

# ST PAT'S MATTERS

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

*LENT....calls us to  
Turn away from sin  
and be faithful to the Gospel*

*Well now is the favourable time;  
this is the day of salvation*

MARCH | ISSUE 115

Cover Photo by Mary Brazell,  
Diocese of Parramatta.



## EDITORIAL

In this issue, you'll read articles that focus on the Mass: the Red Mass marking the beginning of the Law year for members of the Legal Fraternity; the Mass of Ordination of three deacons to the priesthood; the *Mass for You at Home* and what being involved as explained by Fr Robert; and from Issue 65, a retrospective on the Mass on Ash Wednesday in the park after the 1996 fire destroyed the Cathedral.

The latter comment segues into Mgr Boyle's emotive reflection about the day of THAT fire. And find out what it was that Margaret Climpson thought was lost, but then found!

While the Priestly Ordination recently celebrated was in triplicate, our pictorial gallery focuses on Fr Matthew Dimian, since he served as a Deacon at the cathedral during the year prior.

On the music scene, Bernard Kirkpatrick writes in celebration of the Cathedral organ, now 125 years young; and, at his bidding, three organ scholars submitted biopics, which are sure to impress readers. And find out about organist Patrick Newman's recent promotion.

In *Welcoming Matters*, Deacon David Dowling and Seminarian Jeff Hood introduce themselves to the parish community; in *'Getting to Know You Matters'* find out the parishioners who do likewise.

Last year's Marist Sesquicentenary is revisited by Michael Lilley as he writes about his education at St Patrick's College, Dundas.

Reports by Bob Edgar and Frank Duff alert parishioners to serious issues concerning to St Patrick's Cemetery.

An SRE Update informs us about their Ministry; discover what a group of 'Jammers' got up to late last year; and catch up with our WYD pilgrims in their recent fundraising BBQ.

Lent matters to two people who reflect about its importance on both their spiritual growth and relationship with God and with others. Time to heed Ash Wednesday's exhortation:

**Turn away from sin,  
be faithful to the Gospel.**

M. Polizzi

## THE RED MASS

is celebrated annually at St Patrick's to mark the opening of the judicial year. This year's Mass took place on Monday 6th February.



The purpose of the Red Mass is to invoke God's blessings on those responsible for the administration of justice, as well as on all public officials. It is also an opportunity for all present to reaffirm a commitment to JUSTICE and FAITH.

**V**ery Rev. Peter Williams, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia was the principal celebrant, with Fr Robert Riedling, Dean of the Cathedral, Fr Peter Blayney, Canon Lawyer for Parramatta Diocese and Fr Shinto Francis concelebrating.

The Assembly prayed for, and gave thanks to God, for all who serve the law; as they witnessed members of the Legal Fraternity, along with families and friends, reaffirming by their presence, the importance of the Faith in their commitment to justice.

Members of the legal profession participated in the Liturgy, with The Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP proclaiming the First Reading, (from Isaiah 61: 1-3, 6, 8-9) and Mr Michael Daley MP reading the Universal Prayer.



Then at the Offertory it was a family affair with the gifts brought in procession by Dr Hugh McDermott MP, his wife Bettina and daughters, Camille and Geneva.



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.

## ATTENDEES at this YEAR'S MASS

The Honourable Mark Speakman SC MP  
*Attorney General of New South Wales*

Mr.. Michael Daley MP Shadow  
*Attorney General*

Councillor Donna Davis,  
*Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta*

Dr. Hugh McDermott MP  
*Member for Prospect*

Judges of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

Judges of the District Court of New South Wales

Justices & Judges of the Federal Circuit  
and Family Court of Australia

Magistrates of the Local Court of New South Wales

Chief Commissioner Constant and Commissioners of the  
Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales

Members of the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal

Members of the Personal Injury Commission of NSW

Ms Cassandra Banks  
*President of The Law Society of New South Wales,*

Ms. Sonja Stewart  
*Chief Executive Officer of The Law Society of New South Wales*

Councillors of The Law Society of New South Wales

Professors of Law & Academics of University Law Schools

Barristers, Solicitors, Law Students



## KNOWLEDGE MATTERS: DID YOU KNOW?

The Red Mass is a Mass celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church for all members of the legal profession, including judges, lawyers, law school professors, law students, and government officials, and marks the opening of the judicial year.

The first recorded Red Mass was celebrated in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris in 1245. The tradition began in England around 1310, during the reign of King Edward II. Since then it has become an annual celebration worldwide in which the Holy Spirit is invoked to pour out the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right counsel and fortitude upon those present.

The Mass derives its name from the red vestments worn during Masses of the Holy Spirit, symbolic of the tongues of fire that descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Its name also exemplifies the scarlet robes worn by royal judges that attended the Mass centuries ago. The tradition of the Red Mass began in Sydney in 1931. The Mass was extended to the Diocese of Parramatta in 2019.



## *Saint Thomas More,* is a worthy Patron Saint for Lawyers, Statesmen and Politicians

Saint Thomas More 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 oath to the Act of Succession, following Henry VIII's divorce of Catherine of Aragon, and marriage to Anne Boleyn. More 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 of 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 and Politicians, and Lawyers by Pope St John Paul II. Saint Thomas More's feast day is celebrated on 22 June and his statue can be found in The Speaker's Garden at Parliament House in Sydney.



Back in 2019, 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.

Comments Steve made to *Catholic Outlook* following last year's Red Mass are well worth revisiting.

*"our faith cannot be compartmentalised.*

*We live our faith not only when we go 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."*



# SHARING MATTERS

**MANJU NEROY  
WAS THERE!**



For me, 6th February 2023 here at Saint Patrick's Cathedral was a remarkable one. It was the day of the Red Mass, a day of Eucharistic celebration of the Roman Catholic Church for all members of the legal profession including judges, lawyers, law school professors, law students and government officials. It marks the opening of the judicial year.

As a child, I was always drawn to the people working in the judicial system. The lawyers and the judges always fascinated me, with their work and their attire. I had great faith in them which came from the knowledge that they work to bring truth and justice and order in our society. I was confident then, that if a day comes when I might need their help, I can completely trust them with my cause. That faith is still unshaken. I believe an honest and sincere judiciary makes our society a better place to live and grow. If it is not for them, we would not have the peace and order which we enjoy today.

About four years ago, I came to know of the Red Mass for the first time. I made it a point to attend this Mass and from then on, I always try to be present for this celebration. I believe that those who work in the legal system in any capacity, need our prayerful support to keep them strong and committed to the cause of justice.

This year's Red Mass was celebrated by our Very Rev. Peter G. Williams, the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. He welcomed the guests by their names and titles and began the celebration by invoking the Holy Spirit, that was given to the Church at Pentecost, to come upon all those who are engaged in the works of justice and of law.

The procession towards the altar by the members of the Judiciary and dignitaries in their robes and gowns, with wigs and collars, was awe-inspiring. I felt speechless to see so many of them at one time and from so close. To see the most powerful of the Judiciary, who draw fear and respect from the public, on their knees praying for strength



and guidance from the Holy Spirit was very humbling.

This day has left a remarkable imprint on my memory. It will last forever.



# LENT matters

**to Margaret Cooper,  
who became  
a Catholic in 2021  
at the age of 92.**



*"Christmas is a time for children!" declared my mother as she dutifully commenced her annual preparations.*

*Indeed, that was all it seemed to me as a child in a strict Non-conformist 'Open Brethren' home. We had no Christmas Day services or religious recognition of the day, although we put up decorations had crackers and lights on the Christmas tree, a traditional Christmas dinner, and presents from Santa. It was all exciting—the pre war, well-lit London department stores and pre Christmas parties at both Sunday School and Day School. But it seemed unconnected to the events of that first Christmas and I began to look forward to Easter as the next big public holiday. Of course, I had no idea that Lent provided a link between the two.*

*When I became a young adult, I was attracted to the Church of England and for the first time became aware of the other seasons of the Christian year, including Lent. But I saw no point in giving up food or pleasures, only to indulge in them again once the season was over. And so, I decided to ignore Lent!*

*However, since I became a Catholic in 2021, God has opened my eyes to see scriptural truths that I did not understand before, and recently, for the first time, I started to think seriously about Lent. I was seeing that the Christian walk is a daily experience, "...not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Rom 14:17. St Paul obviously discovered this as he sought to imitate Christ, "a man of sorrows" (Isaiah 53:3), a helpless Babe at Bethlehem dying a helpless man on the cross.*

*"Christmas is a time for children?" But children grow up spiritually as well as physically. St Paul describes this in 1 Corinthians 13:11 and more fully in Philippians 3:7-16. He frequently exhorts his readers to do the same. I now see Lent not as just a time of self-denial and fasting but an opportunity to meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus in the Lenten readings, a time for reflection and self-evaluation, to 'grow up' more in his image. I am now looking forward to Lent this year.*

**"I will hear what God the Lord will speak."  
Psalm 85:8**

*More on LENT on page 19*



One of the longest continually-running programs on Australian television is "Mass For You at Home" (MFYAH), screened very early on Sunday mornings and running for half-an-hour. Of course, the original motivation for producing the show was to give Catholics unable to get to Mass the opportunity to at least experience something of the Mass, albeit in a less satisfactory manner than being present in a church. Presumably, this meant that the elderly and the sick were the primary viewers of MFYAH, be they at home, in hospital, or possibly in prison.

