

ST PAT'S MATTERS



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

**OUR ST PAT'S PILGRIMS READY
TO WITNESS TO THE FAITH
WITH 1.5 MILLION YOUNG CATHOLICS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD!**

SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 117

EDITORIAL

First up is a feature on Confirmation, the smiling faces of the recipients soon to be 'sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit' in this sacramental milestone, enlightening the surrounding flame.

Next is a series of reflections from the parish's pilgrims about their time spent in several countries visiting sacred shrines, churches and places with the World Youth Day Lisbon experience sandwiched between.

In music matters you'll read about the workshop, *Music at Mass*, Eric Grella held at the Diocesan Liturgy Conference in July, and meet three talented musicians, Lucy and Teresa Smith and John Paul Turner, also involved in the music ministry.

Even parishioners who did not know Pat Andrews will be inspired reading the eulogy at her funeral, detailing a life lived in faith; while the Starkeys' article on Terry Gorman, deceased, will hopefully encourage people to be more welcoming at Mass.

Travel with Felicia Figueredo to Krakow as she shares her visit to the Divine Mercy Shrine; be spiritually uplifted reflecting on Deacon David Dowling's homily on the Transfiguration; find out what Fr Robert Riedling did recently at the Rosehill Tunnelling Project; and join Mother and Son, Claire and Aidan Pospischil to discover what good works they did for Jesuit Refugee Services.

History-wise Monsignor Joh Boyle takes us down memory lane in a detailed, compelling account of Catholic healthcare and its link to St Patrick's Parish from the early 1800s. Then we go to St Patrick's Cemetery with Judith Dunn to learn about John Cormichan and Samuel Barley and compare their headstones.

Discover who became a parishioner in the 1940s and age-wise has just reached the centenary milestone.

Find out what else is featured when you leaf through the issue.

I leave you with a dismissal often given by the priest when Mass ends. "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives." May we always so do.

M Polizzi



SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION MATTER

CONFIRMATION is the third and final sacrament whereby children and adults are fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

On Saturday, 26th August, families gathered at the Cathedral for 11am Mass, during which Bishop

Vincent conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on their children.

In preparation for this important milestone of initiation into the faith, parents and children had to attend a series of mandatory sessions over a period of 5 weeks. The first two evening sessions were for parents; the next two on Saturday afternoons were for parents with their children. The fifth week parents and children attended a practice session for Confirmation on Saturday afternoon, followed by attendance at Vigil Mass. The following Saturday morning, August 26th, the Confirmation ceremony took place.



WE HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Eliza Arranz
Serena Victoria Arranz
Wren Matthew Chua
Vincent Matthew Camenzuli
Ethan Francis Dikha
Marcus Francis Dikha
Taran Dingsh Kumar
Audrey Elizabeth El Bagh
Lexan Garcia
Sarah Kim Hoa Ha
Isabella-Rose Joye Huyle
Eva Jakopovic
Oliver Jakopovic

Araminta Jackson
Lexi Louise Lim-it
Papani Loto'aniu
Merezdaz Olga Mauala
Anastasia Jang Naudi
Gabriella Sta Rosa
Francis Thomas
Olivier Touche
Ashley Fay Valdez
Ericka Louise Valdez
Joshua Velasquez
Hani Afrodita Zavala Hernandez
Zachariah Daniel David McPherson



DID YOU KNOW?

The sponsor's role is to *encourage and assist the candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation*. The sponsor also presents the candidate to the Bishop (or his delegate) at the celebration of Confirmation.

Before Confirmation the children choose a saint they feel an affinity for and take their name as their confirmation name. The patron saint then serves as their guide and protector.



A Sacramental Milestone: Cause for Celebration

By the laying on of hands and the anointing with the Oil of Chrism, these children were confirmed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

May they be open to, and strengthened by the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus all their lives.



Fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions

What monumental experiences, spiritually and sightseeing wise, Kayleigh, Caitlin, and Stacie have notched up on their 21 day pilgrimage (21 July to 11 August). Flying into Paris, they travelled to Lourdes, Loyola, Burgos, Avila, Fatima, then spent a week in Lisbon for WYD, before flying to Assisi, Italy to conclude their journey with a time of rest, recreation and retreat.

Accompanying them as mentors were Genevieve Lee and Mindy Mercado both of whom attended past World Youth Days.

Here they share reflections on this amazing, unforgettable journey.

Kayleigh Figueredo reflects:



When speaking in front of St Pat's congregation in preparation for World Youth Day, I mentioned that I was looking forward to

meeting new people and experiencing new cultures. It was sort of ironic because I was reluctant to put myself in these unfamiliar situations by talking to different people. However, I can see now how God worked in all of the people that I met and in all the valuable conversations that I had. He allowed me to have such a unique and personal experience by using the people I knew to push me into new situations. The French pilgrims that I met in Lourdes reflected an infectious joy that helped me to switch from being nervous and worried about little things on the trip to being excited and eager for everything that I would be exposed to while overseas. Canadian pilgrims I met during the morning rise-up sessions in Portugal instilled a level of calm in me that I didn't even know I needed. Most importantly, I'm very grateful to have spent so much time with Stacie, Caitlin, Mindy and my small group. We bonded so much in just 3 weeks (especially over food and gelato) and we had a lot of fun together as well, making it difficult to have to say goodbye at the end. They made every stop on the pilgrimage better than the last and filled each day with lots of great memories. Being able to explore new countries and breathtaking places with my small group; and being in control of my own journey was made possible through the structure of the pilgrimage. As young adult pilgrims, we were given freedom to go wherever we liked when we had time to ourselves. This meant that we were able to return to specific places that resonated with us, to get the most out of every experience. I can see now how God's timing allowed

me to venture to certain places surrounded by certain people, and how each of these seemingly insignificant moments turned out to be crucial in my faith journey. There were many beautiful local churches with years of history, built by those with incredible faith which we had the privilege of exploring in our free time throughout the trip. When walking into churches on our way to grab lunch, we were taken aback by the delicate statues and stained glass windows that we didn't expect to see. It was a big change to the Australian churches we are used to!

Learning about the saints and seeing all of the key places in their lives for the first time was an unexpected highlight for me. It was definitely crazy to think about how there are so many people living near such significant sites who can simply visit them whenever they like. Personally, Lourdes, Fatima and Loyola turned out to be my favourite stops on the pilgrimage because they were absolutely gorgeous, and I found that different aspects of my faith became a little clearer in each of these places as well.

Before going on pilgrimage, I was almost certain that France would be the highlight of the trip, but I was surprised when Spain turned out to be my favourite country! From small stops in towns like Caleruega to longer ones in places like Loyola where we had Mass, each part of Spain absolutely surpassed my expectations. We also encountered the Spanish pilgrims for the first time, watching them parade through the streets, singing songs, drumming and waving flags as they journeyed towards Portugal. With Spain having the greatest number of pilgrims at WYD, it started to give us a feel for what the week in Lisbon would be like, especially as we ran into more and more pilgrims from different countries.

World Youth Day Week itself was such a unique and treasured experience.

