# ST PAT'S MATTERS

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



# Good and faithful servant

#### **EDITORIAL**

Sacraments, Service and History feature strongly in this issue.

On the Sacramental front — there's a spread on the Confirmation of 91 children; Fr Robert's next instalment of his Vocation story mentioning his ordination to the priesthood. i.e. Holy Orders; as well as his article on *Ritual Matters* about Anointing of the Sick/Extreme Unction.

With regard to service: Read about the three parishioners who received diocesan awards in recognition of Christian Service

Ticking the service & history boxes: in the tribute to the Marist Sesquicentenary in Australia, are articles about the Brothers' founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, a brief overview of the Marists' legacy to education here, plus recollections of a Marist teacher and of two pupils who attended the Marist School in Victoria Road next to St Pat's.

Judith Dunn takes us on a history trip of a different kind: how transcribing an Italian epitaph on a headstone in St Patrick's Cemetery, led to her researching the Chiodetti Family from Sydney's colonial days.

Find out which parishioners introduce themselves in *Getting to Know You*, why Keith Mathews and Paul Peters rate a special mention, how Janelle became leader of the Meditation Group, what Claire Pospischil's concerns are on the social justice front and see who are the Hospitality Team's newest recruits.

The eulogy Louise Thomas gave at her beloved father's Requiem Mass, introduces readers to Paul Daniel Mahoney, a long-time parishioner, well-known and much respected in the wider community.

The report on the Spring Fair, (the first for quite a while) confirms it was a successful venture achieving its twofold objective of community building and fundraising.

I'd like to conclude with the succinct advice on living the Faith given by a Franciscan friar in New Zealand at the end of his homily:

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

M. Polizzi



his year's preparation sessions for, and subsequent celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation proved challenging for the Sacramental Team. Because of COVID lockdowns in 2021, celebration of Confirmation did not eventuate. This meant the group of children from last year had to combine with those registered for this year. Ninety-one in all!

The decision was made to split the students into two streams meeting at different times, making preparation sessions more personable and manageable. Also catch-up sessions were arranged for families who, contracting the virus, were forced to isolate, till they recovered.

St Pat's Sacramental Program emphasises the important fact that **parents are their children's first educators in the faith.** So, guided by the norms of Diocesan policy on Sacraments of Initiation, the role of the Sacramenta Team is to "support the home by providing a more systematic catechesis through parish-based, family-centred, school-supported programs of sacramental preparation."

Two-streams prep sessions naturally led to each group attending either a Mass in the morning or afternoon of Saturday 27th August. In what could be a first, at both Masses, both Bishop Vincent and Fr Robert were present to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the candidates.

#### The photos and names of those confirmed appear on pages 4 and 5.

Following both Masses certificates and gifts were presented in the hall, and of course each group had a congratulatory cakes to be cut and consumed.





**To quote Deacon Matthew:** 

[Confirmation completes] candidates' initiation into the Church.

This comes with great blessings, such as access to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and real responsibilities, such as witnessing to Christ in our daily lives."



## Recognition of Christian Service Matters

After a 3-year hiatus presentation of Diocesan Awards returned to the Cathedral, fittingly taking place on 8th August, the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop, the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Parramatta.— It is her image the Medal of Honour bears.

The presentation of the awards followed Vespers led by the St Patrick's Cathedral Scholars and Choir, featuring *From Penola's Plains*, and motet *Sicut cervus desiderat*.

There were 14 recipients for the Medal of Honour and 2 for the Citation of Merit for Youth. Bishop Vincent Long, OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta warmly greeting and congratulating each person as he bestowed the awards, taking great delight in pinning medals on lapels!)

The Diocesan **Medal of Honour** seeks to encourage and recognise outstanding contribution and service by members of the Parramatta Diocesan community in work on behalf of the Church and society. It is awarded for outstanding services to parishes, the Diocese and the community.

The Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth seeks to encourage and recognise youth between the ages of 18 and 25 who have shown outstanding contribution and service to the parish, the Diocese and the community.

The Cathedral Parish community acknowledges our three awardees:

Annette Hartman and Rod Hilliker for their Diocesan Medals of Honour and Mindy Mercado for her Citation of Merit for Youth.

Congratulations! We thank you for your dedicated service.







Annette serves the Diocese of Parramatta in a dedicated and faithfilled way.

The length of Annette's service to the St. Patrick's Cathedral has facilitated the mentoring and sponsorship of young men and women who seek to serve in lay ministry at the altar.

Rod, described as the 'Good Samaritan,' was recognized and acknowledged for his commitment to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta and its parishioners. For many, Rod brings a sense of wellbeing and safety. Rod's deep faith and love for the other is lived out in the way he cares for those in need.

Mindy was recognized for her committed and dedicated leadership of 'Credo Youth,' within St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. She also serves the Diocese through her roles in the Diocese Youth Council and the Deanery Youth Council. Formation is the cornerstone for the Credo Movement and Mindy ensured a strong level of support for all of its members.

#### Worth contemplating:

Tonight, we have come to honour the spirit of selfless and generous service with which they [the awardees] have contributed to the life of the Church in a variety of ways.

It is not so much the quantity of their deeds but the quality of their commitment. They share the honour with loved ones and others who have supported them and made it possible for them to give of themselves. In a way, the recognition is not just about them, it is about the Lord and all of us who are so privileged to be His instruments as we use our gifts and talents in service to the Church and our brothers and sisters, especially those in most need — a commitment we are all invited to renew this evening.

#### What the Bishop had to say:

Mary MacKillop showed us what a life radically oriented to God's kingdom looks like. She took a prophetic stance not simply in providing affordable quality Catholic education and health care to the poor masses but fundamentally in meeting the great cultural challenges of their times. "Never see a need without doing something about it". In acting out of a strong passion for the Kingdom and a visceral compassion for the suffering, she brought about a fresh hope for others.

No matter who we are and where we are on the journey, we are united by the Kingdom vision of Jesus. ............May the example of St Mary MacKillop inspire us to embody the kingdom vision of Jesus and become a lighthouse for the world.



## NFIRMATION

Is the third and final sacramental milestone for these two groups of young people on their journey of initiation into the Catholic Faith. Baptism and First Eucharist are the first two.























Morning Group Joshua Abin

Juan Abin James Agostino Makenzie Alchin Conor Joseph Berry Troy Paul Paniel Joshua Chase Pay Clio Encarnacao Khobe Gallardo Cthan Lucas Jess Rachel John Adam Anto Jurisic Logan Munro Teresa Nia Charile James Noonan Ponnacha Ruan Lara Abigail Samar April Kimberley Soh Leo Alexandre Talmon IsabelleTannous Madden Jarryd Thai Germain Rod Toledo Steven George Abraham Peter Ray Wilbert Agon Marx Laurence Antonio Emma Barrightos Salazar Rose Yasmina Causevic Algia Rose Como-Jaure Christian James Donaldson Callum Clement Donaldson Magdalena Lillian Sophia Gilchrist Mary Therese Grace Gilchrist Crick Granados-Gavito Anya Jo-elle Fria Macadangdang Jonah Edward Meddows Michelle Brigitte Nidhin Isabelle Theresa Nidhin Nicholas Franco Reyes-Mangabat Stephanie Athena Rozario Gisela Lavinia Tenner Ulrich Seteone Tenner Annelise Kie'eteau Tenner Gunther Manusiu Tenner

y o u













Maryam Therese Thomas









with lives that reflect the model given to us all in Christ Jesus.



#### Afternoon Group Oliver Abraham Zac Aguilera Irene Ajith Carun Ajith Dylan Amaral Ray Chen Peter Do Richard Do Kayla Hallit Anthony Malek Isla Mapagu Oliver Miller Lani Jade Moses Rafael Gerard Palad Hannah Menik Perera Fleur Isobelm Perrett Leon Antonio Sampaio Clise Zara Sheedy Leilani Taupau Rence Lucy Torres Ethan Xue Benjamin Oliver Aitkins Rihanna Ella Bautista Rhys Paniel Bylautista Lucy-kate Bigeni Isabella Bousimon Clare Marge Camenzuli Amelia Adelle Coles Pominic Adrian Coles Tara Kamelya Di Chio Kaylani Clphinstone Nicolettta laquinto Annabelle Johnson Alisha Lahgla Katafono Matgo Patrick Lasalo Joel Gerard Raadad Lum Veronica Silvia Misitano Cimear Mary-Kate Mitchell Nathan Phi Thanh Nguyen Crystal Josephine Pergira Cooper Jack Willis Skinner Liam Jacob Stojkovski Amariah Rose Tamaro Sheoni Ramaya Wellambage Perrera Shavene Dinglka Wellambage Perera Shaneli Reshaya WellambagePerera



# VOCATION MATURES

#### FR ROBERT'S VOCATION STORY CONTINUES.......

This is the 4th part of Fr Robert's journey to the Priesthood. It all stemmed from writing —in edition 109 — about family Christmas celebrations in a home with no explicit religious activity. This peaked readers' curiosity as to how he ended up becoming a

priest, especially when he wasn't a 'Cradle Catholic'.'