With the onset of the pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns throughout Australia at various times, "housebound" took on a new perspective as otherwise healthy people were forced to stay home or had only limited opportunities to venture out. Churches were closed and so MFYAH was a godsend (pun intended) for many people whose own parishes were not able to broadcast Masses for them. It is fair to say, I think, even now, that many people are still reluctant to gather in places of worship and so will view MFYAH regularly, the only means they might have to witness a celebration of Eucharist, even if this is not as satisfying and "real" as being present in a church building as part of Christ's Body.

So, what is it like to be a priest celebrating one of these Masses? Through Fr Chris, who had celebrated several of these Masses before me, I was fortunate enough to be asked to celebrate two of these Masses last year. In some ways it was a surreal experience, yet in other ways not so, since the ritual itself lends a certain amount of familiarity even in unusual surroundings.

I was asked to celebrate two Masses on the day filming took place and both Masses were celebrated many weeks ahead of their actual date. In fact, on the day I was celebrating these Masses, a couple of other priests were there doing the same, so around six Masses were filmed on that day, all scheduled for months ahead. Several days that week were dedicated to recording Masses for screening over the coming months. It did feel rather strange having to prepare homilies for Masses so far in advance. Still, it was very helpful doing this for when those Masses rolled around for celebration here at the Cathedral, the groundwork had already been done!

The filming for MFYAH takes place at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral in Fairy Meadow, Wollongong. The Diocese of Wollongong took over responsibility for MFYAH a few years ago. It is a fairly traditionally-styled church, obviously chosen for its suitability in terms of its appearance, the space needed to move cameras around easily and the favourable light.

The first thing to happen when I arrived, an hour or so ahead of my scheduled time, was to go to the lady who put on the make-up - not something I had experienced before! This was, of course, to help ensure that my face appeared more natural on camera, but it felt a little uncomfortable. The make-up was quite minimal though, and there was no attention paid to my hair or clothing/vestments, it was all to do with the face.

The Mass is a genuine Mass and there are just a few hosts consecrated. There are two readers assigned to read at both the

Masses each priest celebrates as well as a server who will serve both Masses. During communion time, the readers and the server will receive communion and maybe one of the several people assisting with the filming, though they may have already received at an earlier Mass that day. As for a congregation, there are only a handful of people present giving the responses. This is quite obvious when you watch MFYAH!

In terms of the positioning and movements such as processing to the altar, delivering the homily, distribution of communion and processing out, these are to be done in a particular way. The priest celebrant is not able to do things his own way. One of the things that people who watch MFYAH like is the familiarity of the liturgy, and having a priest change things to suit his own style would upset that familiarity. The only difference between the Masses in terms of how they look is the appearance of the celebrant, not so much his liturgical style.

The opportunity to do things more than once is certainly there for the priest, though the producers try to minimise the number of "takes" they do in order to keep the natural flow of the liturgy. Though I felt a little self-conscious in front of the cameras and the large lights that shone on the sanctuary, the ritual was a great help as its familiarity meant that I was able to celebrate the Mass without stopping during the Eucharistic Prayer. There are pauses after the Opening Prayer, the readings/homily, the prayers of intercession and communion; these are natural pauses in a regular celebration of Mass, of course, and allowed the readers to practice and the cameras and lights to be moved to a new spot.

For me, the most difficult part of the Mass was delivering the homily. I find this difficult in a regular celebration of Mass, hoping that the thoughts don't leave my head and that the words will come out the way I planned! What is most difficult about delivering the homily in a filming of MFYAH is that the priest is expected to deliver the homily whilst looking into the camera and nowhere else. Though there are a handful of people in the church, the priest is not allowed to look away from the camera at them. This means that when the Mass is televised he will be delivering the homily right into the eyes of the viewers. What makes this difficult is that there is no feedback from a congregation, no engagement, making the process less organic. This is the same problem many priests experienced when livestreaming Masses during the pandemic lockdown. The other difficulty with the homily is that it is strictly limited to three minutes. The whole Mass has to fit into a half-hour spot on television, including the music (added later) and the introduction and end credits, and so a clock is placed just above the camera to ensure that the celebrant doesn't go over time - the pressure is on! As with any homily, the message must try to impact a broad range of people. Though the general audience might be generally more elderly on average than in a parish like the Cathedral, others from a diverse range of backgrounds might also be watching. It must be remembered too that the Masses are also available for anyone to view on YouTube in the future and so the homily needs to resonate with them too.

*Continued on page 19*



# Sacramental Matters



## Priestly Ordination

### DID YOU KNOW?

**HOLY ORDERS** is the sacrament by which bishops, priests and deacons are ordained and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties.

The sacred rite by which orders are conferred is called ordination.

The night of **Thursday 2nd February** saw a sacred spectacle unfold at St Patrick's Cathedral — Priestly Ordination in Triplicate!

Fr Matthew Dimian, Fr Adam Carlow and Fr Jack Elkazzi were ordained to the presbyterate of Parramatta Diocese by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv.

The Cathedral was packed to capacity, as was the cloister, people assembled there linked via a huge screen to view and participate in the beautiful ordination rituals taking place within.

The occasion's grand scale and joyful liturgical celebration reminded one of a Cecil B DeMille production.

The focus is on Deacon Matthew because of his year long ministry here in the Cathedral Parish.

His long wait for the final step in his chosen vocation is about to be fulfilled.

The images chosen evoke just some of the sacred rituals that led to climax— his ordination to the priesthood.

A moment of great joy, for Reverend Father Deacon Matthew Dimian, and for St Pat's community.





## *Priestly Ordination: sacred occasion of great joy*



One can only guess at the profound joy on the part of Fr Matthew's father, mother and sister when they received his blessing after his ordination.



## St Pat's Cathedral Parish farewells Fr Matthew Dimian



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Fr Chris and Fr Matthew  
went to the same school.



After celebrating the 11am Mass on Sunday, 19th February, Fr Matthew made his way to the Cloister Function Room where a farewell luncheon had been prepared in thanksgiving for his year of ministry as a deacon in the parish.

At the outset Fr Robert's speech echoed people's sentiments that Fr Matthew would be missed, before presenting him with a goodbye gift. In response, Fr Matthew expressed sadness at leaving. Go to page 17 to read a copy of the 'goodbye' he wrote in the parish bulletin preceding his last Gospel Reflection.

It's doubtful that he had time to eat, because parishioners kept wanting to wish him well, expressing sadness at his going, a situation he patiently accepted with his usual serene demeanour and smiling countenance.

**Fr Matthew, vaya con Dios**





# Remembering Matters:

It was February 19. The year was 1996. It was the Monday before Ash Wednesday. I was in the Commonwealth Bank at North Parramatta with parishioner Ross McNally who was banking the weekend parish collections. Ross was a great talker, and it may have been the non-stop conversation that took the teller past four o'clock to count the money. The front doors of the bank were locked with the bank manager standing guard only allowing customers to leave. I noticed Terry O'Brien trying to enter through the locked doors. He was the treasurer of the Parramatta St Vincent de Paul, and I asked the bank manager if she would open the doors allowing him to enter. The answer was a firm "No!" I remonstrated with the bank manager pointing out that Terry was probably banking on behalf of the poor and pleading for her to let him in. The answer was still "No!"

As Ross was to tell the 1,000 or so who gathered the night after the fire, *"It was a comical situation. Father John was fighting with Sally the bank manager, pleading for the treasurer of the St Vincent de Paul Society to be let into the bank to get money to feed the poor. Words were exchanged. Meanwhile the bloody cathedral was burning down!"*

Ross and I left the bank about five minutes past four and motored the two blocks to the corner of Villiers Street and Victoria Road where we were stopped by a red light. "Look, Ross", I said. *"There is smoke coming from the roof of the church. The cathedral is on fire!"* We could see smoke bellowing from the slate tiles. *"A fire in the roof of a church means the cathedral is gone."* Ever so calmly I said, *"Take a last look. We are going to lose our church"*. I also said, *"Someone has lit this fire. This is arson!"* "How do you know?" asked Ross, *"Because there are no electricals in the ceiling from where the smoke is coming."*

The traffic lights took for ever to turn green but when it did, I flew out of Ross' car and raced towards the side door of the cathedral. There were four people hovering around the open door with fire extinguishers but even then, the building was well alight. I was met by one of the parish secretaries, Helen Howard, who told me someone from the Catholic Education Office had rung the fire brigade. I tried to enter the very dark building but was held back by the small crowd yelling at me that it was too late. Already the timber and slate roof was alight, and the shingles began exploding.

My first thought was that I should rescue the Blessed Sacrament, but the tabernacle keys were in the sacristy and time was of the essence. My thoughts then turned to the newly-refurbished Archbishop Polding chair that was intended to be used as a cathedra. The Bishop had never sat in it. After much toing and froing, Cardinal Clancy had eventually given it — with some reservations — to St Patrick's.

