE MATTERS



Bob Edgar  
invites you  
to  
*'please  
consider'*

Readers might recall my description of the **Myall Creek Massacre Memorial** (featured in Issue 108 of *St Pat's Matters*). which my friend Phil Russo and I attended last June.

It would be great to see more people from St Pat's Parish there in 2022 to learn about this tragedy and other aspects of our troubled history regarding injustice towards our indigenous brothers and sisters. By attending you contribute to the healing and reconciliation process.

This year's event will be held again on the June long weekend. It's not too early to make enquiries. Here are some details to inform you about the event and its history along with information to assist planning travel and accommodation. You will need to plan at least three days (four is better) as it's about 1200km round trip from Parramatta.

To learn about the event check [www.myallcreek.org](http://www.myallcreek.org)

Myall Creek is in the Gwydir Shire, nearest town is Bingara, 25km, a small quiet country town.

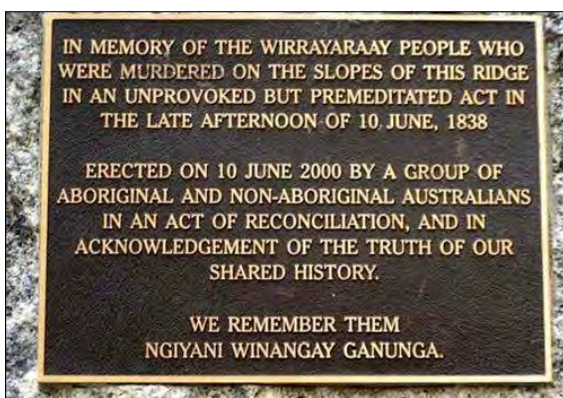
Check what is on offer at [www.gwydirshire.com](http://www.gwydirshire.com)  
[bingaratourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bingaratourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)

or ring Jen Mead 02 67240066 0400826551

Inverell is a much larger town about 45km North of Myall Creek. Check Inverell Tourist Info at  
[tourism@inverell.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@inverell.nsw.gov.au) [www.inverell.com.au](http://www.inverell.com.au)  
02 67288161 1800 067626

Phil Russo and I will attend this year's Memorial Service and would love to have companions from St Pat's join us to be part of healing past wrongs.

**I'm happy to give anyone information or advice as having been around that area often for work, I know it well. Call my mobile 0408 161 107**



Antonio Spadaro SJ, while interviewing the Pope for

**A BIG OPEN HEART TO GOD,**  
**A Conversation with Pope Francis,**  
asked him about his preferred way to pray.....



*What I really prefer is adoration in the evening, even when I get distracted and think of other things, or even fall asleep praying. In the evening then, between seven and eight o'clock I stay in front of the Blessed Sacrament for an hour in adoration."*

## POPE FRANCIS ALSO EXHORTS US

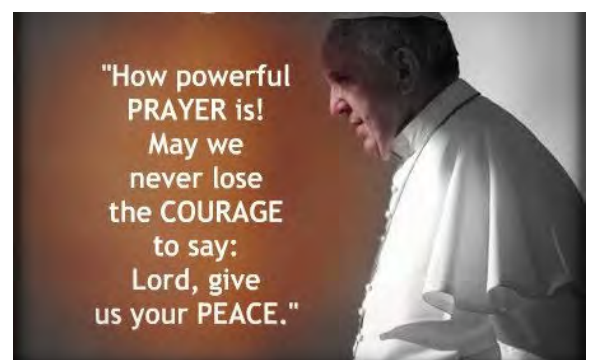
Let us not grow tired of knocking at God's door.  
Let us go to the heart of God through Mary,  
Our whole life, knocking at the door of God's heart!  
Mary prays —  
prays together with the community of disciples,  
and teaches us to have faith in God, in his mercy.  
**THIS IS THE POWER OF PRAYER!**

## THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY:

**"We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women;  
thanking them for their mission and their courage;  
may they continue to find new responses  
to the challenges of our times.**

When saying this prayer, keep in mind Zara Tai, who, in this issue has written about her life as a consecrated virgin.

## LET'S LIVE BY THIS ADVICE FROM THE POPE



## Memory Snippets Matter.



**T**his is Michael Lilley aged about 16. His article on his ministry as an Acolyte features on page 14 of this issue.

But I'd like to step back to when Michael was in 4th class at St Patrick's Primary School. At the time aged 10, he was eligible to train to become an altar server. This he did under the tutelage of Acolyte Tom McFadden.

And so to my memory snippet:

In 1989, Michael was an altar server at the Mass on Holy Thursday evening in the old St Patrick's Cathedral. Dean Brian Larkey was the celebrant.

At the end of the Mass, the main altar was stripped and the Blessed Sacrament was processed to the side altar for Exposition; the subdued lighting enhancing the sacredness of this age old ritual.

The choir (under Robert Beazely) was intoning the Taize chant,  
*Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray!*  
*Stay here and keep watch with me.*  
*Watch and pray, watch and pray!*

What remains firmly fixed in my memory was the sound of Michael's sobbing echoing and intermingling with the chanting, so caught up was he in the emotion of what was transpiring.

Obviously Michael's reaction affected me deeply, the memory of it so vivid to still be etched in memory in 2022!!

*From the editor's memory bank*

### Remembering Dean Larkey



Fr Brian Larkey was the first Dean of St Patrick's after it was elevated to cathedral status in 1986, remaining in that position till 1991.

He was NSW Director of the 1986 Papal Visit when Pope John Paul II came to the newly established Diocese of Parramatta.