Encouraged by people's interest, in edition 110 Fr Robert wrote about attending Scripture lessons at state schools, and at university being put off by 'religious groups' seemingly only interested in proselyting'; to an epiphany moment described as "God reaching out to me despite my lack of interest in Him"; which led him to seek a Christian community in which to live out a meaningful and loving relationship with God.

In Issue 111 he got cold feet about being baptised an Anglican, 'deciding it wise to investigate other Christian denominations before taking such a big step in my faith life.' This he did over the years. Then, despite warnings to stay away from the Catholic Church, a series of brochures 'What Do Catholics Believe?' was about to lead to the opposite eventuating. Issue 111 saw Father become a Catholic in 1997, yet still searching for more. Here he reveals where that led him......

n the last edition of St Pat's Matters I left off my vocation story at the point of my entry into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil celebrated at St Patrick's, Blacktown, in March 1997. As I mentioned, I was very happy at finally finding a place where I felt comfortable practising my faith. Yet, there was something niggling at the back of my mind, and it centred on my feeling that I was not going to be content with living out my faith with little more than weekly Mass attendance.

For some time, I had the feeling that if I was to be initiated into the Catholic faith, I would want to take on a role of pastoral responsibility and felt that priesthood was something to seriously consider. Of course, at this stage, my understanding of what a priest was and what he did was very limited, and undoubtedly somewhat romanticised, and so I kept the idea to myself whilst I attended Mass as often as I could, prayed, and kept myself busy with my teaching job as a primary school teacher in a state school.

When I raised the idea of testing this sense of vocation with my parish priest at that time, Fr Arthur Bridge, who had initiated me into the Catholic Church, rather surprisingly his response was to say, "Well, why not test this feeling you have? If it's genuine, then great. If not, at least you'll know your vocation as a Catholic lies elsewhere." So, he kindly wrote a letter to the Director of Vocations at the time, Fr Chris de Souza (now one of the Vicars General), who agreed to meet up with me for a casual conversation. This initial conversation took place probably nine months or so after my baptism. To my surprise, Fr Chris asked to see me about a month or so later and then we met up for a chat on a monthly basis for about a year. The content of these conversations moved gradually deeper into helping me reflect on my identity, my relationship with God, and so on.

I'm sure there was much more to these conversations than I can remember now, twenty-five years later, but they culminated with an extremely long interview towards the end of 1998 and then tacit acceptance into the formation program once I had met Bishop Kevin Manning and had approval from him. After a short, but quite nerve-wracking meeting with Bishop Manning, he accepted me formally as a

seminarian, and I moved into the house of formation at Edgar Street, St Mary's, along with one other student.

In accepting the offer of joining the formation programme for the diocese, I decided not to resign from my teaching job but rather take leave, giving me the right of return should I come to the conclusion that this notion of being a priest was not for me.

In summary, after successfully completing my first year of formation, I moved to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush for three years, always keeping contact with Bishop Manning, Fr Chris de Souza and parishioners in the Diocese of Paramatta. Following these three years I moved back to the house of formation at St Mary's for a year, still travelling regularly to Strathfield where the academic studies took place, and spent my final year at Christ the King Parish at North Rocks with Fr Eric Burton. Over the six years I spent time in quite a few parishes and gained a great deal of pastoral experience, the very reason I had felt the pull towards priesthood.

The culmination of these six years of formation took place with ordination, here at St Patrick's Cathedral. Of course, two ordinations were celebrated, the first being ordination to diaconate, which happened on the first anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral, 29 November 2004. Ordination to Priesthood took place just over six months later on 11 June 2005. I had the privilege to share these special moments with my good friend, Dave Hume, whom many of you tell me, you remember with great fondness.

For those who have taken an interest in my vocation story, thank you!



## Priestly Vocation Attained

Ordination Day, 2005 shared with Fr Dave Hume









## SOCIAL JUSTICE MATTERS



In edition 109 of *St Pat's Matters* (December 2021), Claire Pospischil penned *A Journey to Karabi* about her encounter with the Wentworthville based community organisation Karabi. This is her update one year on.

rom little things, big things grow. A year ago, a photo in a local paper

plus potentially the Holy Spirit, led me timidly to the door of Karabi Wentworthville with a bag of shelf stable food.

Fast forward to September 2022. Most weeks I am visiting Karabi with a supply of shelf stable food for their emergency food supplies. I am well known to the staff there and have a shared a cuppa and chat when time has allowed. The left over preserves from our recent Spring Fair at St Pat's are being included in emergency food hampers too.

I have gained a deeper understanding of the food insecurity experienced by many people in the Parramatta district. Karabi in 2022 is one of four organisations with walk-in food banking operations, the others being *Parramatta Mission*, *Vinnies' Harris Park Hub* and *Turbans 4 Australia*. *Jesuit Refugee Services* are also continuing to supply food hampers from Arrupe Place.

From my Karabi visits, I have learnt many challenging things. Food insecurity in our district is increasing. Food hampers are sought by a wider range of society, across refugees, students, pensioners and the working poor. The need is increasing. Karabi is experiencing a significant demand, both in scheduled visits to their Monday foodbank plus in emergency contacts to supply food, which my donations support. I have experienced a few occasions where the manager has been waiting for me to come, and immediately taken the food box out to a family in need. If I drop the donated goods off on a Monday I will often meet people visiting the Karabi Foodbank. It is hard to hear of people asking whether basic fresh foodstuffs of bread, eggs and milk are available this week and being told 'no sorry, the foodbank didn't have any for us today'.

I have a complex range of feelings on this. On one hand, my dealings with Karabi have become an important part of my week, one to which I look forward. On the other hand, I really struggle with the societal inequality that has as an outcome such a need for food banking operations in our area.

As forecast in my 2021 article, my encounter with Karabi has been a conversion of sorts. Over 15 years ago, I was a member of the Parramatta Vinnies group, work which I undertook with great interest and passion, meeting parishioners with shared values who to this day are dear friends. More recent encounters with Karabi and local food insecurity have re-ignited this interest for me. With Fr Robert's support, I have helped prepare bulletin content on food banking options in the local area. I have also joined the new parish social justice group and am very keen to see where this journey continues to take me.

Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly were right. From little things big things grow.

Ed. Claire, may your actions inspire readers to do likewise.

## The Marist Legacy Matters: It all began with this French Saint

Marcellin Champagnat's desire to educate young people academically and spiritually led to the founding of a religious community, *The Marist Brothers of the Schools*". Today this French priest's passionate spirit, daring vision and persistent work are embodied in the mission of Marist Brothers living on five continents, — Australia included. This is but a brief overview of his life, submitted by Phil Slattery. You need to research more fully to discover his remarkable achievements, which he always avowed "*This is all God's work...this is all Mary's work.*".



#### St Marcellin Champagnat

**Born:** 1789 **Died:** 1840

Canonized: 1999

Feast Day: June 6

Patron Saint: Education/Teachers

oseph Benedict Marcellin Champagnat was born in Marlhes, France in 1789. At the end of the French Revolution he entered the seminary and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Lyon. Marcellin's concern for the education of children and young people was rooted in his own educational experience. Because of the French Revolution, Marcellin did not attend school until age 11, and that experience only lasted a day! Marcellin watched in horror as the school teacher beat a student who tried to answer a question that had been posed to Marcellin. He left school that day and did not return to formal education until he entered the seminary at age 16. Although gifted with natural intelligence, Marcellin's lack of formal education caused him to struggle as a student. With determination and perseverance, Marcellin managed to meet all his academic requirements. His memories of the school teacher who beat the student and his own recollections of his academic struggles were the basis of his educational philosophy: "Keep loving them as long as they are with you, since this is the only way to work with any success at reforming them. Love them all equally no outcasts, no favourites."

On October 28, 1816, three months after his ordination,



Marcellin was called to the Montague home where 16 year old Jean–Baptiste was dying. As Marcellin prepared to hear the confession of Jean-Baptiste, he realized that the young man had no religious or academic education. It occurred to Marcellin that Jean-Baptiste was one of the many young

people victimized by lack of education during and after the French Revolution.

Marcellin's own difficult school experience and his encounter with Jean-Baptiste Montague convinced him that he had to do something to combat illiteracy and spiritual poverty of the young people in rural France.

Six months after his ordination, Marcellin founded the religious community, "The Marist Brothers of the Schools" (also known as "The Little Brothers of Mary") to make known, through their lives and service, the love of Jesus and Mary — especially where access to love and support, education and catechism was remote.

For himself and his Brothers, Marcellin wished "goods which are more solid and real" than material possessions. He said of his community's mission that they were to "serve God with all fervour, to fulfill faithfully all the duties of our state, to work every day to detach our heart from creatures in order to give it to Mary and Jesus, to open it to all the movement of grace."

The Brothers would find their glory, Marcellin said, in their efforts to "imitate and follow Jesus Christ" guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. In all their being and work among the young, they were to "make Jesus Christ known and loved."

A man of deep prayer, Marcellin was grounded in a loving community. His devotion to the love of God, Mary and his Brothers inspired him to a universal mission. The Marist Brothers were known for their family spirit and simple Gospel way of being fully present to each other and all people. Their

schools multiplied at a fast pace — almost a dozen a year.