I could not carry the chair out alone, and no one was prepared to enter the building with me to rescue the historic item. I could see the ceiling was well alight and



*I felt so helpless. couldn't believe what was happening....*  
So writes Monsignor John Boyle recounting the horror and heartache he experienced as Dean of St Patrick's witnessing the cathedral consumed by fire.



thought it could cave in. I felt so helpless. I couldn't believe what was happening.

I understand there were three people inside the cathedral when the fire began. I have been told they ran out of the building. I have never been able to locate them. Robert Sadek, a 20-year-old Yagoona man was driving past and could see the fire. Robert fought back flames as he scoured the building for people who may have been trapped. He tried to use the fire extinguishers, but the fire was too great. He told *The Parramatta Advertiser*, *"When I got in there, I found a stack of paper at the entrance to the first floor and knew that someone had lit the fire on purpose."*

Forty firefighters from six brigades were pouring 13,500 litres of Warragamba Dam onto the flames every minute. It was like fighting the devil with water pistols. Among bystanders were people sobbing openly as they watched the flames tear the heart out of part of Parramatta's history.

The most painful part of the events of February 19 was watching the stained-glass windows melt. They did not crack or break or bust. They just melted. The colours dribbled into each other forming a brown molten sludge that oozed onto the stonework. It was painful because the top part of the Great Southern Window had been brought out from Birmingham by Bishop Polding for the 1857 church. The lower part of the window was a triptych, one section of which honoured the work of the Sisters of Charity who had been a civilising influence in the lives of the women and children in the Parramatta Female Factory in the late 1830s. The Marist Brothers had taught in the parish for over 100 years and the second panel recognised their work. The third panel represented Father James Dixon celebrating the first recorded official Mass in the colony in 1803. This part of the window was so new the scaffolding had only recently been removed and we did not even have a clear photo of the new window.

Inspector Peter Casey was the lead fireman that day. He wrote in the NSW Fire News, *"When I approached the building from Victoria Road, I realised the church was totally involved in fire and that it would be destroyed. The church has been a significant part of my personal life for the past 32 years. It was difficult for me to come to terms with my personal feelings and take command of the fire."*

The flames could be seen at Guildford. One of the first firefighters on the scene, said he was "devastated". He had been married there 32 years ago and his children christened there.

Fifteen minutes later the building, which had undergone renovation recently, had been totally destroyed by fire. *"There was nothing the firefighters could do to save it,"* Supt. Leggett said. *"Our top priority was to stop it spreading to the west where the rectory and the school are."*

Firefighters battled for more than an hour to save the copper spire, but it was all in vain. The smoke drifted towards the west and got into the air-conditioning of Westmead Hospital. Patients thought the hospital was on fire.

← Archbishop Polding's chair before being restored by parishioner Estrellita Salvador. *"The Bishop had never sat in it."*



# The Cathedral Conflagration of 1996

**Mike Thorpe: "All that history – now it's gone."**

*From The Catholic Weekly, February 25, 1996.*

Mike Thorpe was the Catholic Weekly's photographer. He wrote, "My editor had called me to 'get to Parramatta quickly, the Cathedral's on fire!'"

As I arrived at the scene the whole area had been cordoned off, there were fire appliances, hoses, water, ambulances, policemen and fire officers everywhere, two snorkel units were pouring water down onto the spire of St Patrick's Cathedral. Smoke was pouring out through the open twisted black metal which was once the roof.

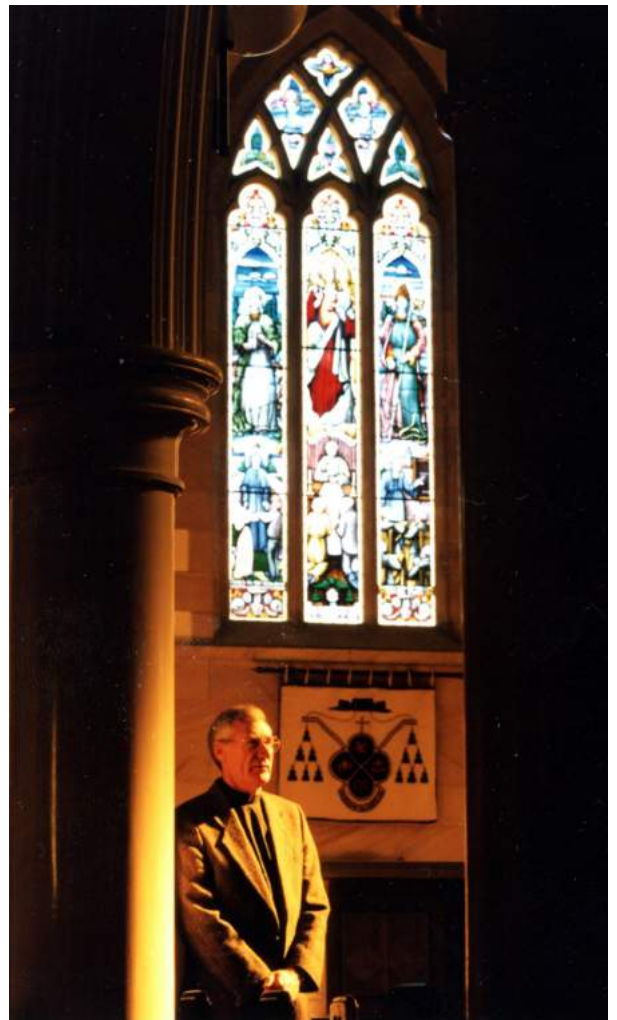
As I looked through the viewfinder of my camera, the thought came to mind that this wasn't the Cathedral I knew – it was now just a burnt-out shell. I peered in through the east side door an entry into the church that my family and I used every Sunday, but this time the view was not the same. Blackened walls, smoke, ash and water still pouring in through the roof.

The seat where we sat for 9.30am Mass just yesterday had disappeared, fuel for the fire which had swept through this place.

Looking further around I saw the space behind the burnt altar where our magnificent, recently restored stained glass window had once held pride of place. It depicted the rich history of St Patrick's, but there was nothing there, the glass now smashed and the colours had melted in the heat and dribbled to the bottom of the window sill.

Across the road the Dean, Fr John Boyle, watched on in stunned silence. I went over to join him at which point another parishioner put her hand on his shoulder to console him.

As tears welled in his eyes he said, "all that history – gone".



**Mons Boyle said, "This is the only Photo of that new window. That's why it is so important."**

## Being grateful matters



**Margaret Climpson remembers:**

### **Lost & Found.....Out of the Ashes**

Twenty-seven years ago, on 19th February, 1996, a terrible fire destroyed our dear old St Patrick's Cathedral. So much was lost on that awful day, we could hardly believe that such a disaster could happen, but it did, and we had to go on. Thankfully we have.

About 4 years ago, my memories were stirred about a different matter. I was in the Sacristy after Mass one day, while Acolyte Michael Lilley was cleaning the sacred vessels, he showed me the ciborium (pictured). He knew my surname was Climpson and wondered if there was a connection, because on it was the inscription '**In memory of Peter Climpson**'. I knew about the ciborium and thought it had been lost in the fire. Peter was the eldest son of my in-laws Joseph & Dorothy Climpson, long ago faithful parishioners of the old St Pat's Church. They had five children — three sons and two daughters. Tragic circumstances led to this ciborium being inscribed to Peter's memory.

Peter, the oldest son, was in the air force on duty in London at the time. As usual, one night, after he had been out on a flight a car was sent out to pick up the crew and take them across the tarmac. There was a thick fog

and unfortunately the car crashed into a tanker and Peter was killed. That is why Joseph and Dorothy donated the inscribed ciborium to honour their son's memory.

So something treasured, that I thought lost, had been found, refurbished. I thank Michael for showing it to me that day.

Ed Note: Could Margaret's ciborium be one of those Fr Eugene rescued from the cathedral ruins, along with the pyx the day after the fire? He called them "precious cargo."





# Welcoming Matters



**THE CATHEDRAL PARISH COMMUNITY**  
**welcomes**  
**DEACON DAVID DOWLING**  
**PERMANENT DEACON**

David is married to Deirdre (Dee) and they have two children and two grandchildren. He earns his living as a Business Consultant and he and Dee are also partners in a Ray White franchise in Castle Hill, which they actively manage.

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, they came to Australia almost 30 years ago and have always lived in the Hills area. David has been involved in lay ministry for twenty years, first with a Homeless Men's shelter with St Vincent de Paul and then in a succession of parish-based ministries from RCIA to Youth, to Young Adult, and eventually into Alpha and Parish Renewal.

Dee, David's wife, showed him a pamphlet about the Permanent Diaconate about seven years ago and this sparked his interest. He and Dee engaged in a year of formal discernment and then moved into formation and studies five years ago. As part of the formation process, David was posted from his original parish, St Michael's, Baulkham Hills, to St John XXIII, Stanhope Gardens, where he enjoyed serving for the last two years.

While David admits that at times formation and study had real challenges, he nevertheless thoroughly valued the whole process and was delighted to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on 10th December last year. He was posted to St Patrick's Cathedral Parish taking up his role here on 1st February, 2023. From the outset he has looked forward to getting to know St Pat's parishioners as well as discerning where God wishes him to serve in his new parish.