Constant exposure to the energy and enthusiasm of young Christians from all around the world is something I'll never forget, as it really put into perspective the global magnitude of our shared beliefs. Walking from the hotel to the WYD sleep-out venue was another great bonding moment for our small group. Although it took us 3-4 hours in 35-degree heat, we had interesting conversations with each other and with the pilgrims around us and were so encouraged throughout the journey that we barely registered the heat or how much our legs hurt.

Seeing Pope Francis the first time in person and listening to him as well was amazing. He inspired the million of young people, telling us all *"to shine, to listen and to be not afraid"*, leaving us strengthened and excited to partake in the plan God has for our lives.

Being able to attend World Youth Day by going on this pilgrimage was the most incredible gift I've been given. I would like to thank each and every one of you who contributed financially in any way, whether it was by buying a sausage sandwich or giving us a personal donation, I am extremely grateful for your support and encouragement along the way. Rest assured, I prayed for you and all of your intentions in the prayer books at every stop of the pilgrimage, and while I had an amazing time overseas, it's nice to be back home surrounded by such a loving church community. It's safe to say that I am definitely experiencing some World Youth Day withdrawals, but I am eternally thankful for the many pockets of peace that I've been able to find, and all the joy I encountered in a new part of the world

Caitlin Bernardo's reflection



Paris:
St Pat's Five
at the start
of the Pilgrimage.



A month ago, around 170 pilgrims from the Parramatta Diocese began the journey to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day 2023. It's surreal to think that all of us were heading to the other side of the world to encounter Our Lord, in addition to visiting places where many of the Saints we know, and love once lived. Like some others, this was my first World Youth Day and the first time going overseas. For me, it was a mix of emotions, excitement for the journey ahead but also uncertainty as I wasn't sure what to expect.

Now that I'm back home, this pilgrimage allowed me to see Europe but also to develop new perspectives on life. I have greater gratitude for what I have, from the comforts of my room to the family and friends I am surrounded with, to the working air conditioning. I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to be part of WYD 2023 with Kayleigh and Stacie, and for friends I have made along the way. Thank you to Mindy who was my group leader, who made sure we were never lost or left behind. Thank you to Fr Chris who encouraged me to be part of WYD 2023 and looked out for all of us as one of the chaplains.

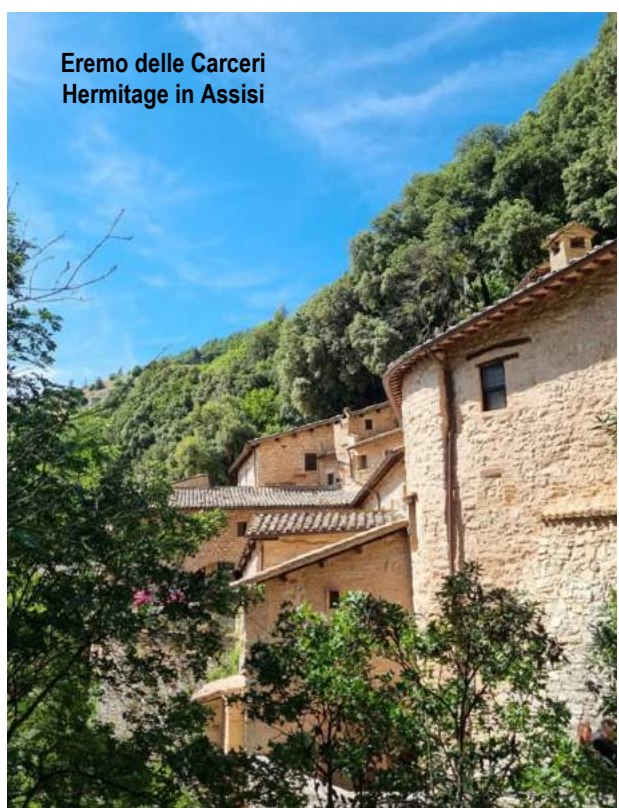
A BIG THANK YOU to all the parishioners, family and friends who supported me and all of us in being able to take part in this pilgrimage. Please know that we brought your intentions with us to all the holy places we visited and kept you all in our prayers.

WYD week itself was an intense but eye-opening experience for someone who attended for the first time. It was amazing to see so many young people from many countries coming to participate in mass and events. It was also interesting getting to know others, listening to their experiences of WYD and what motivated them to come to WYD. Though there were many people from many different places, the main reason why they came to WYD was the same; to celebrate the catholic faith with others. It's quite a sight, seeing people congregating in one place to participate in prayer united by faith and devotion to Jesus and the Virgin Mary. Personally, my highlight was actually our post WYD retreat in Italy, specifically the Hermitage (Eremo delle Carceri) that we visited during our stay in Assisi. Assisi is the birthplace of Saint Francis, the founder of the Franciscan order. The hermitage was where St Francis and his companions often went to spend time in prayer and contemplation.

As wonderful as it was to admire the architectural grandeur of various basilicas, meeting new people from different countries and having mass every day, this pilgrimage came with its own challenges for each of us. For some, it was the early wake ups, for others it was the long coach rides, but for me, it was the large volumes of people during WYD week and being able to focus. Having a very reflective personality, dealing with massive crowds, and going to various events, at times made it difficult to concentrate or focus on prayer with so many things happening. However, this challenge reinforced to me how God reaches out to us in various ways: ways that will differ from what we expect, — for me it was somehow being at peace despite the chaotic crowds and loud noises. Applying this to everyday life, the noise of the world can be very distracting, but there are quiet moments each day where there is an opportunity to encounter God even in the little things. We just have to be willing to be open to receiving it.



Candlelight Procession
in Lourdes



Eremo delle Carceri
Hermitage in Assisi

Stacie Touche's reflection

World Youth Day: I learnt and experienced so much in those three weeks that I'm still processing all that has happened on this pilgrimage and sure I will do so for a while. The whole pilgrimage was not what I expected. I'd heard stories from many people who had gone to previous World Youth Days, but none prepared me for all that I experienced, physically, spiritually and mentally. While this pilgrimage was a shared experience on so many levels, it was just as much a deeply individual and personal one. We all were in the same places together and physically experienced the same things, but what we got out of them was vastly different for each of us.

My small group for this pilgrimage was just one blessing. Yes, there were many other blessings and highlights, but I could not have envisioned this trip being as fruitful, fulfilling and rich as it was without them. And I would not have had the chance to meet these people without the love of St Pat's parishioners and all of your contributions to all our fundraisers. Another blessing I came to appreciate only recently.

Going into WYD, you hear stories of people who have had big revelations or some sort of grand moment where they say God spoke directly to them. However, one thing I was told from the people around me was to not expect a giant revelation like this, or expect to hear God's big booming voice speaking to me from the clouds while I'm sitting in the pews of a small European chapel. So I told myself not to expect this, but in doing that, I think I was trying to pull reverse psychology on myself, saying if I don't expect it, the unexpected will happen!

For the first part of the trip (everything before Portugal which included France and Spain) I was very stressed and lost. Even before the pilgrimage I was very stressed by everything associated with uni, work and my personal life. On top of that, my spiritual life was possibly at the lowest it had ever been and for a long time. too. So early in the trip, while sitting in majestic churches, celebrating mass daily my mind was going through so many emotions. I would wonder, "*Why am I not feeling anything?*" as if I was waiting for something extraordinary to happen, and it was driving me crazy: I was not experiencing anything spiritually and felt this trip was being wasted on me.