Marcellin often proclaimed, "This is all God's work...this is all Mary's work." That remains true to the spirit of today's Marist Brothers and their lay colleagues as they respond to fresh, bold and creative ways to meet the needs of youth. Today his passionate spirit, daring vision and persistent work are embodied in the mission of Marist Brothers living on five continents.

After a long illness, Champagnat died of cancer on 6 June 1840, age 51. He left a message in his Spiritual Testament of 18 May, 1840: "Let there be among you just one heart and one mind. Let it always be said of the Little Brothers of Mary as it was of the early Christians: See how they love one another!" At his death, there were 280 Marist Brothers in the south of France — the number grew to 1500 in 1856. Today there are 5000 in 74 countries (and tens of thousands of lay people!)

In 1955 Marcellin Champagnat was declared Blessed by Pope Pius XII and canonized by Pope John Paul II on April 18, 1999.

## The Marist Legacy Matters: Celebrating 150 years of Marist Education in Australia

#### A Brief Overview: Their History: In A Nutshell:

The Marist presence in Australia began in 1837 with the arrival of the first missionaries to Oceania from France. Over the coming decades Archbishop Polding, senior clergy and committed lay leaders were unwavering in their efforts to ensure families and the growing number of children in the colony were afforded the choice of a quality Catholic education. It was only after years of negotiation and advocacy by the Marist Fathers that Marist education commenced in Australia. In 1872 Brothers Ludovic, Peter, Jarlath and Augustine stepped off the boat at Circular Quay in Sydney and shortly afterwards on 8th April St Patrick's Boys School opened at the Rocks with 139 Boys enrolled.

In 1962 the school was relocated to Kirby Street, Dundas where it is now known as St Patrick's Marist College.

Parramatta Marist High is the oldest Catholic School in Australia with a history and tradition spanning 190 years. Founded in 1820 by Fr John Therry, the original site was adjacent to St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta and became a highly respected school for both boys and girls from western Sydney.

From 1820 dedicated Catholic lay teachers largely taught students attending the school until the Marist Brothers took over the running of the school in Parramatta. Under Br Ludovic's direction Bros Ange, Edwin and Stanislaus were charged with the running of the now Marist school at Parramatta.

In 1880 a new Monastery was built next to the school and in 1889 a new headmaster, a Frenchman Br Claudius was appointed principal of the school.

During this time the enrolment increased to over 250, the first senior classes were presented for public examinations with notable success, facilities were expanded, extra classes were organized at night and on weekends and competitive sports were promoted vigorously with next door neighbours, the King's School, — which had opened nearby in the old Government Horticultural Garden and became the Marists' chief opponents in cricket, rugby and athletics.

In 1966 the school relocated to the spacious grounds attached to St Vincent's Boys' Home at Westmead. Secondary students transferred immediately, but Years 5 and 6 remained at Parramatta until the phasing out of the junior school at the Victoria Road site in 1994.



#### Phil Slattery shares Marist memories as a teacher

arramatta Marist was my first appointment as a Marist Brother in 1966. I began teaching in the Primary where Br Silas (Leo Fry) was Primary Principal. Other Primary brothers at the time were Br Paul Lang and Br Hugh Reilly.

I can recall teaching P.E. taking the boys to where the CommBank Stadium is now situated. In those days we had to wear the habit while teaching. It consisted of a black soutane, a black



cord which had three knots in it to symbolise the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, then under the chin was what was called a rabat or collar. When a Brother made his final vows he received a crucifix which was also worn as part of the habit. White habits were not worn till the 1980s.

We had community study each night before retiring to our rooms (at about 8.30pm) to prepare the lessons for the next day. In the community my job was to do the community shopping. So down to David Jones (where the huge Meriton building is now situated) I went each Saturday to purchase personal things required by the Brothers. Sometimes I'd treat myself to a 'nice' morning tea. We seemed to be forever asking permission to do things from the Brother Director. Examples: outings, movies, home visits and money that was needed. (No credit cards in those days). We had to account for every cent spent.

In the dining room there were two long tables – one for the younger brothers and one for the older brothers. Often, we were admonished for making too much noise. From memory meals were prepared by a cook – young brothers did the washing up. On feast days we were allowed a little alcohol – in moderation. Do you remember Ben Ean wine, my first taste of alcohol?

We led a regular life – up at 5.30am, morning prayers, Mass, (either in the old Cathedral or the Brothers' Monastery), breakfast, then off to school for the day. Then prayers before the evening meal. Sometimes meals were in silence when a book was read to the community. On weekends we cleaned the school grounds and generally prepared for the following week's work.

Life was very simple, but we were very content, enjoying living in a regular community as we began our teaching career.



# Looking Back Matters: Marist student John Boyle went on to join the priesthood, rise to become Dean of the Cathedral and is now a Monsignor! His reminiscences paint a detailed picture of his school days and informs readers of other historical happenings in St Patrick's Parish.



The present main worship space of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, is built on the footprint of the old Marist Brothers' School I attended from 1955-1962.

The two-storied brick school building, built in 1918, comprised a hall downstairs, with a stage (about where the present bishop's cathedra is), and upstairs classrooms accessed by a staircase, a latter addition, buttressed up against the building to stop it from falling over. Or so we schoolboys thought. Underneath the stairs was the principal's office, a bookshop and the

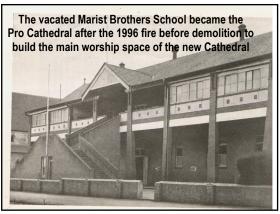
tuckshop. Where the present\_boom gates are on Victoria Road stood the brothers' monastery, a mock gothic but dilapidated brick and sandstone building. After a service life of more than 70 years it was pulled down to make way for a block of eight classrooms for primary school boys. The downstairs hall of the 1918 building had been turned into classrooms before my time at the school; two classrooms on the stage, and two more in the body of the building. At either end of the building were two evil-smelling chambers, the laboratory next door to the church and the boys' toilets at the western end. The upstairs classrooms were used for housie on Friday nights while the downstairs classrooms were memorable for having no electric lights.

It took me a few years to get used to the change from the Sisters of Mercy\_at St Patrick's Primary School to the all-brothers school on Victoria Road. You could hear the nuns coming from twenty paces. Their rosary beads rattled. This early warning sign could facilitate an instant response from recidivist boys, enabling a quick getaway. The brothers wore no rosary beads, an unfair oversight by their founder, Marcellin Champagnat. Boys engaging in a bit of pushing and shoving or racial sledging could be instantly held to account by a brother who appeared silently to mete out justice.

We thought the school regime was strict. In our last year it was compulsory to attend school on Saturdays and public holidays. This was to get the boys ready to pass the public service exam or obtain an entrance to university. Today's overseas-born parishioners cannot begin to imagine the discrimination faced by Catholics in years gone by. It was common to see advertisements placed in newspapers with the rider, 'Catholics need not apply'. There was, in law, no discrimination in the public service, the armed forces, and some institutions like the Commonwealth Bank or the universities. These were targeted by the Brothers as places where Marist ex-students could be safe and still practise their faith.

The brothers who lived together in what is now the parish office and presbytery were characters we admired. As schoolboys we underestimated the struggle they had in balancing teaching during the day and attending university at night. Brother Rupert Kelly inspired me with a love of history. He was my father's age when he taught me. He acquired an MA from Sydney University the year I was born. He came to Parramatta in 1958 when I was in Year 7. Sometimes Rupert's singular focus on the immediate task rendered him perhaps oblivious to what was happening around him.

There was always great rivalry between Parramatta Marist and the King's School next door. In my last year at school a raiding party had



managed to capture a Year 7 boy from King's in retaliation for some real or perceived slight by the King's boys. The boy, although originally enjoying the notoriety of being hosted by the bigger boys from 'next door', began to cry as he sat in our modern history class with Brother Rupert. It took Rupert some time to notice the boy crying, even though he was younger than we were, with a different coloured shirt. "Why are you crying?" asked Rupert. He took the boy back to his school and we never heard how he explained to the King's teachers why the boy was in the wrong classroom and in the wrong school!

During my last years at school the Principal\_was Brother Alman Dwyer. He was fourteen years older than I and with his appointment to Parramatta he became a keen Eels supporter. He was focused on standards and results. It was said he was "endlessly cheerful, welcoming, and hospitable. He never forgot a name or connection". After leaving Parramatta he became the Provincial of the Marist Brothers. I attended his funeral in 2007. He thought the school should have a library. So, he procured a cupboard for this innovation, and painted it green. We were encouraged to donate books to the cupboard. How I marvel when I see that green cupboard has morphed into an enormous library on the present Parramatta Marist site at Westmead.

Brother Benedict (Peter Codd) was a true blue, son-of-the-soil, Parramatta boy. Very tall, he was the true gentle giant. Brother Benedict's parents were married in St Patrick's Church and Peter was born in a hospital on the corner of George and Smith Streets, Parramatta. He was named, not after the Prince of the Apostles, but after Peter Pan, the horse that won the Melbourne Cup a week before he was born. His father managed St Aidan's Farm, his parents' orchard and farm just off Bettington Road, opposite Oatlands Golf Course. The present St Aidan's Street was the driveway into the orchard.