**Five days after arriving at St Pat's  
Deacon Dave was serving at the Annual Red Mass.**



In the Sunday Bulletin of February 26th, Fr Robert announced the arrival of Mr Jeff Hood, a seminarian, who is now living with the clergy in the presbytery. Jeff will be here to get to know the parish and the parishioners and help out with various tasks. Fr Robert was certain the parish community would welcome Jeff.

**So let's meet and welcome**  
**JEFF HOOD,**  
**SEMINARIAN-IN-RESIDENCE,**



I GREW UP IN Murwillumbah on the North Coast. I have worked for a large part of my life as a Psychologist and Psychotherapist in various settings. I spent a few years working as the State Training Manager for the St Vincent de Paul Society in NSW, was the inaugural Co-ordinator of Bereavement Services at Sacred Heart Hospice in Darlinghurst and taught at the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement.

For most of my working life, I have taught at various universities and training institutes, teaching trainee psychologists, psychotherapists, and medical students. After graduating in Drama and Theatre Studies from Monash University, I taught there for ten years.

I spent four years as a seminarian, mostly at St Francis Xavier Seminary in Adelaide. More recently, I completed formation as a Spiritual Director at the Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation in Melbourne. My most recent work was as a spiritual director, as a Pastoral Supervisor for clergy, and as a lecturer and supervisor at Heart of Life and the University of Divinity.

As a psychologist and spiritual director, I have witnessed the deep woundedness that many people experience, myself included. Many of us don't believe that we are lovable. We often struggle to believe, in the deepest places of our being, that God loves us – deeply and passionately.

About five years ago, I experienced a very difficult time in my life, a time of very deep questioning. Lots of things that I thought were important ceased to be so. The outcome of my period of struggle was a renewed confidence in God's constant loving presence, and a strong desire to commit my life to working to make God's love more known in our struggling world, as a priest.

During my time here at St Patrick's, I hope to meet many of you, to learn from you, and to discover God's love more deeply through your prayers and through our encounters. I assure you of my prayers during this great renewal time of Lent.







# SRE MINISTRY MATTERS

Serving GOD & Community

## St Pat's SRES: *A new year begins*

Over the last few weeks local state schools — Parramatta, North Parramatta, East Parramatta, Oatlands, Bayanami, (situated in the old Kings School next to the Cathedral) and Macarthur Girls' High School have welcomed back St Pat's SREs to give Scripture lessons to Catholic students, teaching them about the Faith.

Sadly at the end of last year some of our SREs informed Pamela Bain, parish coordinator they would not be returning in 2023, due to a variety of circumstances.

So farewell to Deacon Matthew Dimian, (who of course is now Fr Matthew and was appointed to St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill), Gerard Axiak, Jose Carlos Ortanez, Mona Kaltoum and Gizel Thomas (only with us a short time last year). Thank you for your service, whether long or short to a very important ministry.

It is hoped that Jose Argueta will be able to return to boost the numbers. At the moment some SREs are very graciously taking more than one class.

### How many 'fish' were netted?

As coordinator, Pamela Bain reported at the first SRE meeting on 13th February, that there were eight expressions of interest in the ministry following last year's recruitment drive on 12th/13th November.

It looks like three fish were netted.



New recruit **Tania Wehbe** is training at both Macarthur Girls' High School and Parramatta North Primary.



New Recruit, **Victoria Micalizzi** will be working at Parramatta East Primary School. Victoria comes to us from the Archdiocese of Sydney, where she has had 30 years experience.



New recruit, **Geenat George**, will go to Parramatta Public School when her paperwork is complete.

**May your SRE ministry here be long and fruitful.**

*Do not be afraid: if the Lord calls you to this ministry, follow Him! You will be participants in the same mission of Jesus, of proclaiming His Gospel and introducing others to the filial relationship with God the Father."*

Pope Francis Address to Participants in the International Congress of Catechists 10 9 2022

## SREs returning in 2023

### Macarthur Girls High School

*Michael Sobb,  
Norma Alphonse,  
Najwa Takchi,  
Lindsay Nakhoul,  
Ray Love,  
Edward Safadi*

### Primary teachers

*Leo Coleman,  
Marian Polizzi,  
Pamela Bain,  
Maria Valentin,  
Jessy Sebaratnam,  
Bernadette Ching.  
Anne Haddad,  
Mary Wehbe,  
Rachel Crasto,*

### Support

*Mili Lee  
Caitlin Valentin*

### ACCOLADES for PAMELA BAIN



I'm sure I speak for all St Pat's SREs when I acknowledge Pamela's exceptional dedication to her years as parish co-ordinator, about 8 years! Whatever challenges arise, she faces them with a determination to overcome them.

**Well done, good and faithful servant! Thank you.**

*Marian Polizzi*

*When people are approached to become Special Religious Educators (SREs), a common response often includes such comments as "I could not be a teacher" or "I do not know enough to do that". For me, I think of Pentecost with its frightened, worried, disappointed group of Apostles badly in need of a confidence boost. The boost came as promised with the Holy Spirit and look what these amateurs achieved!*

Words of wisdom from Michael Sobb's reflection on 20 years as an SRE:

**So, SREs, be ENCOURAGED, not DISCOURAGED!**



As people enter St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, both worshippers and visitors are often surprised by the many unique facets which feature within the modern architectural style of our ecclesiastical edifice. Its design, including the large crucifix at the western end, or the Oriel above the altar, the antiphonal "collegial" arrangement of the pews, or the unusual pictorial style of the stations of the cross, appeal to some and is confronting to others. However, one significant feature of the Cathedral which impresses even the most critical observers, is without doubt, the magnificent pipe-organ which sits in the north eastern corner with its polished metal pipes towering high above all who enter.

There are three things which often surprise the onlooker when they see this majestic instrument.



Firstly, many people who are unfamiliar with a pipe organ look at the case-pipes and are unaware that behind the row of 50 or so speaking pipes there are several chambers containing over 2100 more pipes hidden from view! A total of 2212 pipes! Secondly, some folks stare into the organ wondering where the

organist is playing, and are then surprised to learn that the organ keyboards (console) are in fact on the opposite side of the cathedral in the south-east corner of the choir platform! However, thirdly, what often comes as a greater surprise is that, whilst the organ looks so "new", it was actually built in 1898 by the firm Norman & Beard, and only the case-work was built in the early part of the year 2000 to house the organ, as the original organ sat in a transept chamber of its original home at St. Saviour's Church, Knightsbridge in England. And so it is, this year our mighty cathedral organ celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of construction.

As pipe-organs go, ours is a fairly modest instrument, compared to some large instruments, such as the organ in the Sydney Opera House, or the one in the Sydney Town Hall, (each one having approximately 10,000 pipes!) Our



Bernard amidst St Patrick's Organ pipes.

Cathedral organ has three keyboards (manuals) and pedal board and 39 stops (the different sounds, such as "diapasons", flutes, horns/trumpets/clarinet (called "reeds"). Each of the pipes sits on several "wind-chests" providing the air needed for them to speak. The mechanism of the organ which activates the pipes was originally electro-pneumatic (a complicated and old form of technology relying on wind tubes to activate valves under each pipe to allow the air into them). However, this mechanism was

replaced by a completely new electrical system when the organ was restored by Peter D. Jewkes in 2005 and re-situated. This new system works by sending an electrical signal, when the organist plays a note, to the valve under each pipe to open and allow the pipe to speak. As a result of this modern form of technology, it meant that the original keyboards, which were originally placed within the organ, could now be placed in a position more distant from the pipe-work.



The organ has some other interesting features such as a computerised system with 96 memory channels that enable the organist to "pre-set" different combinations of sounds, soft and loud, to enable rapid changes of sound combinations whilst playing.

Speaking as an organist, our instrument plays like a charm.... even though sometimes it has the occasional conniption when the odd note sticks (invariably occurring inconveniently during a Mass!)

It's always a delight to play our Cathedral organ, and we are blessed to have a superb acoustical space in the Cathedral that adds to the blending of a fine sound. As such, it's also a magnet for young organists who get a thrill when playing such an exhilarating sounding instrument. Its versatility is a great bonus for accompanying the choir, cantors and congregation as well. We are truly blessed that such a distinguished instrument was found and installed in the cathedral to add to the beauty of our liturgical worship.

To commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organ, a celebratory organ concert will be scheduled later in the year. Keep an eye on the cathedral parish bulletin and websites for further details when they are announced.

Full history and technical specifications can be found at <https://www.ohta.org.au/confs/Sydney/STPATRICKSCath.html>  
Cathedral website: <https://stpatrcathedral.com.au/>  
St Patrick's Cathedral Choir: <https://www.facebook.com/choirSPC/>

Bernard Kirkpatrick  
Director of Music  
February 2023





My name is Sharon and I'm a choir scholar at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. I'm 21 years old and currently in my second year of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of Sydney.

My love of music started from a young age, when I began learning piano and participating in music ministry at my local parish at St Patrick's, Guildford. I continued with my piano tuition, played percussion in the school band and was the lead in my school musical in year 11.