At Loyola, a few days into the trip, my group had its first proper reflection session. One question was, "*Where did you see God today?*" As already mentioned, I "felt" nothing. I felt no 'magic' when in these amazing churches. We were not required to share our answers, but I did. I was not going to lie and say I saw God in these churches when I did not. So I said I see him in nature, in the trees. I mention this because during that reflection session one of the group said something I've never thought of, and will never forget. He said that all these churches were made because God had inspired men to build them. But these churches are not God Himself; if this church got knocked down right now, God would still be with us in this place, God's presence would still be here. A church is just a building. Yes, a holy building, but still a building, nonetheless. After that day, when we visited more magnificent churches, I still did not experience overwhelming emotion to the point of crying, nor did I feel a gust of wind while sitting in the pews. Although I did not have these experiences, I did not get mad at myself. That group member made me realise the way I was feeling was valid; that God does not need to reveal Himself in the extraordinary ways

we sometimes wish, but rather quite often reveals Himself everyday in ordinary places and ways.

This question, "*Where did I see God?*" was asked in all of our reflection sessions. The more this question

was asked, the more I actively looked for his presence. Where did I see God? Earlier in the trip, I had expected to see Him in churches and in prayer when my eyes were closed hoping to physically see Him. But that is not where we met. I saw Him in people, some of whom I'd known for years. How ironic that I went all the way to Europe, only to experience God in the people I see in everyday life back in Australia. But that did not matter, because the love I experienced on the trip from these people was so deep. In certain conversations, it was evidently clear that the Holy Spirit was present, working so profusely that you could not have mistaken it for anything else. You could not have blamed it on coincidence. The more I reflect on this trip, the more I realise nothing that happened was by coincidence; but for a reason — the choices I made, the people I met, the places I visited.

You often hear that the Lord works in mysterious ways. He really does. For the first half of this trip I was struggling, I was telling myself when I got back home I might "take a break from the church" whatever that meant. It was not that I did not believe anymore or disagreed with the church on certain issues, none of that. Rather, my personal relationship with God was so sparse and so inconsistent to the point I felt it was almost non-existent. If you are just reciting the prayers out of habit, that's not a real relationship with the Lord.

The first Mass welcoming all the international pilgrims to WYD was the first mass where I felt so at peace and so calm, even though it was said in Portuguese and I did not understand anything. It was after communion that I was finally able to smile and genuinely feel relieved, happy, worthy and so many other emotions. I have been trying to capture and describe this whole trip in words, but I cannot do it justice.

After coming home, I realised my small group was the answer to my prayers; my prayers for community and Catholic friends. For three weeks, we shared meals, but we were not obliged to stay together as a group when going out in free time, that just happened naturally. There was so much love for each other. Besides the other girls from St Pat's, I did not know the other four pilgrims. In fact, barely any of us spoke in our group until we got to Europe. However, the Lord knows what He's doing. We thought we were all put in the group randomly, but we could have not been more wrong. The Lord had plans we could not have foreseen, because by the time we parted ways in Italy, saying our final goodbyes, many silent tears were shed. Throughout my battles and troubles during the trip, they were my family, the people I would talk and rant to, go and sulk to.

In Assisi,
with Fr Piotr,
Dominican Priest



Gen Lee's WYD Reflection

It's been 4 years since I first attended World Youth Day (WYD) in Panama. In that time I've grown a little taller, become a little older and learnt a bit more about the Lord, this life and myself.



Me at the final sleep out during WYD Week.

But also in that time at the beginning of 2023 I started work at Catholic Youth Parramatta as a Project Co-ordinator; and it is because of this role that I was invited to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal as a staff member of the Diocese.

To compare the experience of being a fresh out of school 18-year-old on pilgrimage for the first time, to the experience of working for the Diocese as a

22-year-old is an interesting reflection point.

The first time I went to WYD I looked forward to the experience of trading Australian souvenirs with other pilgrims from around the world, being away from home and exploring a new country, and maybe even making some new friends. Though all these things work together to become key parts of pilgrimage, this time around, I looked forward to the times of silence and solace away from the world and soaking in the spirit of the Saints we would encounter en route to Lisbon and beyond.

Though this time around I knew what to expect, I was still in awe of how the rhythm of pilgrimage can whisk you away and create a space that only you and God can enter into. Through every small chapel, grand basilica, humid bus, crowded hallway, He came to meet me in people and places. It was in our first Mass at the Church of St Vincent De Paul in Paris, where Bishop Vincent shared a story of the excitement of shopping at Vinnies when he first arrived in Australia, that reminded me of my own grandparents visiting us from Fiji and being excited to explore our local Vinnies and the joy my six year old self would receive from their joy. It was on a crowded bus on a 40-degree day in Lisbon, that I met an older woman from Italy who spoke with me through the whole 40-minute trip to our destination, about how the hand of God had worked in her life as a teacher to bring her to this point of accompanying a wheelchair bound student to WYD and made me rethink why I chose Education for my own career. It was in the Chapel within the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi, where our 170 pilgrims sang *Amazing Grace* in acapella that it felt time stopped for a minute and God was pouring out an abundance of his grace over me as we came down the spiritual mount.

It was in these experiences and the ones that I keep in my mind, that I was reminded of the mystery of the God I love and the hand He has on my life to keep me rooted in the belief that God has been so good in every season of life; and for that I am continuously grateful and in awe of Him.



Meeting Italian pilgrims on the bus with fellow pilgrim Shefin



St Vincent De Paul's body lies above the sanctuary of the altar in his church in Paris.

STACIE'S REFLECTION continued from page 6

WYD was something else. I thought I knew what I was signing up for and what I would receive from the pilgrimage. I thought I was prepared for it because I knew so many people who had been previously. But I have been humbled because I was very wrong. It is so hard to describe all that happened that sometimes it is just easier to give the generic answer of "Oh it was great". This was the answer I would usually get from previous pilgrims when I asked before going. I never liked that answer because I wanted more elaboration. But I understand now, because I have sometimes given that very response. Not because I did not want to elaborate, but rather because I could talk for hours about the experience, and yet at the same time it annoys me so much that I can not find the correct words to describe all that happened. Because words cannot even begin to describe it all. Words cannot describe all the relationships that were made and strengthened. Words cannot describe the magnificent churches or how it felt to sit in those churches and hear all the different hymns in so many languages.

WYD was an experience I will never forget. I am so grateful to St Pat's amazing parish community for supporting our fundraising. and praying for us. Without their help I would not have even been able to get on that plane to go and experience all that I did.

Eric Grella is the Assistant Director of Music at St Patrick's Cathedral. He also holds the role of Music Formation Facilitator, Office of Worship in the Parramatta Diocese.

The article below reports on the workshop he ran at the recent Liturgy Conference.



One of the most effective ways of encouraging active participation by the congregation is to sing Mass settings which can be easily learnt and

remembered. Hymns will most likely change each week and musicians may like to introduce new hymns; however, the texts of the Mass parts are always the same. This also includes simple chant responses such as *"And with your spirit"*. This of course relies on the priest singing the ministerial chants.

It's important to note that the *"treasure of sacred music is to be preserved and fostered with great care."* (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 1963). It may be difficult to achieve this while expecting the congregation to join in with singing everything. In some instances, active participation does not mean to literally sing along. Congregations may participate through listening and prayer, as reflecting on the music or texts being sung can bring them to focus on the mysteries.