Peter's father had two sisters who entered the Sisters of Mercy convent at Parramatta, Sister Mary Aidan (1891-1980) and Sister Enda (1900-1970). I remember them both. Peter went to school at St Patrick's Primary and later to Parramatta Marist Brothers in 1941. Like me, he had music lessons at Our Lady of Mercy College.

The culture of the time mandated the use of surnames. Even in the seminary the priests addressed us formally, usually with a 'Mr' before our surname or with Domne, the Latin for 'Mr'. But Brother Benedict called us boys by our Christian names. This was unheard of. I remember him saying in class, "When you're ready, Bogdan,"

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#### MEMORIES OF MARIST SCHOOL DAYS MATTER

Looking Back Matters cont'd from p 10

Mockler, sitting next to me, whispered, "Who the hell is Bogdan?" Benedict never used the cane. He treated us with a dignity that we were not used to. He had a passion for teaching and even when I was Parish Priest of Westmead, in the 80s, he attended the presbytery to try to teach me how to use the spreadsheet Lotus 1-2-3.

The cane was the discipline management tool of choice. You could have one 'cut', generally reserved for minor misdemeanours and for the hole-in-the-heart child, but generally 'cuts' went in twos. Failures in a spelling bee like forgetting the second 'm' in accommodation, or not enough 'r's in diarrhoea, or attempting to spell phlegm beginning with the letter 'f' could merit the punishment of four cuts. Six cuts were for smoking under the camphor laurel trees that grew where the present cathedral exit doors are, between Murphy House and the back of the school. Making other boys laugh during Friday Benediction also merited six cuts.

While wearing school uniform the boys from Parramatta Marist were not allowed to talk to the brown bombers, the girls from Our Lady of Mercy College. But the Catholic custom of making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament before school meant the boys and girls were able to mix in the foyers of the old church, the areas behind the present tabernacle. Boys daring enough, or hormonally driven, could furtively speak to the girls there. Many a romance blossomed among the Globite bags following these narthex assignations. Cadets did not make visits, perhaps because they would have to remove their slouch hats but saluted the Blessed Sacrament as they passed by the main front door of the tower.

In the sacristy following the profession of some Sisters of Mercy in the convent chapel, Bishop Carroll said he wanted to see the Parish Priest, Monsignor McGovern, for a private moment. I was an altar boy at the profession and while Sister Martha fed us milk coffee and toast, the two prelates went to the arbour in part of the convent garden, now a carpark. We watched through the sacristy window and knew something serious was happening as they engaged in deep and meaningful (and heated) conversation.

Monsignor McGovern returned to the sacristy where we boys were still partying. The Mons blew up telling us that the conversation was about the question of whether the Marist Brothers' school should move to the grounds of Westmead Boys' Home. He described the bishop as a fool. It was one of McGovern's favourite sayings. We were present at that moment in history when an important education decision was made. The shock to us was that the Mons had taken us fourteen-year-olds into his confidence. He must have been very angry. The toast clung to my open mouth in surprise that he would berate a successor of the apostles. I was

speechless! Those two have passed on, but Parramatta Marist is now on a beautiful site and lives on — bigger and better on the huge campus at Westmead.

#### From the editor:

Thank you Monsignor Boyle for sharing your memories of Marist Schooldays.





**Recollections of Frank Duff** (aspiring to emulate his now-Venerable namesake, founder of the Legion of Mary)

**Old Boy**: Marist High Parramatta 1947-1952; the old school in Victoria Rd; from Year 6 to the Leaving Certificate (Year 11). I left school aged 15 years; over 70 years

ago! The Intermediate Year 9 classroom was high above the now Cathedral Altar.

Brothers: I remember particularly:

- Br Ethelred: He called us students "gentlemen"; my mother disagreed.
- \* Br Anselm: Headmaster, taught Year 9 in 1950 at the top of the massive external staircase; a good position to catch Year 7 and Year 8 latecomers to school e.g. from Penrith, Richmond, etc; the catchment area was huge;
- Br Elgar: 2IC Lieutenant in Cadets, great on English.

**Cadets**: In cadets we learned Morse Code — P for Parramatta: **dit dah dah dit**; easily remembered in case of need on night-patrols at cadet camps in the *wilds* —of Ingleburn for example! We also learned to stand up STRAIGHT, shoulders back, no hands in pockets; NEVER to faint on parade even in the heat of summer.

**Language**: In the 1940s and 1950s many Catholics boys received a bilingual education (in English & Latin: *Introibo ad altare Dei*; **R:** *Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam*. Missals, helpfully, were bi-lingual.

**Church**: We also learned to pay a visit whenever passing a Church or (later in life) a toilet. St Patrick's next door, like ALL Catholic Churches, had photos in the entry (Narthex): photos then of now-Ven. Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) and of Norman Thomas Cardinal Gilroy (Archbishop of Sydney 1940-1971), with EYES that always *followed one* as one passed by.

**OLMC** (Our Lady of Mercy College) over the road: MBHS (Marist Brothers High School) pupils were not permitted (for fear of contamination?) — before, during, or after school hours — to talk to or connect with OLMC students. WE, however, had seen THEM *talking with* King's School students (schooled next door at that time) at the milk bar, long-gone, near where the Riverside Theatres now stand. SO, for one day, maybe less, WE students were officially urged to wave to any OLMC student we might see in their grounds, or at a window ...

#### **Distinguished Old Boy:**

In 1939 one **Edward Bede Clancy** came to Parramatta Marist Year 9 (Intermediate) for one year studying Latin in preparation for studies for the priesthood at Springwood in 1940. He was ordained in 1949, died in 2014 (after 65 years a Priest). In between he was Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney 1973, Archbishop of Canberra 1978, Archbishop of Sydney 1983. He was made Cardinal in 1988; in 2003 he was Principal Co-consecrator of Anthony Fisher as Archbishop of Sydney.

**Marist book**: Old boys, and parishioners generally, might purchase the new book: **Sub Tuum Praesidium**: Marist Brothers in Australia 1872-2022; Sesquicentenary - A New History by Bros Julian Casey, John Luttrell, Peter Rodney and Neville Solomon. Available from The Hermitage, Mittagong.



## St Pat's People spring into action

n the week leading up to Fair Day on Sunday 11th September, weather forecasters predicted rainy weekdays with a sunshiny weekend to follow. Thankfully they were spot on!

Events like this don't just happen overnight. For weeks prior, much planning behind the scenes swung into operation in the Office: the staff grateful as always for the support of parishioners rallying to assist.

Why did our parish have a Spring Fair? EASY! Two simple motives:



#### Meet some of the Stall Co-ordinators and helpers

## Community Building

The call for help did not go unheeded
Thanks to everyone
who gave of their Time, Talent and Treasure, by

- Donating items for various stalls: whether it be bread, eggs, sausages, flour cakes, books, plants, or goods for the pop-up stall.
- Making cakes, preserves and jams
- Donating of prizes for the Raffle
- Buying tickets in the Raffle
- Volunteering to help on the stalls
- Supporting the event by coming and spending your money to augment the parish's coffers!



















#### **ACKNOWLEDGING GENEROUS BUSINESS DONORS**

We are grateful to

Pendle Hill Meat Market

for their donation of 20kg of sausages (for BBQ)

Goosestep Jumping Castle

for donating the use of their Jumping Castle



# Fr Robert digs deep in the Raffle Barrel And the lucky winners are:

1st Prize - Eddy Liaw \$200 Coles gift card
2nd prize - Phil Russo \$160 JB HiFi gift card
3rd Prize - Glen \$100 Dymock's gift card
4th Prize - Andy Cutajar \$100 St Pat's Giftshop
voucher

5th Prize - Carolyn Murtagh \$100 Coles gift card

#### TRIBUTE TO LIZ SOBOLEWSKI



Long-time parishioner, Liz died 27th July, 2022 and was farewelled from St Pat's Cathedral 10th August. Liz was initiated into the Catholic Faith here about 10 years ago. A very generous parishioner she was always involved in fund-

raising as seen here at the 2012 Spring Fair running the Chips Stall, which she also did at other fairs, donating goods for other stalls too. She was also a member of the Hospitality Group.

## SPRING FAIR WRAP UP:



#### Mili Lee, Cathedral Parish Manager comments:

What a beautiful sunny day we had for the Spring Fair! It was great to see so many people enjoying the good weather and browsing all the stalls. It was especially great to see many families with children running around and enjoying the jumping castle. Some parishioners commented on how it was just great to catch up with people they had not seen for a while and also get to know parishioners whom they see weekly but hadn't had the chance to meet. This is what events like Spring Fairs are all about; an event to build and grow our parish community.

Apart from being a successful community building event, the Spring Fair was also a huge success financially. Our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who donated to the event. Thank you to all those who responded to our call for donations to the Barbecue and Devonshire Tea stalls prior to the fair day. Your donations enabled us to run these stalls cost free.