Joining the choir at the cathedral has been a wonderful opportunity for me to combine my love of music with my faith. Not only has it increased my musical ability, but I also enjoy singing with others who share the same passion and love for the music ministry. My favourite pieces of music that we've sung are English hymns as well as Masses from the Classical period, especially by Haydn and Mozart. I also have discovered a love for organ repertoire, including works by Vienne and Bach.

Most importantly, the music we sing has helped me deepen my relationship with God and it's a real privilege to share this with others.

*Sharon Thio*



My name is Veronica and I am a soprano scholar in the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir. My musical background prior to joining the choir mainly involved singing in my high school choirs, local parish and Gondwana choirs/Sydney Children's Choir, all of which in varying ways provided a stepping stone and a wonderful foundation for singing in a 'choral schola.' I am currently undertaking studies in classical voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The most enjoyable aspect of participating in the liturgical life of the Cathedral is the sheer variety of the repertoires to which we are continually exposed. I am also fortunate to benefit and learn from other more experienced choristers and conductors.

Moreover, one is never able to exhaustively plumb the depths of the rich musical tradition of our Church, as after all, it was more than 1000 years ago that the Benedictine monk, Guido of Arezzo, the father of musical literacy, revolutionised musical notation through the invention of the musical stave. As exemplified in his famous hymn, '*Ut queant laxis*,' which features the rising solfa syllables that give us almost all the notes of the octave "ut (do) re mi fa sol la" (*hexachord - six-note series*). I am excited and look forward to creating more exquisite music in our choir this year.

*Veronica Vella*



I am Toby Wong, a tenor choral scholar from the Cathedral Choir. Born and raised in Hong Kong, I moved to Sydney last year to conduct my Master of Music (Musicology) research at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, specializing in musical exoticism, and modern performance practice of staged operas.

I am also a radio presenter on the fine music radio station RTHK Radio 4 in Hong Kong, and for Sydney radio 2MBS FM.

My music education started very early at the age of 4, when my parents took me to piano lessons, and also brought me to the choir of my local parish.

Throughout my musical journey, sacred music has always been very close to my heart. I am very blessed to have the opportunity to sing with, and sometimes conduct the Cathedral Choir in St. Patrick's, Parramatta, as we have the strong support and encouragement from the church to sing polyphonic Masses and chants, which are all treasures of the Catholic Church. Despite being a music director of my local parish in Hong Kong for many years, I had very rare chances to sing these kinds of music. I am thankful that our music director Bernard has given us lots of opportunities to explore sacred music, and I am very grateful that our choristers treat everyone as a family who shares music together as a way of praising God.

*'I will sing of faithful love and judgement;  
to you, O Lord, will I make music.'*  
(Psalm 101:1)

*Toby Wong*





Congratulations Patrick Newman, on your recent appointment as Assistant Cathedral Organist. This shot was taken while he was playing the organ during the Mass of Ordination to the presbyterate of Adam Carlow, Matthew Dimian and Jack Elkazzi at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Image: Diocese of Parramatta

Congratulations, too, to the outstanding musical contribution to the liturgy at the Mass of Ordination of the Cathedral Choir and Musicians. Their performance is always excellent, which is a given under the demanding leadership of Bernard Kirkpatrick, the Musical Director, who urges them to continually strive for perfection in their music ministry.

Image: Diocese of Parramatta

## Musicals Matter

**Recently attending the show, *Joseph and His Amazing Techni-colour Dreamcoat* sparked this trip down memory lane for Patti Murphy.**

Fifty years ago, three of my children, Matthew, Sharon and Paul were attending St. Monica's School and Steve, the youngest, would be starting the following year.

My two sisters, Kathleen, Freda and myself also attended St Monica's, which at that time, (1930-1940), was only staffed by the Mercy Nuns at Parramatta. One of the nuns who taught the three of us was Sister Mary Assisium, who also taught my mother, Mary Nicholson, when she was a novice. Later she became Mother Superior at Our Lady of Mercy College, (OLMC).

Back then the boys left St Monica's after 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and went to the Marist Brothers here at St Patrick's where they stayed until they went to Westmead High School for Year 1. Matthew settled in and at the end of the second term his teacher, Mr Alan Clarke, decided that for the Christmas Concert the school would perform *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Well, that meant that for the next five months or so, our family was "subjected" to all the words of the Musical EVERY day. By the time the concert evening arrived we could all sing the entire show. Starting with "Way, way back many centuries ago, not long after the Bible began, Jacob lived in the land of Canaan, a fine example of a family man....." and finishing with "then Jacob came to Egypt, no longer feeling old and Joseph came....." and then the finale, "Any dream will do." Memory hasn't failed even now!

The Christmas concert was fantastic and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Since then Steve and I have seen at least three live

shows, as well as, having the DVD and the CD.

Last November, Carolyn, one of my nieces, phoned to ask if any of us would be interested in seeing the new production of Joseph, which was starting at the Capitol Theatre in February. We jumped at the chance and Matt, Sharon, Steve and I ordered tickets. — I thought it was a bit far for Paul to come from Kalgoorlie!

So Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February, was the day and we set off — my five nieces Christine, Marianne, Julie, Carolyn and Suzanne, my nephew Tony's wife Angela and daughter Emma 8, my three children and myself, plus three friends — to the Capitol Theatre for the show. To say it was outstanding was an understatement. There were so many children of various ages, teenagers and adults from middle aged to more mature people, all making up the audience of about 3,500 people. (Also including one person who I know is going to be 86 this year....ME!). Everyone had a ball. We asked young Emma what she thought of it and she gave it 9½ out of ten. The orchestra, the actors/singers/dancers which included several teenagers, were superb.

In 1963 Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber were asked, by a friend, the Head of the Music Department in a London School, to write a Musical for his schoolboy choir for the end of year concert.— *Joseph*

It only lasted 15 minutes and was very successful. It was also performed at another school in Westminster in May 1968. This one lasted 20 minutes with an audience of 2,500, mostly parents. *Joseph* was very popular in all the schools. By 1972 *Joseph* had moved to America. In 1973 the show expanded and had a West End run of seven months and was hugely successful. The Show is now 60 minutes long, which is four times longer than the original in 1963 and the rest is History.



# Good Works Matter *A Jamming Session for Love*

**A Preserving Night for JRS FOODBANK: Claire Pospischil reports.**

Wind back the clock to Sept 2022. A post pandemic Spring Fair was held, with kind weather encouraging many parishioners to visit, socialise and shop to support our wonderful cathedral parish. Along with Jo, Marilyn and Felicia, I helped run the combined preserves and cake stall. It was well-patronised, with many of you reminiscing with me about home-grown fruit and preserves making. I also fielded questions on how to preserve which I loved to answer!

Sometime afterwards I thought '*Is there enough interest to have an informal preserving night at the Cathedral?*' Countless times I'd seen first-hand how much joy people get from receiving home-made preserves, due to the effort that goes into making them. I thought if there was interest, the proceeds from the cooking class could be donated to a local food bank.

Fr Robert was very supportive of the idea and so the class was scheduled for late November. To be honest, I don't think I've ever heard of parish notices mentioning a preserving class, but there is always a first time for everything! Plan A was to run the class in the Cloister hall kitchen. Unfortunately, there was a double booking, so a late plan B moved the class to the kitchen in the presbytery!

Six of us attended. A huge thanks to Felicia, Camilla, Trish, Bea and Maria, for your time, energy and patience with me, your L-plate teacher. Fr Robert supported the class by setting up and sourcing all the needed equipment. Over four hours, we made three batches of preserves, apple and ginger jam, lemon ginger marmalade and nectarine and rosewater jam. Our labours produced 50 jars of preserves, labelled with the St Pat's Preserves label suggested to me by Marian.

The evening was a steep learning curve all round. I had only ever preserved in my own kitchen, with my own 'stuff' and made one recipe at a time. The scale-up involved for the evening to make three concurrent batches had its challenging moments, notably when I added too much water to the nectarine jam. This necessitated an emergency visit to Coles Entrada for more pectin (jam setting stuff) which worked, thank goodness. It all worked out for the best in the end though.

I loved the opportunity to share my preserving passion with others and the community class style setting was fantastic socially. Fr Robert was a wonderful host and we were all made to feel very welcome. We shared memories of family members preserving and tips to take away, plus a lot of laughter, too. The presbytery was full with visitors at the time, so thanks also to the resident priests and deacons for being understanding of the laughter volume as we did our work.

More importantly, the preserves were then donated to the Jesuit Refugee Service Foodbank, (JRS) operating out of Arrupe Place, as part of the Parish Advent Food Drive. JRS gave us feedback that the preserves were really welcomed by the foodbank, news that made the venture worthwhile.

Here's hoping there are future opportunities ahead as a parish to get together in community, to undertake similar activities, all for the chance to support those in the community in need of help.



Jammers: Trish, Maria, Felicia, Claire, Bee and Camilla







# Marist History & Education Matter

**MICHAEL LILLEY, in honour of last year's sesquicentenary celebration of Marist Education in Australia pays tribute to the Marists' history and his education by teachers faithful to the Marist charisms.**



In 2022 St Patrick's Marist College Dundas, marked 150 years of education in the Catholic Marist Tradition. Inspired by the spirit of their founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, the Marist Brothers strived to help all students grow to their full potential, to live by the gospel values and be disciples of Jesus.