Musicians are encouraged to incorporate a vast range of styles in their liturgies, such as Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony, whilst also maintaining music accessible for congregation singing, which would include vernacular hymns.

Greater emphasis needs to be placed on music within the liturgy as it is not simply just an "add on" but rather a necessary and integral part of our worship. Hopefully those who attended the workshop will be able to pass on information they have learnt to their parishes to further enhance the music ministry in our Diocese.



On 15th July, the Diocese of Parramatta hosted a Liturgy Conference at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. This document emphasises the importance of fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations. An effective way to achieve this can be through sacred music, which is given a considerable amount of attention in *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

At the conference, Eric Grella, our Assistant Director of Music, ran a workshop on "Expressing our Faith — Music at Mass". Eric joined the Cathedral Choir in 2017 and immediately took a great interest in learning more about sacred music. He has composed various psalm settings and hymn arrangements for the choir, as well as a Mass setting.

His workshop at the conference covered three topics: Why we sing at Mass, principles for selecting music, and copyright information. While the target audience for the workshop was for those who are already involved in music ministry, its aim was to bring to attention the importance of congregational singing as *Musicam Sacram* highlights, *"One cannot find anything more religious and more joyful in sacred celebrations than a whole congregation expressing its faith and devotion in song."*

There is a lot to consider when selecting music for Mass, more than simply trying to find hymns relevant to the readings of the day. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* and other post Vatican II documents lay out some foundations which musicians will find useful when planning their liturgies.

After reading these documents, it becomes apparent that singing the parts of the Mass (Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) takes precedence over music which accompanies processional moments (Entrance, Recessional).



Here are the profiles of three more members of the Cathedral Choir.
(thanks to 'encouragement from their Maestro!')
It's a blessing to have such such exceptionally talented musicians
sharing their God-given-gifts in liturgies here at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Lucy & Teresa Smith



Twin sisters, Lucy and Teresa are members of the soprano section of St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir.

Lucy has been with the choir for five years, having joined in 2019 after being recruited by the Director of Music, Bernard, out of the Schola of Campion College. She has loved the wide variety of challenging and beautiful music that she has had the opportunity to learn and

sing during her time with the choir.

Teresa's involvement in the choir was limited to helping out at Christmas time on two occasions, when the choir needed more sopranos after Lucy joined, but she only joined the choir as a regular choral scholar in late 2021. The gorgeous repertoire and joy of singing with fellow skilled and enthusiastic voices has been an enriching experience.

Both Lucy and Teresa have a very similar musical background, learning, playing, and eventually teaching, piano for seventeen years, singing for sixteen years, and violin (Lucy) and cello (Teresa) for fifteen years. In their childhood and teenage years, both took part in musicals such as *Les Miserables* and *Oliver*, and playing with their local orchestra. They also spent some years singing with their childhood parish choir at St. John Vianney's, Doonside, where Teresa also played the organ for the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass for about a year. Currently both work in the music industry teaching their respective instruments, and occasionally take on freelance singing engagements.

Being twins in the soprano section at first — and still occasionally — causes confusion among fellow choristers regarding to whom they are speaking; but perhaps the person who really suffers most is Bernard, the music director, when he addresses a twin to praise or blame, only to have the other pipe up with *"That was me, Bernard."*

Lucy and Teresa have very similar voice prints when singing. When seeing their voice wave-lengths visually displayed during recording, they overlap with almost no discernible difference. Lucy generally performs on Soprano I, and Teresa on Soprano II. (In pieces that do not have separate soprano parts, however, if the music director catches the ring of a certain voice and wishes to give feedback, they believe he has taken to just saying a name and hoping he has the right target!)

The twins are immensely grateful to have the opportunity to use their voices for the glory of God in the choir and look forward to many more years of studying liturgical music.

John Paul Turner



My name is JP, and I've been cantoring at Saint Patrick's Cathedral for almost eleven years.

Growing up in rural NSW I moved to Sydney after high school to pursue my faith and God's will for my life. St Patrick's has certainly facilitated these pursuits and

it is such an honour to be able to assist at Mass in this capacity as a cantor; giving praise to God through the beauty of music and its being joined to the greater beauty of the liturgy. The liturgy truly comes alive when spoken through the language of music.

Cantoring has united my two great loves: faith and music.

Music has always been an important part of my life. I studied piano in high school where I developed my love for composing. After completing my Bachelor of Music, where I majored in Classical Singing, I went on to complete a Masters in Composition. Currently, I am a PhD student at the University of Notre Dame, where my research focusses on the theological significance of music and how music can lead us to a knowledge of the divine.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saint Cecilia is the Patron Saint of MUSICIANS:

According to legend, Cecilia was a young Christian of high rank betrothed to a Roman named Valerian. Through her influence, Valerian was converted, and was martyred along with his brother. The legend about Cecilia's death says that after being struck three times on the neck with a sword, she lived for three days, and asked the pope to convert her home into a church.

Since the time of the Renaissance she has usually been portrayed with a viola or a small organ.

Reflection

Like any good Christian, Cecilia sang in her heart, and sometimes with her voice. She has become a symbol of the Church's conviction that good music is an integral part of the liturgy, of greater value to the Church than any other art.

Remembering Past Parishioners Matters

Although a longtime St Pat's parishioner, the Mass of Christian Burial for Pat was celebrated at St Bernadette's Church Dundas Valley on August 9th.

During his homily, Fr Henry Ibe, close family friend, paid tribute to Pat, whose life was lived in faith and devotion to her family.

Patricia Andrews

27 April 1937 — 30 July 2023



Dear friends, we gather here today to honour and bid farewell to an outstanding woman, Pat Andrews, who touched the hearts of all who knew her. In her 86 years of life, Pat embodied the principles of her Catholic faith, living by the teachings of the Catechism, which shaped her character and guided her actions. A cornerstone of her faith was a profound devotion to Our Lady. Through the highs and lows of life, Pat turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary, seeking comfort and guidance in times of need. Her unwavering trust in the intercession of Our Lady exemplifies the depth of her faith and her profound understanding of a mother's love.

Pat's life journey began in Auburn, where she was born to Winni and Bede Royan. She was a sister to Betty and Ronny, growing up with the love and support of her family. Her early years were marked by the absence of her father, who left to find work in Cooma. Despite the challenges they faced, Pat's family remained resilient and moved to Parramatta when her father returned.

Pat received her primary and secondary education at St Patrick's Parramatta. She also had her Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, all at St Patrick's Parramatta. Pat embraced her faith with unwavering dedication, allowing it to shape her decisions and illuminate her path throughout her entire journey.

Pat met the love of her life, Don, at a CYO dance where their connection was so strong that they were inseparable. Tomorrow they would have celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary—a testament to the enduring love they shared.

Pat's dedication to family extended beyond her husband. She was a devoted mother to five children, a loving grandmother to 11 grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to 19 great-grandchildren (four more are imminent). Affectionately known as 'old Grandma' to the little ones in the family, Pat cherished every moment spent with her loved ones. Her gentle and kind nature endeared her to all who crossed her path. Her generosity knew no bounds, and she always put others' needs before her own. She lived a life filled with compassion, seeking to make the world a better place for those around her. As a great believer, Pat made sure to pass on the Catholic faith to her children. She also taught them the virtues of generosity and treating everyone with dignity, no matter their background.