#### Many thanks to:

- the many anonymous donors who brought donations on the day to the pop-up stall, cake stall, books stall and plant stall (especially to the young family that grew succulents for the stall);
- the stall co-ordinators: Marian (Pop-up),
   Joanne, Claire and Marilyn (Cakes/Preserves),
   Pauline, Khush and Bee (Devonshire Teas),
   Andy, Carmen, Romeo, Lynn (Barbecue/Drinks),
   Pat (Books), Gen, Sheffin (Gelato),
   Anna (plants), Pat and Donna (Raffle);
- John (MC), Edward and Jean Luc (setup); and
- to all the volunteers who assisted the coordinators at the stalls.

Here are the final figures for the Spring Fair:

Total for Stalls: \$ 5,618.80 Raffle: \$ 3,376.80 Donations: \$ 450.00 Total Income: \$ 9,445.60

Net Income (after deducting expenses) \$ 7,554.60

This is an amazing parish effort given that we only had two weeks to plan for the Fair!

Thank you again for your generosity.

May your generosity be returned to you manifold.

# History and Heritage Matter

**Judith Dunn OAM** a regular contributor to *St Pat's Matters* never fails to serve up articles on intriguing characters — like the Chiodettis — from Parramatta's colonial days. Like a prospector digging determinedly for precious minerals, Judith patiently fossicks through archives till she discovers what she considers will constitute a prized gem of an article, giving a window into history.

Judith's prodigious historical knowledge rides in tandem with her passion about preserving Parramatta's heritage. Case in point read her report, *Cemetery News a*djacent.

#### **VINCENZO and MARIA CHIODETTI**

I was intrigued when transcribing headstones in St Patrick's Cemetery to discover an epitaph written in Italian. It reads:

Maria Chiodetti, Native Detti Citta I Roma Nata I Amio 1788 Finea Su-A Vita Li 6<sup>th</sup> Aprile 1840 in Questa Citta Moglie of Vincenzo Chiodetti Band Mastro Del Reggimento 28 Fanteria.

Rather difficult to transcribe and translate, I sent it to the languages department of the University of Armidale, who roughly translated it as: *Maria Chiodetti, Native of the City of Rome, born in the year 1788 in Questa City, died 6 April 1840, wife of Vincenzo Chiodetti, Bandmaster of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.* 



Vincenzo Rafael Estacio Chiodetti was born in Rome in 1788 and married Maria in 1810. At the time his calling was a trombone player. Their son Alexander Antonio Mario Domenic Chiodetti was born on 21 February 1811.

On January 17 1836 the Sydney Herald reported, "the ship John Barry arrived in Sydney Harbour carrying Lieut. Colonel French, Band Master Cheodille and his wife with 23 rank and file. They were escorted to the Barracks by the Band of 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The Band of 28<sup>th</sup> is said to be of a superior description." Newspapers were quick to praise "Mr Chiodile, the first Italian band master this colony ever possessed. His band plays with more strength and pith than any other I have ever heard in this place..... They all look stout and well and are therefore able to blow with pith into their instruments." <sup>1</sup>

Their son Alexander does not appear in records of Australia. He was married in Rome and from 1838 to 1874 produced 19 children, dying in "Mussorie" India in 1896.

Vincenzo seemed to have had an excitable and passionate nature. In 1839 a large advertisement appeared in a Sydney newspaper<sup>2</sup> protesting that a

music master in Sydney had ridiculed Chiodetti in front of one of his scholars. It reads in part:

"Mr Chiodetti is very sorry any Gentleman professing the Sciences of Music should so far forget himself as to ridicule one with whom he is not acquainted and consequently cannot be a judge of his abilities as a Master of Music...." The article points out errors in the Gentleman's music, stating his musical education appears rather imperfect. The matter could be settled if the person in question came to Parramatta for a musical challenge. If he did not come, Chiodetti threatened to reveal his name publicly.

The band master settled into life with the regiment in Parramatta but sadly his wife Maria died in April 1840 at the age of 50 years and was buried in a vault in St Patrick's Cemetery.

A newspaper article 7 July 1840<sup>3</sup> reveals Mr and Mrs Chiodetti each donated £2 10s as subscriptions for the erection of St Patrick's Church, Sydney. As Maria had died in April 1840 it was thought the money had been donated in her memory, until a marriage was discovered between Vincenzo Chiodetti and Ellen McCabe at St Patrick's Church Parramatta on 20 May 1840, just 6 weeks after the death of Maria. Father Michel Brennan officiated.

In 1841 Chiodetti's band was praised when the celebrated composer, Nathan arrived in the colony but with the strict note that all vocals should be in English. "Let us have English then, in all vocal pieces – and banish Italian till it can be fairly and generally understood" <sup>4</sup>

When the band embarked for Bombay in June 1842, Chiodetti was not with them as he feared his constitution was not strong enough for India. He had been their bandmaster for 14 years and they presented Signore Chiodetti with a certificate of character and musical proficiency as Professor of Music, stamped with the regimental seal. Another reason they may not have wanted to sail was the imminent birth of Maria Sancta Fortunata Chiodetti which occurred on 22 June 1842.

The family resettled in High Street, West Maitland where Chiodetti advertised to teach Pianoforte, Guitar and Violin as well as tuning pianos and importing real Roman violin strings.<sup>5</sup>

Moving once more, this time to Windsor, Chiodetti's proficiency in teaching pianoforte was called into question by a Mrs Hadsley. Again this was refuted in a voluble advertisement denigrating Mrs Hadsley and offering to discuss the issue in public academy at Sydney.

Cont'd next page

#### **VINCENZO and MARIA CHIODETTI**

Moving back to Parramatta, Ellen Chiodetti was granted land in Marsden Street. Vincenzo could not own land at this time as he was considered an alien. When Ellen died in November 1852, Vincenzo married again just six weeks later in January 1853. The marriage to Anne Winter was held at St Patrick's Church Parramatta officiated by Father Nicholas Joseph Coffey.

Chiodetti applied to be naturalised on 27 June 1853, "being possessed of real property and anxious to obtain legal title to it." This would be the land granted to Ellen. He was listed In Naturalised Aliens Returns on 5 October 1858 and died on 5 December in the same year. Buried in St Patrick's Cemetery, Anne, his Executrix did not add his name to the family vault. In early May 1859, seventeen-year old Maria ran away from her step-mother who put an advertisement in the newspaper

I hereby CAUTION the public Against giving any credit to MARY CHIODETTI As she has left her home against my consent ANNE CHIODETTI Parramatta 16 May 1859

Maybe Maria inherited her father's passionate nature. She married Charles Weedon in 1860 at the age of 18 years.

Reminiscences in the *Town and Country Journal* stated Signor Chiodetti had taught the very best families and for the encouragement of pupils, held musical parties while the lower tastes were provided for at Morris' cockpit and by sparring, dogfights and free and easy clubs. Chiodetti must have been a great asset to the more genteel pursuits of the colony.

- <sup>1</sup> Sydney gazette 2-2-1836
- <sup>2</sup> Sydney Herald 13 February 1839
- <sup>3</sup> Australasian Chronicle 7 July 1840
- <sup>4</sup>Sydney Herald 22 February 1841
- <sup>5</sup> Australasian Chronicle 7 April 1842
- <sup>6</sup> Weekly Register of Politics, Facts and General literature 13 January 1844 repeated 20-1-1844 & 7-2-1844

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Judith's passion for recording history and heritage in relation to our colonial past and to documenting cemeteries has led her to write several books: At the editor's request she sent a list.

The Parramatta Cemeteries, St Patrick's

The Parramatta Cemeteries, St John's

The Parramatta Cemeteries, Mays Hill (Presbyterian and Baptist)

The Parramatta Cemeteries, All Saints and Wesleyan

The Parramatta Cemeteries, St Paul's Carlingford

Colonial Ladies: Lovely, Lively and Lamentably Loose (Crimes of

convict women)

Then and There Lying Dead (Early Crime in Sydney's Greater West)

Interested in purchasing a copy?

Contact Judith by email: judith@pasttimestours.com

#### ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEWS

I regularly walk through St Patrick's Cemetery to check for anything untoward that I then report to City of Parramatta Council who owns the site.—issues such as general litter, dumped furniture, vandalism, breaches in the fence or recently, flooding of the chapel. (which Judith reported on in Issue 111, p20.)



Checking in the last few weeks I was dismayed to find one of the vaults in the oldest section had collapsed. These vaults, built of sandstone in an altar or box shape, stand on a sandstone platform which is actually the roof of an underground room from 8 to 12 feet deep. These are family vaults in which several members of the family are buried. I transcribed St Patrick's Cemetery in 1988 and the epitaph on top of the box reads:

Sacred
to the memory of
Mr Patrick Downey
Farmer of Prospect
Who departed this life
On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1827
Requiescant in Pace Amen

The inscriptions on the sides which have now collapsed inside the vault, memorialise Margaret Downey 26, Eliza Jane 21, Mary Ann -, Ellen 87, Thomas 40, William 20, Albert 3 months, John 79 and Ellen 84. An adjacent headstone records another 5 Downey family members. Decoration includes a cross entwined with shamrocks. From memory I believe this is the Downey family who conducted Downey Engineering in more recent years.