As an ex-student I would like to provide a quick run down of my school's history and significant insights about St Patrick's, Dundas and why my former High School means so much, not only to me, but all past students who attended there.

## School History

St Patrick's College is a learning community in the Marist tradition, its history dates back to Colonial Australia. The Marists arrived in Sydney in 1872 led by Brother Ludovic (founder of the Marist Brothers Province in Australia), and his fellow Brothers Edwin, Paul and Xavier. A parish school was established at Church Hill, The Rocks. Their mission was to educate students in the Marist way.

The first St Patrick's Marist School was a double storied building in Harrington Street, The Rocks catering only for male students. Following the move of residents out of the City the Campus moved to Dundas in 1962. This laid the foundation for the present St Patrick's Marist College, which now proudly offers high quality Co-Education, and continues to uphold Marist beliefs and traditions, fulfilling the mission of all Marist Schools to form '**Good Christians and Good Citizens**'.

## 1800s

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1872 130 primary boys were enrolled in this the first Marist School in Australia. St Patrick's has the distinction of being the Oldest School in Australia under the charge of teaching Brothers.

By 1875, Brother Ludovic was also able to open a High School at St Patrick's this was to be the first popular High School for day boys in NSW since the only secondary schools available at the time were boarding schools.

From these beginnings, the Marist Brothers continued to establish an

educative presence in many other areas of Australia, whilst maintaining a school for boys at St Patrick's Church Hill.

## A Move to Dundas

Over the years, St Patrick's Church Hill served as a Primary School, High School, Intermediate School, Business College and Evening College. With diminishing numbers of residents in the inner city, it was decided to move the school campus to Dundas in 1962. The new site retained much of the old St Patrick's thus forging a strong link with the original school in Harrington Street. A number of students made the move from Church Hill to Kirby Street, Dundas. Heritage and tradition were preserved at Dundas by retaining the original school crest. This carries the symbols of Marian devotion in the intertwined initials 'A & M' representing Ava Maria and is the centre-piece of the Marist Brothers' Coat of Arms. The Southern Cross places the College in the Australian context and the Motto **Esto Fidelis** which in Latin means "Be Faithful" upholds the virtue of faithfulness in all aspects of life.

## 1960s

Just as the first St Patrick's pioneered and was the prototype of Catholic secondary schools for boys, the Marist Brothers vision for the Dundas site was initially to establish a junior school from Years 4 to 6 which was to progressively become a secondary school. When completed, it was to incorporate the most modern equipment and function as a demonstration and training school for the novice teachers from the nearby Marist Scholasticate.

The founding Principal on the Dundas site was Brother Thomas More Davidson. He faced the challenges of setting up the new school with great faith and energy. Despite problems such as bad weather holding up the completion of buildings, 110 boys in Years 4, 5 and 6 commenced classes for Term 1, 1962 in the top floor rooms whilst the builders completed the ground floor. The school established as a Demonstration Secondary School in 1965 and was named St Patrick's Marist

Demonstration School. The secondary school catering for boys in Years 7–10 was officially opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1966. The primary school continued at Dundas until 1985 when the last Year 6 class completed their schooling.

## 1980s

1985 marked another historic year for St Patrick's Marists when not only were its first Year 11 students enrolled, but co-education was introduced in the senior school.

The successful transition was built upon the vision of Principals Brother John O'Brien, Brother William Selden and Brother Ronald Blyth, who guided St Patrick's throughout the years of change in response to the needs of the Catholic communities of Dundas and neighbouring parishes.

## 1990s

The school was renamed St Patrick's Marist College by Principal Brother Michael Procajlo when the first co-educational group was enrolled in Year 7 in 1992, these students also contributed to the history of the College, a grand old school in the Marist tradition and will, like so many before them, strive always to remember their motto, 'Esto Fidelis'.

Many changes have taken place since 1872 but the College has preserved the Marist traditions and heritage, which are still associated with the name St Patrick's.

**My Affiliation** with St Patrick's Marist College Dundas began as one of those pioneer year 7 students enrolled in that history-making 125<sup>th</sup> Year group, in 1992 as the first fully co-educational year group to go through to Year 12, graduating in 1997.

St Patrick's College formed and shaped, not just me, but all my school mates in so many special ways, by considering our individual differences: for some the focus was purely academic, for others, like myself who were not as academic as others, the school provided a place of comfort and character-building.

*Cont'd next page*

## Michael Lilley's article continued from previous page.

My time there equipped me for life after school and made me community-focused, wanting to make a positive difference within a society, which today has become increasingly secular and polarising.

I live my life based on my Alma Mater's motto '**Esto Fidelis**', (Be Faithful). Without my faith I am nothing. It is the ethos and charism of the Marist Brothers rooted firmly in Catholic tradition and mission of the teaching of the gospel, that guides me to commit myself to be a faithful disciple of Jesus.

Last year, on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas celebrated the College's 150th Year Anniversary by hosting a Gala Dinner in the Cumberland Lounge at CommBank Stadium. The night was well attended by past students and teachers of the Colleges over the years.

Present that night was the first boy enrolled when the school opened in 1962, along with other students who graduated in 1975, 1979 and 1990, while an old school mate, Mario Rechichi and I represented our graduation class of 1997.

Current Principal Mr Paul Ryan, was one of my ex-teachers who left the College in 1995 when Mario and I were in Year 10. After working at other schools within Parramatta Diocese he returned to St Patrick's this year as the new principal. When Paul made his address he went round the room asking each past student to share what the College meant to them. I spoke on behalf of my co-educational Year Group. Later people came up to me saying how they loved my speech. I spoke from the heart of my love for the College. There was some satire thrown in as well, in regards to a certain former Year Co-Ordinator who was present that night. It was very special catching up with some of my old teachers.



1. Me, Michael McFarland, Year 10 Co Ordinator, & Vicki Attard, Year 9 PDH & PE Teacher.  
2. (L) Therri Ellison Year 9 Geography Teacher, (R) Michelle Corzelle Year 12 English Teacher and Homeroom Teacher. Teacher in centre came after I had left school.

After the event, Mr Ryan contacted me, asking if I would be the inaugural President of the St Patrick's Marist College Dundas Student Union. I will be on a Committee working to setup the new Student Union. It will be tasked with organising student year reunions and other functions for past and current students.

I am not the only ex-student of Marists' Dundas to belong to the Cathedral Parish and be active in ministry and our parish community over the years. (I serve as an Acolyte at 8am Sunday Mass and at 6:30am Masses on Monday and Wednesday.). Other ex Marists are Jerick Nubla (Acolyte / MC), Harrison Castles (former Altar Server), Naomi Welsh (former Altar Server & Credo Member), Stacie Touche (Current Senior Server & Credo member), and Rachel Touche (former Altar Server / Current Cathedral Parish Gift Shop Assistant). All of us have been grounded in the Marist Brothers Catholic Tradition at Australia's oldest Marist Brothers established and run Catholic School, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas.

Hopefully we will always be a credit to our parents, to the parish community and to our school, continuing to live by the Marist School Motto '**Esto Fidelis**'



Fr Matthew Dimian  
bids farewell to  
St Pat's People

Fr Matthew pre-empted his final bulletin reflection on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb with these words of farewell.

*St Pat's, I move out this week to go to St Bernadette's Parish in Castle Hill, where I have been appointed to exercise my new-found priestly ministry.*

*It has been a joy to serve you as a deacon and to be a part of your lives over this last year. I have come to know each of you in a unique way, and as much as it was my duty to minister to you, I have benefitted so much from your company. It was an honour to be let into your lives, and to hear many of you share how the Lord is working in you. I loved seeing your piety, especially in daily adoration, frequent use of the Sacrament of Confession, and the regular use of the chapel for private prayer.*

*I will remember my time here fondly, and I hope to come back and visit when I can.*

Fr Matthew's Ordination Card



*"And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom you have sent." (John 17:3)*



Where's Michael amongst his Yr 7 classmates?





## Getting to know parishioners matters

After becoming the Dean, in March 2021, Fr Robert initiated a 'Getting to know you' column in the Sunday Bulletin. Since then a collation of parishioners' responses has been published in issues of St Pat's Matters for archival purposes and in case people missed seeing parishioners' biopics in the bulletins.

### Meet the AGUILERA/MCDERMOTT FAMILY:

Oscar, Kirrily, Ben (14), Tom (13), Zac (11) and Zoe (7)  
& Kirrily's parents, Joan and John



Oscar grew up in Mexico and moved to Australia when he was 12 and Kirrily has been in the parish her whole life. Many long-time parishioners will recognise Kirrily's parents, Joan and John. For the past six years, they have all lived together in a multi-generational home in North Parramatta, although last year Kirrily's Dad moved to Courtlands Nursing Home as his Parkinsons Disease had worsened.

You will find the the Aguileras at 9:30am Mass each Sunday. Kirrily and Oscar co-ordinate the Children's Liturgy, take Communion to a number of housebound and sick parishioners (including Kirrily's parents), and the boys are on the altar servers' roster for Sunday Mass.