Despite the challenges posed by dementia in her later years, Pat's faith remained unwavering. Her love for the Mass never waned, and she would eagerly prepare herself to attend, even waiting in the car for hours if necessary. The Rosary was her constant companion, bringing her comfort and solace during her struggles with memory loss. "I thought we'd say the Rosary," she would often say, even if they had just finished saying it moments before. It was a beautiful reminder of the profound connection she maintained with her faith until the end.

Amid the sadness of her passing, let us celebrate the life of this good Catholic woman who has touched so many hearts with her kindness, love, and devotion. Let us remember that she now rests in the embrace of her Heavenly Father, where there is no more sorrow or pain. Let us take comfort in the knowledge that her legacy lives on through her family, who carry on her faith, values, and love. And let us remember the lessons she taught us: to love unconditionally, to cherish family and friends, and to hold on to our faith even in the face of adversity.

Pat Andrews has lived her life to the fullest and has run her race to the end. We thank God for all the blessings bestowed on her in this life. And to Gary, Bill, Kathryn, Debra, Robert, and the entire family, I say: The great thing about your love for Pat is that it does not end with death. Authentic love transcends physical death, and in the words of St. Bernard of Clairvaux: "I can never lose one whom I have loved unto the end; one to whom my soul cleaves so firmly that it can never be separated does not go away but only goes before."

Pat has not gone away but has only gone ahead of us to the place we hope to be. Since she was washed clean in Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation, and nourished at the Eucharistic table, we hope that Jesus will grant her a share in His everlasting kingdom.



**10th August 1957:
Don and Pat
were married at
St Patrick's Church,
Parramatta**



**Pat surrounded by her devoted children,
Kathryn, Robert Debra, Gary and Bill.**

Being welcoming matters

For parishioners, **JOHN and DIANNE STARKEY** being welcoming is very important. Here they speak from personal experience of reaching out to someone at 6pm Mass on Sunday.



We would like to tell you a little about Terence (Terry) Gorman who became our friend because we said "hello" to him after Mass. Over time he "adopted" us whilst chatting. When he needed to go to hospital, he volunteered us as his next of kin. We were privileged to learn more about our friend's life while clearing out his

home and writing his eulogy after he died. He led an interesting life with the usual ups and downs.

Terry was born into a Catholic family in Sheffield, England, in 1929. He had three sisters with whom he kept in contact via phone, cards and letters right up until his death. After Terry completed an Engineering degree, he was called up for National Service, and served at the Suez Canal. He travelled to Australia in 1956 as an approved migrant, enlisted in the RAAF as an aircraftman, later achieving flight officer and then Flight Lieutenant. He became a full-time education officer at the RAAF School of Technical Training, leaving the RAAF in 1971 with glowing references. When he died, he still had his "Biggles" story books, so it seems his interest in planes started at a young age.

When Terry left the RAAF, he taught Maths and Science in Catholic schools, from 1972 to 1983. From 1984, he was appointed to the NSW Education Department, receiving an award for Excellence in Teaching before his retirement. He mentioned to us that often adult ex-students in Parramatta came and spoke to him.

Terry married in 1963 and had 4 children, but sadly in 1978, he and his wife divorced. This is something that played on Terry's mind right to the very end of his life. It was something that he could not accept as a practicing Catholic. Soon after the divorce, Terry appears to have lost contact with his family.

We met Terry about 20 years ago at Sunday Mass, when he regularly sat in the seat in front of us and we started to talk after Mass. He had the ability to talk to anyone at length which continued right to the end, according to the nurses who looked after him. We were lucky to have been involved in some of those informative chats. We got to know him and even met his sister when we were visiting England in 2015.

Terry was a humble, quietly-spoken man, solitary and fiercely independent. If we offered to drive him home from church, he would say that he would walk to the station and catch the train to Guildford, even when he had difficulty walking. He sought help only when he was in hospital or incapacitated in some way. We were listed as his next of kin so the hospital would contact us when Terry needed us. At other times, Terry would call John to take him to the doctor or pick up his medicines from the chemist. On one occasion he even rang John because there was no-one else to help him get down the stairs at his block of units with his

walker. Consistent with his independent nature, once down the stairs, he insisted on walking to the station to get the train to Parramatta, despite John's offer to drive him.

A staunch English football fan, Terry supported the Sheffield teams. We brought back a Manchester United scarf for him the first time we went to England, but we had to go back again and get the right one the next time we visited England. This scarf was still sitting on his bed when he passed away. Often he stayed up in the middle of the night to watch the soccer live, and he always wanted to talk about the results with us.

Terry believed strongly in his Catholic Faith. His home had a cross on the wall, draped with the palm leaves from Palm Sunday, and he had a second cross next to his bed. He had quite a collection of church newsletters, including years of newsletters from St Pat's Cathedral, which he felt he could not throw away.

As Terry's health worsened, he had a number of falls and ended up in hospital. There were few people to visit him in the last six weeks of his life. He appreciated visitors when they did come. Terry found it difficult to eat. When we visited, he would ask us to bring sandwiches with vegemite, cheese or jam (or all three), a boiled egg or Garlos pies, his favourite. When John surprised him with a Cappuccino, he was very happy indeed, even though he had to drink it through a straw.

Terry passed away in the early hours of 19 July 2023, just months shy of turning 94. As nominated next of kin, we were informed the next morning by the very kind Dr Mohammed, who had been taking care of Terry. He also cared enough to keep Terry's sister in England updated about her brother and finally to give her the sad news of his death.

We organised for Fr Thomas, the Chaplain at Auburn Hospital, to give Terry the Anointing of the Sick, blessings and prayers, soon after his admission to hospital, and then to give him communion (Viaticum) closer to the time of his death. Our own Fr Robert Riedling said a Memorial Mass for Terry, which was advertised at Masses the week beforehand. Unfortunately, it appears that not many people knew Terry. Sadly we were the only mourners there apart from Fr Robert and the Altar server. A couple of people were in the Chapel and attended the Mass, which we greatly appreciated. We believe Terry was well prepared to be welcomed home when he departed this earthly world.

Why have we written this?

Partly, it is in remembrance of Terry. But mostly it is because we would like to encourage our fellow parishioners to befriend others at Mass. You could experience the richness of making a new friend, while brightening someone's day and making them feel welcome in our parish, through reaching out to them. If you see someone sitting on their own, you may need to make the first move, even if you have to go out of your way a little, but believe us, it is worth it. The only way we learned this and much more about Terry and developed this friendship was by starting with the first "hello" after Mass.

Editor's Note:

For the past 6 or 7 years Dianne and John have been welcoming people via their involvement in the Rite of Christian Initiation program here at St Pat's.



Reflecting on Scripture matters The TRANSFIGURATION of the LORD

Last issue, readers were able to reflect on Deacon David's inspiring homily given at 11am Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Persuading him to allow it to be published was not easy, but eventually he acquiesced!