Parramatta Council have been notified and have put tape around the site due to its dangerous condition, the vault being full of water from recent rains.

This is one of the reasons why we are trying to organise "Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery" as a group who will check the site and inform the parish and Council of issues as they arise. I have been keeping an eye on the cemetery for the last 32 years and it would be wonderful to be joined by others who would like to help protect and preserve our Catholic heritage.

Judith Dunn



PAUL DANIEL MAHONEY (26/11/1942-8/6/2022) long—time parishioner, was farewelled from St Patrick's on 20th June. The cathedral crowded with mourners for the Requiem Mass to celebrate Paul's life bore testimony to his influence beyond family and friends to the wider community. Daughter Louisa Thomas in her eulogy shines a light on what her Dad valued: family, faith, work, and community. That is, people mattered to him.

## May his strong but gentle soul rest in peace.

his eulogy is written from collected loving memories of his closest family.

In gathering those stories there are some clear themes that sum up Dad's life: his family and community life, his work as a pharmacist and his passion for cricket.

While Dad was generally a calm presence in our lives, not given to big displays of emotion, the sincerity he felt for those passions cannot be doubted. So today I'd like to talk about each of them, to remind you of the man we loved and celebrate his life as we farewell him to the next.

I'll start with the biggest one and the reason many of us are here today: FAMILY.

Paul Daniel Mahoney was born on 26th November 1942 at The Poplars Private Hospital in Epping, the 4th child for Eileen and Dan Mahoney.

He shared a very happy childhood with his four sisters Monica, Colleen, Rosemary and Angela. Angela, Monica are here with us today.

Fond memories of his childhood are playing lots of cricket in the backyard with younger sister Angela as his human wicket, crouched behind a garbage bin lid while young dad bowled and bowled.

As a child, Dad also loved bodysurfing up at Port Macquarie, fishing on the Hastings River with his family and ringing up radio station 2BL to take part in the nightly quiz.

He went to primary school at Our Lady Help of Christians, Parish School Epping, then onto high school at Eastwood Marist Brothers. He was a bright student, graduating there in 1959. Some of his friends from high school are here today.

Dad went on to Sydney University studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy, graduating in 1964.

During his university years Dad developed a love of jazz music, especially the Dave Brubeck Quartet, Miles Davis, Oscar Peterson trio, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday.

It was during these years he discovered the Goon Show and Monty Python,

sparking his love of the silly and absurd, which in later years fed into the kinship of madness he felt with Basil Fawlty.

Dad's parents, Eileen and Dan Mahoney were heavily involved in the Labor Party, Dan Mahoney was the member for Parramatta for 17 years. They were both so busy in public life, the five children learnt to look after themselves, answer the door and phone politely, but most importantly, to listen, — especially Dad, — a trait he carried through his entire life.

With this gene pool, Dad took a great interest in politics, general news and current affairs all his life, and as most of you would agree, plenty of his conversations revolved around this. He loved a good chat.

Once Dad graduated from Uni, he embarked on a long satisfying profession in pharmacy. He started this career in Darwin, a place he thoroughly enjoyed, loving the tropical weather and lifestyle. He gained the experience and skills in the industry which led to on-going roles in Inverell and Forest Lodge.

Back in Sydney in 1968, at the wedding of Tony and Angela Dumas, a very significant event occurred — Dad met Mum, Lynn Baxter, and was introduced at that time to her very large family.

The relationship blossomed, and by June 1969 they were engaged and then married here at St Patrick's Church, Parramatta, October 2nd the same year.

They enjoyed a beautiful honeymoon on Norfolk Island and quickly moved to Lae in Papua New Guinea with positions available for both of them as Pharmacist and Assistant. Six months later, they moved to Madang, the 'jewel' of PNG.

It was an exciting and challenging time for a young, married couple, truly cementing their relationship.

Building a life in Madang meant a busy work schedule. Many great friendships were formed in this beautiful small coastal town, where they enjoyed an active social life, with spare time spent playing golf, and enjoying the waterways of Madang.

Mum and Dad during this time were involved in the Catholic community at the Holy Spirit Cathedral. It was here they met Michael Henry, a dear friend, who became a large influence in their lives.

There was great joy in Madang, with the arrival of 3 children in a short time frame: Peter Daniel in 1970, Louisa Jane in 1972, and Katherine Maree in 1974 — all born in the tiny hospital Madang General.

Life with 3 young children in Madang was busy, lucky Mum had Martin, a huge help around the home, and the tropical lifestyle of afternoons at Madang Bay swimming and relaxing made life pleasant.

Dad also joined Rotary in Madang and during his tenure he was involved in the establishment of a hospital in Simbi, in the southern highlands.

Shortly before Independence arrived in PNG in 1975, Paul and Lynn made the big move back to Sydney, purchasing Dundas Pharmacy in 1974, initiating a new and busy life.

The Mahoney Clan moved into 53 Sorrell St Parramatta on 11/11/1975. This was also a very significant day in Australian politics.

John was born in 1976 and the youngest, Christopher in 1981. As a large family, life was hectic to say the least. With precious little time on his hands, Dad devoted his time to family wherever possible: involvement with scouts and cubs, coaching the boys' cricket teams, attending girls' ballet concerts, and late afternoon swims at Whale Beach. Fish and chips on Shelley Beach Manly was a favourite of Dad's before the sun went down – Dad did everything.

Dad was a night owl. He came to life after dinner, when he would enjoy a wine with Mum, some soulful entertainment with Jazz music, ABC TV and take part in the regular nightly 2BL Quiz, calling in as a regular, *Paul from Parramatta*. Many nights he would get us out of bed to say 'hi' to Jim the possum, a regular guest in our backyard.

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

He also introduced us to the villain of Shelley Beach headland, Skullman, a fearsome cave dwelling troll, who liked making growling sounds at us kids, chasing and scaring us as we ran through the scrubland ... Skullman did have an uncanny resemblance to Dad.

After 25 years, he sold Oatlands Pharmacy in 1998 to Michael Behan, who is here today. This was a big change, a milestone, and a significant time in Dad's life. Dad genuinely enjoyed his profession, he worked long hours, serving his community with his characteristic sense of fairness and generosity. He had great respect throughout the industry.

He then travelled, returning to PNG and many Islands of the south Pacific representing many pharmaceutical companies, engaging his sales skills, and his warm friendly personality to these communities.

Dad enjoyed working in various locations. His love of meeting new people, and engaging in these communities, and his reputation in the pharmacy industry, gave him many opportunities to work as a locum pharmacist around Sydney, North Sydney and when residing at the Farm Karingal, he also worked at Lithgow, Wallerawang, and Portland. He loved the country community and his time at Karingal.

Dad felt a great need to give back to the profession he'd gained so much from. He mentored many young pharmacists and gave very freely of his time to the Pharmacy Practice Foundation at Sydney University for many years, and he was the chairman for NSW Pharmacy Defence Ltd (PDL). Dad's involvement with these organisations gave him great satisfaction.

Now besides work and family another interest Dad had was cricket. Dad absolutely LOVED cricket.

Going to the cricket tests and one day matches with Dad at the SCG were good times for Peter, John and Chris. Forming a special bond over this sport, Dad was a significant influence for their continued passion and love for the game.

He batted and bowled and wherever he went, he would find the local team or form a team. A notable point in his cricketing career was being invited in the 80s to join the Izingari team with whom he toured South East Asia and Vancouver.

With Greg Hodgson and Peter O' Reilly he re-established Pharmacy Cricket in 2001. Some of these men are here today to honour the end of a great innings.

Once again, it gave Dad a platform to not only enjoy his cricket, but the company and mentoring of the young pharmacists, who also enjoyed playing cricket.

In 2019 Mum and Dad celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family lunch at Cafe Sydney.

As you can see from Dad's smile in the photo on the front of your Mass booklet, it was a proud and happy day for him and the family. A memory we will all treasure.

Mum's and Dad's 52-year marriage was built on love, kindness and understanding. Dad gave Mum a lot of space and time to care for her mother, Louisa Baxter in her final years. Dad felt the loss of his mother-in-law Lou deeply, they had enjoyed a long treasured friendship.

In more recent times Mum and Dad spent quality time



together at their new farm in Oberon.

When back in Oatlands, Dad would go for daily walks with the neighbours to the local coffee shop. The East-enders of Greens Ave are a wonderful community and Dad so enjoyed this morning ritual.

He also loved to spend time with his grandchildren. 12 in total, all present here today. They all loved their

time with Papa.

He was very proud of them all and stayed involved, attending their milestones, their sacraments, birthday celebrations, graduations, school and sporting achievements.

Dad had a happy, full, contented life.









#### A Note of Thanks from Lynn Mahoney



St Patrick's Parramatta has been an integral part of the Mahoney family's life since 1976.
A parish to celebrate the Mass, to bring our children to receive their sacraments, to relish a

welcoming community and to enjoy life-long friendships. I express my sincere gratitude to the clergy, both past and present, to the office staff and to the parishioners for your condolences, gracious kindness and wonderful help at the time of Paul's passing. My heartfelt thanks for the love and concern you have shown to me and my family in our time of bereavement.