On Fridays, their children also attend the Credo Youth Group run by Fr Chris. This is always a great night for the kids... and the adults!! Kirrily says they usually all stay around for a chat and have met so many lovely young families this way. They feel very blessed to be part of our beautiful and welcoming St Pat's Cathedral community.

Oscar and Kirrily even have the privilege of saying they met at Church... literally! Back in 2005, Oscar and Kirrily attended a Diocesan Youth event here at the Cathedral and the rest, as they say, is history! They are so thankful for the many priests, parish staff and parishioners for the spiritual nourishment, friendship and support they have provided to their family for many years.

### TAKE UP THE DEAN'S INVITATION: *Getting to know you....*

No matter how long you have been a St Pat's parishioner, consider sharing a little about yourself and your family, via the Sunday Bulletin.

Email your contribution (max 250 words) plus a jpeg photo of good resolution, to Pat Preca, Parish Secretary, [secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au) along with a phone number, in case we need to clarify something. Looking forward to "Getting to know you".

### Meet MARIA WALES

I am by contrast [to other parishioners] a fairly new addition to St Pat's. I moved to Parramatta about one and a half years ago. At that time, I was quite house-bound and so Fr Robert sent me Paula as my Sunday carer. She has a soul so pure. She worries that I get my church needs and when my legs permit, Paula will help me to get to church so I can enjoy more than the home visit that she kindly obliges me with.

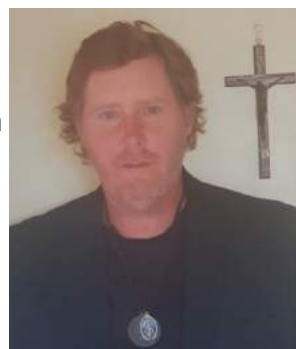


Well, I am so lucky. I have so many to care for me. Others don't always get care when they are on their own because of pride. I'm not on my own. I'm outgoing and people help me — like Donna, Patricia, Paula, Kirrily, Marilyn and the Fathers. I'm so full of care and can only say 'thank you' and hope to meet other parishioners. My real name is Marie but I'm known as Maria.

Thank you and God's blessings

### Meet PAUL MOUSLEY

I have been a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Cathedral for over fourteen years. I am involved in ringing the church bell and leading Our Lady's Cenacle prayer group each Friday when the church is open. I also perform some duties on the church grounds and belong to the Legion of Mary.



A highlight of my life has been my travels overseas when I went to Rome and Medjugorje. I was fortunate enough to have a very kind travel companion by the name of Frank Jones and he knew his way around these places that were all new to me.

I intend to live a life of fidelity to the Gospel and of prayer. Saint Joan of Arc is my favourite saint as I admire her for her courage. I would love to meet her one day in heaven.

I lead the Rosary before 12:30pm Mass on weekdays and have several prayer partners that I am privileged to be able to pray the Rosary with. The Rosary gives me peace, strengthens my faith and I enjoy praying with others and have established some very strong bonds with other Christians.

I am currently studying Information Technology and have been interested in computers all my life. My hobbies are music, walking, cats, gardening, chess, tennis and I love going to the movies with friends.

## Getting to know parishioners...

### Meet Kevin Xu

My dear parish friends, I know many of you from 9:30am Sunday Mass where I serve regularly as an acolyte.



Standing: Bee Teh and Kevin  
seated Fr Bob Bossini, and Mili Lee

For some of you, I may have, with blessing, served at your wedding and celebrated with you one of the most beautiful moments of life.

I didn't grow up as a Catholic. Rather, God gave me the opportunity to study and understand the faith so I could make a conscious choice to follow Christ. I was drawn to the teaching of the Scriptures, the solemnity of Mass and liturgies, the architecture of the churches, the solidarity of our people, and, most importantly, the unfathomable love and mercy of our God and the blessing of Our Lady.

I studied in an RCIA group and received my Baptism right here in this Cathedral. Parramatta is truly my spiritual home. To me, being a Catholic is a choice for life. Like any life choice, it is not meant to be easy. So in difficult moments like now, please don't be discouraged. Please don't give up. Please stay hopeful and continue to pray, knowing that God is listening, that we will come back to the Church and meet again soon\*\*.

**"May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)**

\*\* Kevin is referencing the impact COVID-19 had on community gathering.

### Fr Robert's article: *Mass for You at Home.*

*continued from page 5*

So, a new experience but an enjoyable one.

Interestingly, several parishioners mentioned seeing the Masses I recorded, so clearly there are some people that watch MFYAH even though they get to Sunday Mass each week. I think it is a valuable service given by the Church and though it wasn't designed as an evangelising tool, this can be one benefit, especially since the Masses are available online.

Let us pray that the Church may continue to take advantage of technological innovation and use it to make Christ known to all, be it by recordings of Mass, like MFYAH, or other innovative ways that will touch the hearts of the faithful, and those still searching.

## Why Lent Matters



I came across this image of Ash Wednesday, 1996 when I was searching my archives for photos and facts about the fire that ravaged St Pat's Cathedral two days beforehand, on Monday 19th February. (View the retrospective on page23.)

Here Fr John Boyle, Cathedral Dean is distributing the ashes to OMLC girls who were part of the distraught, heavy-hearted crowd gathered in the park for the Ash Wednesday Mass. This unexpected catastrophe, caused by an arsonist surely impacted on parishioners' Lenten observance that year in one powerful way: It's possible the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" stirred consciences to pray for the perpetrator and forgive his criminal act.

Now to Lent 2023: I'm in the Lenten Group meeting at the Presbytery. We are doing the **Triumph** Program put out by the Wollongong Diocese. We begin with prayer, then proclaim next Sunday's Gospel. A reflection by Fr Mark De Battista and spiritual direction with Mother Hilda Scott OSB follows.

From the program thus far on the Lenten journey, I'd like to share some quotes that have resonated with me.

### From Mgr Graham Schmitzer: *On The Temptation*

"The scriptures continually speak of our relationship with God as a marriage bond. So Lent is much like the engagement time before a wedding. In 40 days, God and I will exchange vows."

"The Holy Spirit is the 'memory of God,' Pope Francis said. Give the Spirit the time this season to remind you of God's love.

### From Fr Mark De Battista: Gospel reflection

"Where God is, so is the devil." This is true, but with a different motive. The devil leads us into temptation to cause us to sin, whereas God leads us into temptation to test us so that we may grow in virtue."

### From Mgr Graham Schmitzer: *On the Transfiguration*

Peter wanting to set up tents on the mountain, kept getting the message wrong, failing to heed the advice, 'listen to Him.' The Transfiguration was not about settling down. It was a moment of respite for both Jesus and the three Apostles to give them strength for the task ahead. In the "after" of this event they would come down the mountain to find a distraught father asking for healing for his epileptic son. It would be just the beginning of the apostles' task of healing a broken world.

The same goes for us. We may at times feel great comfort in the celebration of the liturgy. But we cannot stay there. There is work to be done. And so, the celebrant's admonition at the ceremony's conclusion, "*Ite missa est*" — go, you are sent to fulfill your vocation in life.

M. Polizzi





**Bob Edgar** stepped in to submit this report on behalf of the **Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery**, the group **Judith Dunn** was instrumental in reforming recently. Fortunately, Judith, a tireless advocate for, and carer of the cemetery's premises for over 30 years, was present for the two meetings onsite, (which she had organised) but unexpected family issues necessitated her immediate departure abroad. Consequently, she delegated Bob to write a report to keep St Pat's community informed of the dire state of this sacred site of great historical significance.

## History & Heritage Matters

**T**he advocacy to save our State Heritage listed St Patrick's Cemetery continues.

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we had a site visit from our Federal MP Andrew Charlton. I think Andrew was having a hard time keeping up

with Judith as she darted from one end of the cemetery to the other, in the rain, pointing out the items that need urgent attention. Andrew was genuinely impressed with this historic asset and deeply concerned that maintenance has been less than paramount.

One of the major items, as much a safety issue as a heritage issue, is the collapse of the Downey Family vault. It appears to have been undermined by underground water and the historic sandstone monument has broken up and fallen in to the void.



The St Francis of Assisi Chapel has drainage issues where the area adjacent has been bunded and holds rainwater which seeps through the sandstone walls. The chapel itself is the burial place for several of our revered former clergy. The floor is sinking in places due to the damp. The roof was damaged in a storm some years ago and has not been repaired.

Fallen branches continue to create a hazard for visitors and along with a large dead tree pose a threat of damage to headstones and graves. Invasive native and exotic vegetation are taking over



some areas of the grounds and some graves are inaccessible, and being damaged, as a result.



From left:

Xavier Lim, Ian Werner, Silvana Rechichi, Ian Goldthorpe, Bob Edgar, Judith Dunn, Monsignor Boyle, Paul Carson



On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, **Friends** had a meeting with Parramatta Council's Natural Resources Officer, Richard O'Brien. (pictured right in discussion with Monsignor John Boyle). Richard oversees various contractors to maintain the cemetery along with Lake Parramatta, All Saints Cemetery and other green spaces.