His homily at 11am Mass on 6th August, about the Transfiguration, was equally inspiring, and again we asked permission to publish it, allowing a wider 'audience' to be spiritually nourished by his preaching. Again, reluctantly, Deacon David agreed, sending it with this accompanying note: *I've attached my homily notes as requested. As I've mentioned before, these are really written to be spoken and not so much to be read... but if you want them, here they are.* Undoubtedly, readers will benefit spiritually from his decision.



I have a beautiful grandson who is blind. He was with us on our trip to Ireland and so many people held him and he loved every minute of it. He laughed and he smiled as he was passed from one person to another, and I noticed something: Sometimes when a particular person held him something passed between them, something spiritual. They looked at him deeply and with great love and they saw something beyond his physical form. They saw his inner peace and joy and they were in turn affected by it. Perhaps some of you have experienced this in your own lives. — When you gaze on someone with a deep love, you begin to see some of their inner beauty. It appears there are **deeper ways of seeing**.

The gospel on Friday [Matthew 13:54-58] told about how the people of Jesus' hometown could not see him as the son of God, they could not even see him as a prophet. They were **spiritually blind**, and as a consequence Jesus' presence there bore little fruit. In other places there had been life-changing teachings and remarkable healings, but in Nazareth there was very little fruit.

Today's scriptures **in contrast** are full of beautiful visual imagery. They are all about light, about what we can see.

In the first reading, [Daniel 7: "the one of great age", which is by the way, one of the terms my kids use for me... Anyhow, "the one of great age" **shines so brightly**." It is all flames and fire and light. It is very close to the description of Jesus in the Gospel. **"His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light."** The apostles were witnessing the glory of Christ. What a remarkable sight.

Now there have been two main views about what happened at the Transfiguration - One view is that Jesus actually transformed in front of them, and the other view is that the disciples' eyes were opened to what Jesus always was. I'm not really concerned about which one it was, because for me it all amounts to the same thing: these apostles **got to look upon the glory of Christ**.

So how do we here today experience Christ's glory? Do we have to climb to the top of a mountain? Or do we have to spend 40 days in a desert? No, the good news is that we can experience something like this every time we look upon the consecrated host. Here

we are presented with the true presence of Christ. When the priest raises the host and says: **"This is my body"**, when he says: **"Behold the Lamb of God"**, when the minister of the Eucharist lifts up the host and says: **"The body of Christ"** — Every time this happens we can look upon the true presence with all the *reverence and awe* with which the apostles would have looked upon Christ's glory.

Now, many of us look at the Eucharist and, in truth, we might know that it is the true presence but we can't see this glory, and that is why the **second reading** [Peter 1:16-19] is so important...

In the second reading, St Peter gives his own eyewitness account of the very same event. And he goes on to talk about how we must depend on prophecy as a lamp for lighting our way, **"until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds..."**

So what is he saying here?

St Peter is telling us that the scriptures, God's word, the words of Jesus, are a lamp that can illuminate our lives - offering us comfort, challenge, guidance. But he is also flagging that there is more - if we continually seek a deeper faith, something happens — *the morning star rises in our minds*. Our minds can become illuminated. We can develop a **deeper way of seeing**. In time, we ourselves can grow to see Christ's glory.

So today let us ask God, indeed let us *beg* God, to open our eyes to see this glory. Scripture says: **"Ask and you shall receive"** and **"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."**

If we allow the word of God to illuminate our lives; if we truly desire to see Christ's glory in the Eucharist; if we gaze on the True Presence with awe and love, as though we can already see His glory, **then in time, we absolutely will.**



Faith & Prayer Matter

A parishioner's faith in the Divine Mercy recently led to an unexpected pilgrimage to the Shrine in Krakow, Poland.
For her, praying to the Divine Mercy is a daily practice.
She exhorts readers to do likewise.

My name is Felicia Figueredo and I recently had the privilege of spending a few days at the Divine Mercy's Shrine in Krakow, Poland. This Shrine has now become an ever important pilgrimage site with people from all over the world visiting since the canonization of St Maria Faustina Kowalska by St John Paul II in the year 2000.

Back in 2000, I was single and working in India for Barclays Bank PLC, a well-known British bank. A few of my colleagues were Catholic and we would call each other on the intercom just before 3:00pm as a reminder and would say the 3 o'clock Divine Mercy prayer, either at our desks or in the lunch room. This continued till I left in 2002 when I married and went to Canada. Little did I know back then, that I would ever visit this Divine Mercy Shrine in person.

Fast forward a few years, my daughter Kayleigh was born in 2004 and low and behold for the first three years of her life she would wake up at 3:00am every night and come walking and stand by my bed! I would put her back to sleep and say the Divine Mercy prayer and chaplet. Till today, I have a tendency to wake up every other night at this time and I continue to say the Chaplet.

A few years ago, my brother Ivan who lives in Germany, went on a pilgrimage to the Shrine in Krakow and sent me a blessed image of the Divine Mercy along with a copy of St Faustina's diary. After reading her diary, it just made me want to say the Chaplet more and more, which I say daily, especially for the sick and the dying. During COVID Ivan sent me the link to the live broadcast of the Hour of Mercy and the Chaplet, which I used to follow. They continue to broadcast it to the present day. If you Google it you can see the last archived broadcast, too. That's when I had the desire to someday visit this Shrine.

This year I decided to take some of my annual leave that I had accumulated during the COVID

period planning to visit Ivan in Germany since I had not seen him for many years. When I expressed to him my desire to go to Krakow, he said that he too would like to go there again and made the required bookings and I was able to go along with his family. It was indeed the highlight of my trip and I was able to spend 4 glorious days there, immersed in prayer.

On behalf of St Faustina and Jesus, I beg of everyone reading this article to say the Divine Mercy prayer and Chaplet for yourselves, your families and for the sick and the dying. It is very, very powerful and only takes 6-8 minutes to say. You can find the Chaplet and novena on Google or YouTube. You can say it any time of the day or night, while driving to or from work, while stuck in traffic, or on public transport or as part of your prayer routine. It is best said at **3pm**, the hour of Divine Mercy when the floodgates of graces are poured out for all who say the chaplet.

Jesus promised, **"I will grant every possible grace to souls"** (Diary 796). The 9-day Novena starts on Good Friday and ends on the first Sunday after Easter. The novena can also be made anytime of the year.

If this chaplet is said in the presence of the dying, Jesus said, **"I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge, but as the Merciful Saviour"** (Diary 1541).

How great is that!



The souls that will say this Chaplet will be embraced by My Mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death.

The words of Jesus in the Diary 754



By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My Mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.

The words of Jesus in the Diary (742)



Felicia and Ivan at the Divine Mercy Shrine

Divine Mercy Sunday

On that day the very depths of my tender Mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

The words of Jesus in the Diary (699)



looking back matters

DID YOU KNOW

St Joseph's Hospital Auburn began life at Parramatta?

Monsignor John Boyle was inspired to write this article after mentioning the hospital's closure during his homily at 9:30am Mass on Sunday, August 13th.



While the Catholic Church is still reeling from the action taken by the ACT Government to forcefully acquire Calvary Catholic Hospital, Canberra, the shock announcement of the closure of St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, went mostly unnoticed.

St Joseph's, a 39-bed hospital across the road from Auburn's St John of God parish church, has been providing patient care on the site for the past 131 years.