## **Our Knowledge of Rituals Matters**



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

#### What are 'The Last Rites'?

People are very influenced by popular culture on matters concerning the Catholic faith, particularly when it comes to what priests do as part of their sacramental ministry. We think of the popular depiction of Confession, with the penitent kneeling in a darkened box, the screen separating them from the priest (almost always dressed elaborately, sometimes wearing a biretta), the screen being slid open, and the penitent uttering the same words, being addressed by the priest as "my son" or "my daughter", and so on. Perhaps the next most misunderstood Catholic ritual — including by Catholics themselves — is what is often referred to as "the last rites".

Priests get requests from time-to-time from parishioners to visit someone, often an elderly relative, and to give them "the last rites". I'm sure that when such requests are made, the relative of the one who is approaching their death has only the good of their dying loved one in mind and feels that the best thing that they can do is ensure that the spiritual welfare of the person is best catered for: for a Catholic, this means the last rites.

From my experience, I can tell you that the "last rites", based on the true meaning of the term, are rarely administered to the dying. Most of the time, when a priest is called to the bedside of a dying person, usually in a hospital, the person is barely conscious and so the priest will usually administer the *Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick* and then say some prayers for the dying person. Of course, for those who are present, it is a comfort to see their loved one receiving a sacrament before their death and many are convinced that their loved one has received the "last rites".

This ritual for this sacrament and for the prayers are contained in a book called *Pastoral Care of the Sick:* Rites of Anointing and Viaticum.

This book is divided into two main sections:

- i) pastoral care of the sick and
- ii) pastoral care of the dying.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, as mentioned above, is by no means only for those who are dying. When it is given to someone dying it is referred to as *Extreme Unction*. The only reason that it is often administered to the dying is that this sacrament is the only sacrament a baptised and confirmed Catholic who is barely conscious can receive. They are not able to confess their sins, nor are they able to receive Communion. The anointing of the sick is able to be received by anyone who is seriously ill (though this is not clearly defined) and can be received repeatedly, just like Reconciliation or Communion. As a matter of interest, only priests

and bishops are ministers of this sacrament, just as they are for Reconciliation and Communion.

So, what are the "last rites", exactly? The second part of Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum, which is concerned with pastoral care of the dying, speaks of the principal sacrament associated with the dying as the Eucharist, referred to in this context as Viaticum: "The celebration of the eucharist as viaticum, food for the passage through death to eternal life, is the sacrament proper to the dying Christian." (p.136) We might refer to Communion under these circumstances as "Last Communion". It goes on to state that the anointing of the sick should be celebrated at the beginning of a serious illness. As part of the last rites, following the reception of viaticum, the dying person will be prayed for with Commendation of the Dying. After the person has died, the priest will then pray Prayers for the Dead.

Of course, the Church's book of rites attempts to provide for exceptional circumstances too, recognising that when dealing with those in danger of death, things rarely proceed according to a neat pattern. In times of sudden illness or an accident, a priest can celebrate the sacraments of Penance (Confession), Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum in one continuous rite. In this sense, as several rites are celebrated one after the other, we might find it easier to see this type of celebration as "the last rites".

As a matter of interest, we can understand the importance that the Church places on viaticum, "food for the journey", when we read in *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*, that those who are being initiated into the Catholic faith when seriously ill and dying, are to receive viaticum, even children.

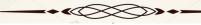
In conclusion, it is easy to understand how many people misunderstand the meaning of "last rites". For most people who are dying, the reality is that they will most likely receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or Extreme Unction, certainly a great spiritual benefit for those who are not able to receive the benefits of viaticum, the sacrament most proper to those who are preparing to meet God when their earthly life comes to its end.

Anointing of the Sick however, is by no means restricted to its use as *Extreme Unction*, and its benefits are extended to those who are ill but not in danger of death. The Church encourages us, quite rightly, to make use of the spiritual benefits that Christ offers us through the sacraments when we are in need.









#### Prayer for the Sick

Saint Augustine

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.

Rest your weary ones.

Bless your dying ones.

Soothe your suffering ones.

Pity your afflicted ones.

Shield your joyous ones.

And for all your love's sake. Amen.

LET US PRAY FOR THE MANY
PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING
ALONE, WITHOUT BEING
ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE
TO THEIR LOVED ONES.
LET US PRAY ALSO FOR
THE FAMILIES WHO
CANNOT ACCOMPANY
THEIR LOVED ONES
ON THAT JOURNEY.

Pope Transis
22 March 20

## **MEDITATION MATTERS**

Janelle shares her thoughts on meditation and becoming the current leader of the Meditation Group here at the Cathedral.

Hi, my name is Janelle and I am the current leader of the meditation group at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. I began attending meditation here over 5 years ago upon seeing a notice for meditation in the parish bulletin. However, it wasn't until June this year that I have had the honour of leading the meditation sessions.

How did this come about, you may ask?

Well, during COVID our group was unable to physically get together to meditate. This was a difficult time for us, as it was for everyone, as this was the period we needed meditation the most. I believe our weekly meditation practices prior to COVID gave me strength to carry on the practice, albeit on my own.

Fast forward a few months, to when attending the Pentecostal Retreat at St Patrick's, I ran into Marian, a beloved parishioner and member of our weekly meditation group. She mentioned that we must return to our weekly meditation, now that COVID restrictions were easing. I was overjoyed at this prospect!

However, there was one problem! Marian told me that all our resources, including our crucifix, prayer cloth, CDs, and prayer notes had gone missing due to a recent refurbishment at the presbytery. New people wanted to join our meditation group, but Marian was worried that without our resources, we might be unable to recommence. So, in our discussion during the break at the retreat, I suggested I could actually access our meditation talks and the music on my phone, as I am rather tech savvy in this area. Marian was very relieved at my offer, and that is how I became the new leader for the meditation group. When later hearing of what had transpired, fellow member, Terry claimed it was the Holy Spirit at work that lead to my "accidental" appointment.

A couple of weeks after returning to weekly meditation, Patti, our previous leader, while sitting at home in her garden one afternoon, had an epiphany, which led her to check out her garage. (During the initial hunt for our missing resources, she had vowed she did not know what had happened to them.) What did she discover? All our meditation resources had somehow 'miraculously' reappeared safe in her garage!

As a member, and now leader of our meditation group, I can definitely declare that meditation has impacted positively upon my life. It has taught me to grow in love and patience for those around me. I am so lucky to be surrounded by such a warm and welcoming meditation community. If I miss a meditation session due to unexpected circumstances, I truly feel like something is missing from my week. I am honestly blessed to be a member, and now new leader, of the meditation group here at St Patrick's Cathedral.



## Getting to know parishioners matters

Parishioners are still invited to introduce themselves via the Sunday Bulletin. A collation of new nutshell vignettes are then posted in *St Pat's Matters*.

#### MEET THE PACE FAMILY



Hello to all of our fellow St Pat's parishioners.

My name is Hope, my husband is Michael and we have three children Chanel (9), Isaac (7) and Isabella (1). Throughout my childhood, I attended many different Catholic parishes. This was because we moved houses quite a lot although my mother thought it was important for us to attend church on a Sunday morning, no matter where we were at the time. I was uninformed as to why, I never questioned it but I did as my mum said.

I attended a local public primary school and enjoyed learning new things in Scripture, the place I could ask all my questions. I was baptised as a baby but never completed the other sacraments. This affected me as a child, I was embarrassed especially when my mother and all the other children could go up and receive the Body of Christ whilst I had to sit down with my younger sister and pray.

Unfortunately, throughout my teenage years, I became very disconnected from my faith. It wasn't until I turned sixteen that I made the decision to start attending Mass again, although this time, it was on my own. I strongly believe that spiritual maturity doesn't happen overnight.

When I met Michael, there was religious cohesion and we were able to bond by attending church together. This was important to the both of us. With the support of Michael, I knew I wanted to continue my journey of faith, dive deeper and actually understand/learn. So, I contacted Deacon Rod about joining the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). I committed to attending RCIA meetings and by doing so I met so many amazing people and learnt so much about my faith.

Michael and I were married at St Pat's. All three of our children were baptised at St Pat's and Chanel made her First Holy Communion at St Pat's last year. How can we expect our children to live their faith if we aren't leading them? If you see us at Mass, please come and say hello. We love meeting new people.

God bless

David Pigott received this thank you and photo in celebration of Ezekiel's first birthday.



Hi.

My name is Ezekiel Dave Fernandes. I was born last year on 13th August, weighing merely 500 grams and almost 4 months premature. Nothing about my birth was easy or normal, but I had a strong determination to live and here I am today completing one entire revolution around the Sun.

In this entire journey we came across so many people in different situations, be it with their children or themselves. All these encounters have influenced our lives in one or the other way and helped us become a better family.

My mum and dad told me that today's day wouldn't have been possible without your support and prayers. So, I specially want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unconditional love and support. Me and my parents are very grateful to the Almighty for blessing us and above all for bringing a lovely person like you in our life. You and your family will always be in our prayers.

Thank you once again for your generosity and kindness  $\bigcirc$ 

PS: Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. God bless you and your family.