His remit covers lawn mowing and vegetation control. Council's budget for this work is clearly not even adequate for this work let alone the repairs to graves, monuments, the Chapel and drainage rectification issues that were raised with Andrew Charlton.

Please follow and support our efforts to preserve this, **the oldest Catholic**

**Cemetery in Australia**, as we continue to petition all levels of government to do the right thing.

Thanks to Frank Duff for taking photos of the people at the meeting, along with recording the appalling overgrown state of the site.

**Interested in joining FRIENDS?**  
Contact the Parish Office, 88398400.





## Good Deeds Matter

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY Sunday March 5  
**Frank Duff** reporting



*The better the day, the better the deed -  
a bon jour bone oeuvre,*

The above saying, used in the early 14th century to justify working on a Sunday comes to mind here — but for less than two hours light work.

It was Janet Joseph who, at short notice, set up a formal Clean-up Australia Event #40257 targetting St Patrick's Cemetery on the corner of Pennant Hills Rd and Church Street I joined Janet and her husband Neil collecting litter — mainly thrown over the fence by passers-by, and removed by the Josephs for reporting to CUA and later disposal. No cigarette butts or drug paraphernalia were found, a good sign; most debris was sweet wrappers and paper cups, and two white wine bottles!

Some fair-sized dead timbers, both fallen and previously cut down, were put into piles for later removal by Parramatta Council, as arranged recently at an on-site meeting between



Friends and Parramatta Council representatives.

The Josephs live near the cemetery, and Janet knows a relative of Ian Kiernan, founder, some 30 years ago, of Clean Up Australia.

The good news is that the Josephs have expressed in joining the Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery.

## Frank keeps watch and comments



Parramatta Light Rail

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**NEW LANDSCAPING** | Check out the new landscaping and footpath next to St Patrick's Cemetery in North Parramatta. Instead of using traditional concrete, the team used a strong resin-bound pavement to create a 'shallow' footpath, reducing its depth by 20 cm, to avoid any impacts to the historic cemetery.



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Frank, reading the above was led to comment:  
*I hope Parramatta Light Rail and Parramatta Council laid underground drainage to facilitate drainage piping from Chapel roof to the gutter!*



He also observed, while doing a tour of duty in the cemetery:  
*A conical heap: maybe, 1000 x 2000 x 700 maybe. I don't see Parramatta Council wanting to remove it. Also council contractors should NOT throw grass cuttings and whipper snippings onto gravel, laid by Friends years ago, I gather!*

**The issues that Bob Edgar enumerated in his report on Judith Dunn's behalf, are many and, in some cases, time is of the essence in their being addressed. If we want to save our beloved heritage-listed St Patrick's Cemetery from demise, we must continue to campaign for government funding to fix all the problems.**

**The Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery would welcome more members to 'fight' for this worthwhile cause.**



# WYD fundraising for St Pat's young pilgrims



**T**ime marches on! Our pilgrims, Kayleigh, Caitlin, and Stacie could very well be crossing off the days till they leave for WYD Lisbon in mid July. What wonderful experiences, spiritual and sightseeing wise, await them.

In the meantime they and their families will be busy raising funds to get them there! To do so, they are relying on the support and generosity of St Pat's people, who for past WYD pilgrims have always risen to the challenge.

Sunday, 26th February was a busy day for the WYD pilgrims and their parents. A fundraising BBQ was held after 9:30 and 11am Masses. Gen Lee and Naomi Weilche, former members of Credo lent a hand, as did members of the Hospitality Group, Marthe Nalletamby, Denise, Mendonca, Jessy Sebaratnam, Pat Tenido and Evelyn Redimerio. And let's not forget the ubiquitous Cathedral Parish Manager, Mili Lee.



Left: The Figueredo Family: Richard, Felicia & Kayleigh, Centre: The Bernardo Family Denis, Aileen & Caitlin, Right: The Touche Family: Stacie, Jean Luc & Cathleen.



The amount raised was \$816.00. Contributing to this total was the proceeds from sales of Felicia's home-made jams, jars of which are visible next to Kayleigh in the photo above at left.

## WATCH OUT FOR COMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

**ST PATRICK'S DAY** Celebration 19th March and a **TRIVIA NIGHT**, date to be announced.

Please continue supporting this worthwhile fundraising cause by your presence and of course your cash donations.



When sending photos of the BBQ Fundraiser, Aileen Bernardo included some photos from the Lifted LIVE event on 23rd February held for WYD Pilgrims and Leaders by Catholic Youth Parramatta.

Caitlin, Kayleigh & Stacie obviously enjoyed the night.



Performing were **Genevieve Lee**, now a Project Coordinator with CYP, who will accompany pilgrims to Lisbon. and **Eric Grella**, who is Assistant Music Director at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta and Music Formation Facilitator in the Mission Enhancement Team







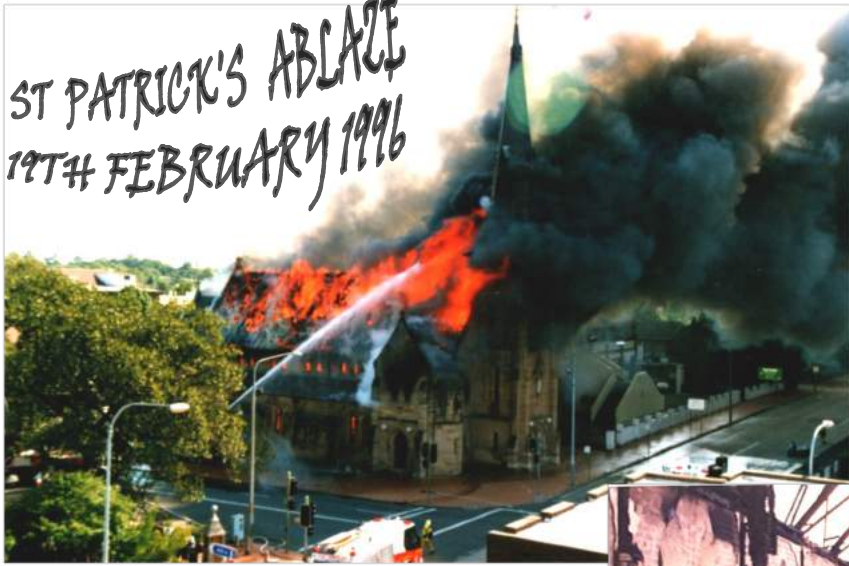
**GATHERED IN SOLIDARITY:** Grieving together for our communal loss. Time to reflect upon what is important in our lives, to re-evaluate our commitment to our Faith in Jesus, and reorient our lives to Him. Time to repent. Time for a conversion of heart. Time to be reconciled to God. Time to ***remember man, you are but dust and unto dust you will return.***

## A black and white photograph capturing a large, dense crowd of people, primarily women, gathered for a funeral procession. The crowd is composed of individuals of various ages, with many women dressed in white, a traditional choice for such occasions. Some individuals are holding flowers, and the overall atmosphere is one of solemnity. The gathering takes place on a street lined with trees, including palm trees, and several vintage cars are visible parked along the curb in the background. The perspective is from within the crowd, looking slightly towards the front of the procession.





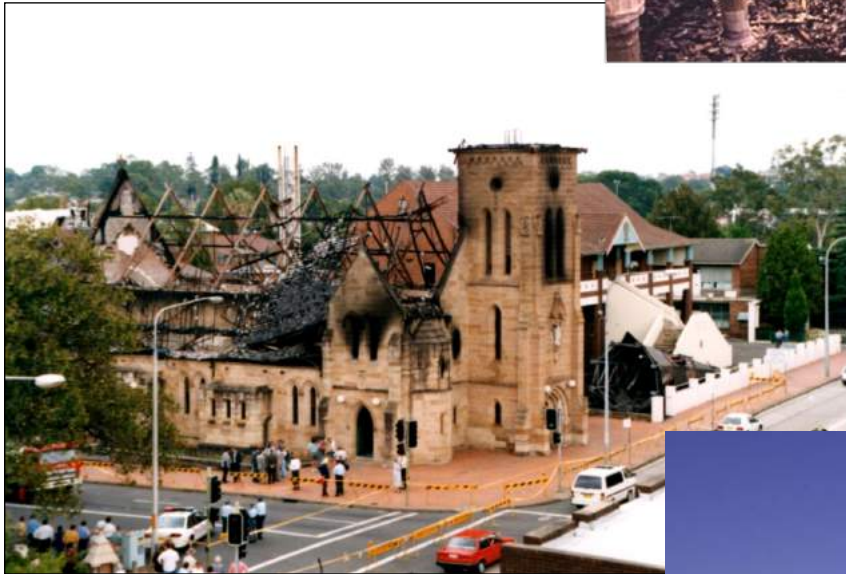
ST PATRICK'S ABLAZE  
19TH FEBRUARY 1996



*It matters to look back  
.....and forward too!*

FROM 'DEATH' IN THE 1996 FIRE,  
OUR SPIRITUAL HOME  
WAS REBORN TO NEW LIFE  
IN 2003.

*THE AFTERMATH  
charred ruin*



*topped steeple*

*THE NEW CATHEDRAL  
ROSE FROM THE ASHES  
NOVEMBER 2003*