There was some press and TV coverage of the closure of St Joseph's, but no mention of the fact that St Joseph's began its life as a hospital for consumptives opposite St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, where the Sisters of Mercy convent now stands.

Part of the property where the convent is located was at one time owned by the Sisters of Charity. The Charity nuns came to Parramatta in 1839 and rented a cottage in Elizabeth Street. William Davis built them a two-storey convent opposite the present cathedral and the Sisters moved in the following year. They had arrived in Australia in 1838 accompanied by the Vicar General, Dr Ullathorne OSB who was also the parish priest at Parramatta.

The Sisters visited the Parramatta Female Factory twice a day, visited the Parramatta Hospital across the river, supervised the Catholic school and taught in the Catholic Orphanage next door to the factory. Seven years later the Sisters of Charity left Parramatta and leased the convent to tenants before returning thirty years later.

The Sisters' Annals record,

Shortly after his arrival in Sydney, Archbishop Moran expressed a desire that the Sisters of Charity in Sydney, after the example of their elder sisters in Dublin, should open a hospital for patients suffering from incurable complaints such as tuberculosis, cancer, etc. For this purpose, His Eminence proposed they should make use of their original home at Parramatta which had been let to seculars.

St Joseph's Hospital for Consumptives opened at Parramatta on 2 July 1886. It was intended for patients whose "malady" was a "bar to their reception into any other hospital in the colony." It had twenty beds. There was a Rectress and two or more trained nursing Sisters of Charity, along with a wards-man, a small number of nurses from St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst, and two honorary medical officers. Doctors from Parramatta Hospital also attended. The Rectress, Sister Joseph Chisholm, was a widow who had joined the Sisters of Charity following the death of her husband, William Chisholm, the second son of Caroline Chisholm.

Besides being supported by the local Parramatta people, Catholic and non-Catholic, the St Vincent de Paul Society figures prominently among the list of benefactors.

A local non-Catholic doctor asked for his groom who was dying of tuberculosis to be admitted to St Joseph's, Parramatta. He found Sister Ita McCormack sitting beside the patient, and later admitted to thinking, "There must be something in religion for a beautiful young woman like that to sit all day beside a dying man."

It was not long before the 'new' hospital became inadequate and in need of more accommodation for at least seventy patients. In 1888 the *Cumberland Mercury* reported, "The structure is going up on the allotment to the west of the old hospital building and will consist of a two-storey brick building with a slate roof, and having large verandahs back and front, on a level with the first floor...When the new wards are ready for occupation the old building will be occupied as a residence by the sisters."

The 'new' building now comprises the central core of the present convent running along Victoria Road. Looking at the convent from the courtyard outside the chapel it is possible to see the brickwork of the hospital and the third-floor extensions constructed by the Sisters of Mercy between 1905 and 1921.

Father Angelo Ambrosoli was the architect. He was the chaplain at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst and he also had a Parramatta connection. Before his appointment to St Vincent's, he was for 17 years the chaplain to the nuns at Subiaco, Rydalmere, Hannibal Macarthur's former property on the Parramatta River, now occupied by Rheem. The new hospital on Victoria Road was opened by Cardinal Moran on 5 March 1889. It was closed on 30 June 1892.

Why did St Joseph's Hospital in Parramatta close?

Even in the late 19th century it was recognised that the site opposite St Patrick's church was too small for two ever-expanding institutions, school and hospital.

Today, Our Lady of Mercy College is bound by Victoria Road, Ross Street, Villiers Street and O'Connell Street. The need for school expansion was envisaged early and Sisters of Mercy realised that their Villiers Street property would be inadequate for a school that would inevitably enlarge. Other sites for the high school were considered, two at Westmead and one called "The Cedars", out from Parramatta. There is correspondence in relation to purchasing The King's School.

Meanwhile, in St Joseph's Hospital's annual report for 1892, there is an entry:

*"...owing to the growing popularity of the Institution many applications had to be refused for want of accommodation
Cont'd next page*

looking back matters

The refusal thus of patients became so painful that the Sisters were desirous to obtain a larger building with more extensive grounds. Suitable accommodation in this respect was found in Duncraggan, the property of Mr John Buchanan, at Auburn, then offered for sale, viz: a commodious house with thirteen acres of land adjoining. The natural advantages of this property, sanitary and otherwise, at once suggested the desirability of purchasing, and accordingly, early in June, the purchase of this valuable property, and the sale of that at Parramatta, was most satisfactorily effected, on behalf of the Sisters, by His Eminence the Cardinal.

The Sisters of Mercy paid the Sisters of Charity £1,700 for the deeds to the Parramatta property. St Joseph's, Auburn, was opened by Cardinal Moran on 7 September 1892. The hospital is scheduled to close on September 18. This will end the link between Catholic healthcare and the parish of Parramatta.



↑ This illustration shows the first convent in Australia. It became the first St Joseph's Hospital before the hospital (in the photo below) was built. In the photo below it is seen showing the addition of a verandah.



↑ 'St Josephs Fixed' "Parramatta and District Historical Society". This is a photo of the original St Joseph's Hospital, Parramatta, (left). The building next to it (middle of photo) is the first convent in Australia built by William Davis for the Sisters of Charity. The building to the right that looks like a church is St Patrick's Primary School, now moved to Villiers and Ross Streets. The street is Victoria Road but was called Pennant Street at that time. These buildings are across the street from the present St Patrick's Cathedral.

Praying Matters



Terry O'Brien, long-time parishioner, now resides in Courtlands Retirement Village (which, incidentally, is now home to quite a number of 'elder' St Pat's People.)

Sending in his submission he wrote, "This prayer was found by Patricia Tracey [former St Pat's parishioner] and I thought it might find a spot in the next *St Pat's Matters*."

At the end of the prayer he commented, "I find this little prayer fits in neatly with the Hymn *I'll Walk With God*," which keeps running through my mind after hearing it recently on the ABC's *Songs of Praise*.

A PRAYER for THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE.

I live alone ,dear Lord
 Stay by my side.
 In all my daily needs
 Be Thou my guide.
 Grant me good health,
 For that indeed I pray,
 To carry on my work
 from day to day.
 Keep pure my mind,
 My thoughts, my every deed.
 Let me be kind, unselfish
 In my neighbour's need.
 Spare me from fire, flood,
 Malicious tongues.
 From thieves, from fear,
 And evil ones.
 If sickness or an accident befall,
 Then humbly Lord I pray
 Hear Thou my call.
 And when I'm feeling low
 Or in despair
 Lift up my heart
 And help me in my prayer.
 I live alone, dear Lord,
 Yet have no fear,
 Because I feel
 Your Presence ever near.
 Amen.

Editor's Footnote:

Perhaps it was Kirrily Aguilera's comment, "*I never knew there was a hospital where OLMC is.*" to Mons. Boyle after Mass, was what motivated him to put people in the picture about the history of Catholic matters at Parramatta.



Blessing Matters:

Fr Robert ready for action
in the Metro Tunnelling Project

One of the most interesting aspects of priestly ministry is being asked to do something you have never done before, even after many years working as a priest. Just when you think you have seen, heard, and done everything possible, along comes a request that takes you by surprise. Such was my recent experience, which began with an email to the parish office...