## Share your Snippets

**C'mon parishioners!**

**You all have a wealth of memories locked away in your memory banks about happenings at St Patrick's Church (pre 1986) and/or now Cathedral.**

**You are urged, nay BEGGED, to seize the day, turn the key to release them for sharing in St Pat's Matters.**

Email to M. Polizzi : [balmap5@bigpond.com](mailto:balmap5@bigpond.com)  
 or leave at the parish Office marked 'for St Pat's Matters'

## Caring Matters



**Let each of us pause and reflect on our individual actions in response to these goals of Laudato Si.**

**WHAT GOOD HAVE WE ACHIEVED?**

**HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?**

**HOW HAVE WE FALLEN SHORT?**

## Masking Matters pre COVID?



This is an excerpt from a public health poster about the Spanish 'influenza' (flu) pandemic in 1919, drawn by children's illustrator and author May Gibbs, (responsible for cute bush babies Snugglypot and Cuddlepup and other endearing Aussie flora and fauna characters).

The detail features a gumnut baby and a kookaburra sitting on a branch with eucalyptus leaves wrapped around their mouths in the manner of surgical masks. Apart from the leaf, the baby wears only a gumnut on her head.

One wonders how effective the masks would have been. However, being organic they would have composted naturally, unlike today's horrors. Just how long will this pandemic's masks take to break down. How many end up as litter or pollute waterways. An environmental nightmare.

# Youth Matters



## SHEFIN SPEAKS OUT TO PROMOTE CREDO YOUTH MINISTRIES

*SHEFIN, one of the Credo Youth Leaders, bravely spoke at the end of Masses on Sunday, 13th February to inform the congregation of what youth groups operate at St Pat's. Afterwards, she was available to give anyone interested the brochure, shown below.*

*She was very happy to receive expressions of interest from several families regarding the youth groups.*



## Credo Youth Ministries

Credo Ministries is the current youth body at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. With our team of driven young leaders ready to serve, we run youth groups for primary school and high school aged young people, every Friday fortnight during school term.

### Term One Session Dates

Junior Credo: 4:30pm - 5:30pm  
Teen Credo: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Cloister Function Room

11th of February  
25th of February  
11th of March  
25th of March  
8th of April



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

📷 [credo\\_youth\\_parramatta](https://www.instagram.com/credo_youth_parramatta)

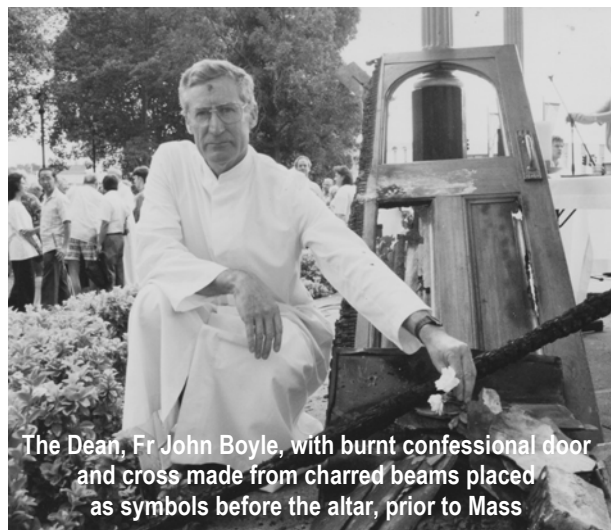
📱 Credo Youth Ministries

### QUESTIONS TO ASK THE YOUTH

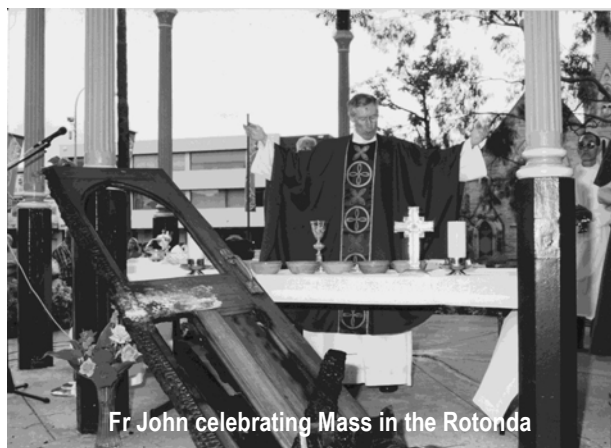
*Do they know what 'CREDO' means?  
Who came up with the name for their Ministry?  
Why has the logo been changed?  
What is the significance of their new logo?*

# Archival Matters

As the Season of Lent draws near, these images evoke the very poignant celebration, in Prince Alfred Park, of Mass on Ash Wednesday 21st February 1996 two days after St Patrick's Cathedral was gutted by fire.



The Dean, Fr John Boyle, with burnt confessional door and cross made from charred beams placed as symbols before the altar, prior to Mass



Fr John celebrating Mass in the Rotonda



Parishioners uniting in grief to pray



Fr John distributing ashes to OLMC girls



# Come and visit St Patrick's Gift Shop

The gift shop is located in historic Murphy House right next to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

You can't miss it.

Come in and browse.  
You will find a huge range of quality religious goods:

- ♦ inspirational products
- ♦ sacramental gifts
- ♦ statues
- ♦ rosary beads, medals
- ♦ holy cards
- ♦ books
- ♦ ethical gifts
- ♦ greeting cards to bless and inspire.
- ♦ items to celebrate special times in your life.



## OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY to FRIDAY 10AM – 3PM

SUNDAY 9AM – 1PM

CLOSED: MONDAY and SATURDAY



**Step inside to be greeted by friendly helpful staff.  
Be amazed at the treasure trove of religious items on offer.**

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