Mayuri, Mats & Ezekiel Fernandes

Editor's note: Mayuri and Mats were St Pat's parishioners until returning to India in December 2019.

## NEVER TOO LATE TO TAKE UP THE DEAN'S INVITATION: Getting to know you....

We would like to get to know all parishioners of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, whether you are a long-time parishioner, been here for a few years, or are relatively new to the parish. Feel free to share whatever you are comfortable with sharing about yourself and/or your family. You might include details, e.g., of how long you've lived in the parish, your occupation, details of spouse/partner and/or children, hobbies and interests, your faith story, your involvement with St Patrick's and what you like about the parish. The possibilities are endless! Please email your contribution (max 250 words) along with a jpeg photo of good resolution, to Pat Preca, Parish Secretary, secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au along with a phone number in

secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au along with a phone number in case we need to clarify something.

# Getting to know parishioners matters

#### **MEET THE COOK FAMILY**



We (Graham and Marilyn) were married in the Cathedral in January 1984 by Father Tom Harsas and our three children Sarah, Brendan and Eloise were all baptised here. They regularly attended Mass and were involved as Readers at 9.30am Mass and in the Youth Group.

Graham joined the Parish Finance Committee after the 1996 fire in the Cathedral and was a member for a few years. He was also a Reader at 9.30am Mass for many years.

We have both been involved in Children's Liturgy for over 25 years as leaders and co-ordinating the group. Through this ministry we have seen many of the young children of the parish grow to be mature and responsible members of the community.

When the St Vincent de Paul group hadn't been active for a while, we joined a small team of old hands and have been providing valuable assistance to the needy in our community for the last 6 years. It is a most important and rewarding experience.

We have joined Father Robert's inaugural Social Justice Committee and are hoping that this will achieve positive outcomes in the parish and local community.

Over the years we have also been involved in many Spring Fairs and activities which we have greatly enjoyed. This has helped develop friendships as well as assisting to raise funds for the Parish.

At St Patrick's we have made long lasting friendships for which we are very grateful and we hope to be involved for many years to come.

#### **GETTING TO KNOW... DEACON MATTHEW DIMIAN**

(Matthew's ordination to the diaconate was featured in Issue 110.)



t has been a pleasure to serve at St Pat's for the last seven months. I have gotten to know many of you in the course of parish life, whether it's seeing you at the sacramental programs, Credo youth group, RCIA group, or just chatting after Mass. But if I have not met you yet, here is a little about myself.

I was born and raised in Sydney, but my family background is Egyptian. This makes me Coptic Catholic by Baptism. While I love my Eastern Catholic roots, I received most of my formation in the faith from the Roman Church and so I am studying to be a priest in the Roman Rite.

## The Matter of Hospitality

Meet Abel and Ely Revollar and Leonard Aaron



bel and Ely are the newest members of the Hospitality Group. Long time member, Leonard is responsible for encouraging them to join. (along with another couple, Sheerin and Richard Cherian.)

They have embraced their new hospitality roles with great enthusiasm.

The Hospitality Group plays a vital role in ministry outreach to parishioners, new and old and visitors to St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.

Thinking of joining The Hospitality Group? Contact Donna or Pat in the parish office on 8839 8400 and they will pass on your details to the Hospitality Group Coordinator, Marian Polizzi.

#### Worth Reflection....and Embracing

Generally, hospitality is in three parts: an encounter, a dialogue, and an invitation.

Each part naturally leads into the other in that order.

Christian hospitality is different from our non-Christian friends' hospitality.

Christian hospitality is animated by the Divine love with the assumption that the welcomed stranger is Christ.

When done right,
Christian hospitality leads others to Christ

Paul Catalanotto

I went to school at Redfield College, graduating in 2010 alongside our very own Fr Chris del Rosario. I have felt God calling me to be a priest since childhood, and even though I wandered from one university degree to another after school (without finishing any of them), part of me has always known that the priesthood was where I was meant to be. I finally joined the seminary in 2014. I was ordained a deacon in February 2022, and hope to be ordained a priest in the not too distant future.

I enjoy good movies, strategic card games and board games, and a bit of squash or basketball. I love discussing our faith, especially philosophy and theology. So if you're keen for a deep discussion, feel free to come and ask a challenging question. Please keep me in your prayers as I prepare for the priesthood. And I hope to keep getting to know you while I am here.



"...they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright ...." Psalm 92:13-15

### Remembering Keith& Paul on their birthday milestones

#### **KEITH MATHEWS' CENTENARY MILESTONE:**

Keith Mathews turned 100 on Friday, 16th September, which was duly acknowledged in the following Sunday's bulletin at St Pat's.

The same Sunday my husband and I were privileged to attend Keith's centenary birthday celebration at the Gatehouse, at the Anglican Retirement Village, where Keith and wife Ann now live. (Previously they'd resided in Oatlands, having had a long association with St Patrick's for over 40 years or more. Many other St Pat's parishioners, including Fr John Boyle, came to honour Keith's 'achievement'.

As people arrived they made their way to Keith to extend birthday greetings, which were duly snapped for 'archival purposes.' The occasion began with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr Ramesh Richards SJ. Then it was time for reminiscing, reading the billboards timelining Keith's amazing journey over his 100 years, and enjoying the delicious repast on offer.

M Polizzi

#### In Keith's Words: Ministry as an Acolyte

I had attended school at Marist Brothers, Darlinghurst, but lived at Arncliffe which meant I was never able to be an altar server.

While in service in the RAF during WWII and afterwards while travelling overseas, I would attend Mass and often I would be the only one in attendance. Sometimes the priests would offer me the opportunity to assist them, however I had never been an altar boy, so was unable to help.

When Fr Larkey offered me the chance to attend an acolyte course I was very excited and honoured to have the opportunity to serve at Mass — something I had wanted to do for a long time.

I had to attend the course at Strathfield. Then I was installed as an Acolyte at Haberfield Church. This was in 1983/1984.



I considered it such a privilege to be serving Christ on the altar as an Acolyte that I decided to attend Mass every morning. On occasions when the priest did not arrive, and I was unable to contact him, I presided over a Communion Service.

My duties as an Acolyte have helped me to become more and more a part of St Patrick's community. The feeling of togetherness experienced in the parish over the years has grown.

Another part of my ministry was taking Communion to the sick. It is an amazing experience witnessing the great desire, and then the thankfulness, of the recipient in receiving the Body of Christ. This has strengthened my faith considerably.

Due to the continued deterioration of my eyesight, it is with deep regret, at the age of 89 that I had to give up being an Acolyte. To have the great pleasure to serve Christ in this capacity has been a privilege. I was lucky enough to do so for nearly 30 years.

(Keith's walk down memory lane about his ministry as an acolyte was featured at the end of the Mass Booklet





ong-time St Pat's parishioner **Paul Peters**, now in a nursing home in Mt Druitt, was joined by his son Isaac and daughter-in-law on 17th September to celebrate his 94th birthday. Parishioners Ian Goldthorpe and Doreen Sen were also there, linking Paul with our parish community at which he had served as an Acolyte for many years. Paul was also committed to regularly leading the praying of the Rosary before 12:30pm Mass on weekdays.



# Mixed Matters

#### **MORE MARIST MATTERS**



#### THE MARIST LOGO

The large 'M' in the centre is the traditional symbol of the Marist Brothers.

The 12 stars, above the 'M', are a scriptural symbol of the Blessed Virgin, to whom the Marist Brothers are devoted.

#### DID YOU FIND IT?....



The Parramatta City Council Plaque laid in 1965 naming Marist Place in tribute to the presence of the Marist Brothers here and the founding of their school in 1875.

For those still perplexed as to its location, look near the rose garden in front of the Presbytery/Office — which incidentally was originally the Marist Brothers' Monastery. The new monastery at Westmead opened in 1968.

The monastery was blessed by Archbishop Gilroy on 20th September 1953.

Check out the foundation stone at the front of the monastery, (now presbytery/office), especially the part which states:

"It stands as a monument to the zeal and foresight of Right Rev. Mgr P.J. O'Donnell P.P.V. F. under whose care it was begun and completed. Piet Obut Jan. XXVII 1954."



We reserve the right to edit, omit or censor any article submitted for publication



## THE DIOCESAN MEDAL of HONOUR

This year's medal has changed from the one awarded in previous years.

It is now a smaller pin on version, whereas the former was a 6.5cm medallion in a case.

The message remains the same: The front bearing the image of Mary Mackillop with the wording,

Well done good and faithful servant.

The reverse bears the image of St Patrick's

Cathedral and wording Diocese of Parramatta.

#### **GREAT MARRRIED TEAMWORK and TALENT!**



Wife Claire has a passion for jam making. At the recent Spring Fair buyers were faced with a huge and diverse array of her jams and preserves.

Onto the scene comes clever husband Steven who decided Claire's fare deserved a special label. His design? St Pat's Preserves (with Church logo).

Maybe the parish should patent it?



#### **JUST FOR FUN!**

Decided to go for a walk on the beach and got freaked out when I thought I'd run into a KKK meeting....turns out They were just closed beach umbrellas!