We are all aware of the tremendous growth in transport infrastructure in Sydney in recent years, with the reintroduction of trams (also called light rail) and the building of the Metro system. Of course, here in Parramatta we are familiar with the building of the light rail system which will extend from Westmead on its way to Carlingford, passing close to the cathedral in the process.

The building of a new section of the Metro system is about to be started, beginning at Rosehill. Already some significant preparatory work has been undertaken before the boring of the two tunnels begins - the enormous tunnel boring machines are already in place, as yet to start their work. Tunnellers, miners and people who work with explosives are, understandably, a group of people who know that their extremely dangerous work makes them more vulnerable than most to injury or death and so they are keen for their workplace to be blessed by a person of faith.

And this is where I was fortunate enough to be invited to take a part in a ceremony at the Rosehill site, along with some indigenous people who undertook a smoking ceremony and dance, and a small group from Malaysia who conducted a martial arts performance. The company that is contracted to do the tunnelling work is from Malaysia.

All of us were asked to be on site at 9:30am on the morning of Wednesday 16 August, and we went into a small room for a safety debriefing before donning hard hats and safety goggles and walking through the site and down about 150 steps to the place where the various ceremonies and the blessing were to take place.



After a brief introduction by the manager of the project, the indigenous group performed their smoking ceremony and dance, followed by the Malaysian performers. I was then asked to come forward to conduct the blessing.

The blessing was of a statue of St Barbara (Feast Day, 04 December), the saint associated with people

who work in the mining and tunnelling industry. Like so many of the saints from the first few centuries, little is known of her, except that she most likely lived in the third century. Legend has it that she converted to Christianity, upsetting her father who beheaded her himself. As punishment it is said that he was struck by lightning, hence the association of Barbara with those who work with explosives and who face the danger of sudden death at work, such as those in the mining industry. We must not forget that in years gone by tunnelling and mining was often conducted with explosives.

Traditionally, when a tunnelling project was getting underway, a shrine to St Barbara was set up at the entrance to the site or close to the entrance to the tunnels. At the Rosehill site, a small shrine had been set up at the bottom of the stairs we all walked down. I used the Book of Blessings which contains a prayer of blessing for industrial equipment and adapted that prayer for the purpose of blessing the statue.

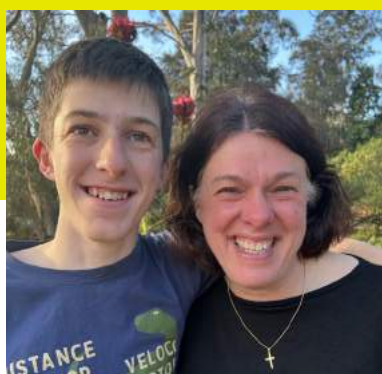
Following the ceremony, I was then asked to walk to the two huge tunnelling machines and bless them, which I did, again adapting a prayer from the same Book of Blessings and sprinkling them with a considerable amount of holy water! Later I learnt that these tunnelling machines are given female names, but they were not revealed to me on the day. Perhaps that comes later...

The whole ceremony lasted about forty-five minutes, including the smoking ceremony, dance, and martial arts performance by the other groups.

I hope and pray that the project will be conducted safely and without any injuries, or worse. If so, I like to think that I had at least a small part to play in that regard!



Good Works Matter supporting Jesuit Refugee Services



Aidan and Claire Pospischil
have co-ordinated recent support
from the parish to
the Jesuit Refugee Services food bank.



The third pile of
donated items awaiting
collection by JRS.

From Aidan:

Organising the food drive has been great for me, as I've started doing my service for my silver Duke of Edinburgh award with the parish. This has been inspirational for me as the whole parish is helping to support those who need it. The food drive has been a roaring success, with several delivery runs already having been made, when it was overflowing with donations, which is wonderful.

From Claire:

There was a recent call out across the diocesan social justice groups for parishes to consider organising food donation drives to support the JRS (Jesuit Refugee Services, Parramatta) and House of Welcome (Auburn) food banks. With cost of living pressures there is greatly increased community need and demand to access food banks. It is humbling to see the response of parishioners and cathedral visitors to help meet these needs.

I've gotten to know Zoe Grant from JRS well over recent months as the parish social justice group plans a Table Talk refugee engagement session, which will occur in November in the Cloister Function Room (hall). It's great to watch Aidan take on the challenge of parish focussed service for his Duke of Edinburgh award, co-ordinating the food bank with Zoe, the parish office and Fr Robert.

On Thursday 24 August there was a preserving night in the presbytery kitchen, to make products for the food bank drive. Ten of us made three batches of preserves, 45 jars in total, to add to the donations. The products were carrot/lemon marmalade, grapefruit/orange/cumquat marmalade and carrot/cardamon/rose water jam. There was lively camaraderie and community spirit in the kitchen, along with teaching preserving techniques. Many thanks to Marilyn, Felicia, Anne Marie, Fran, Matt, Dorothy, Pauline, Bob and Kirrily for all your efforts. Thank you also to Fr Robert for setting up the kitchen and hosting us too.

This is the second 'go' at a parish preserving night. After the first one in November 2022, (featured in St Pat's Matters Issue 115), the parish received a lovely letter from JRS on how appreciative refugee visitors to the food bank were to receive homemade preserves. It is a wonderful thought that these homemade preserves, made with love and care, are helping to brighten the days of JRS food bank recipients.



It's jamming time!
Volunteers
in full swing.
The question is....
Were they lured by
the promise of a
glass of wine to
sweeten the task?
Definitely not!
Just helping
for a good cause.



Well on the way
to the target of
45 jars of jam



Judith Dunn continues to educate readers about people buried in St Patrick's Cemetery. Here she provides contrasting stories of two men interred there, and also draws attention to the similar designs of their headstones.

History & Heritage Matters

Two headstones in St Patrick's Cemetery are very similar in style, carved in sandstone, then the most readily available material to give a permanent memorial. Both are Norman or round topped arches with cutaway shoulders and both have rough cast backs. Both are decorated with crosses.

John Cormichan has a simple Latin cross on his stone above the letters IHS which is the Latin form of the Greek IHCOYC, meaning Jesus.



Samuel Barley's stone is decorated with a Calvary cross which is a Latin cross on the three steps of faith, hope and charity while above is a four pointed star (symbolising that he has reached heaven) and the letters IHS.



It is in the wording that the similarities diverge.

*Sacred to the Memory
Of
SAMUEL BARLEY*

*Who was unfortunately drowned in a
Well on his parents premises the 23
Day of October 1834*

*Aged 3 years and 7 months
The well having been left uncovered
by a careless female servant who
had charge of the unfortunate
infant who was a beautiful
promising child.*

*Weep not for me my parents dear
I am not dead but sleeping here
My days are past my grave you see
prepare yourselves to follow me.*

Samuel Barley's memorial records the death of a young child in an accidental drowning which would have been devastating to the family. The wording notes who was responsible for the accident, "a careless female servant." One wonders what became of that servant. Obviously there was much bitterness from the family evidenced by castigating her in stone forever for her lapse of attention in caring for the child. The only thing they did not do was write her name on the stone. In St John's Cemetery there is a headstone that lists in bold capitals the death of John Haggitt, "caused by being ridden over by ALEXANDER ELLIOTT" so it was not unknown to include in an epitaph, who had brought about a death. The Barley family in this instance showed some mercy although it denies us the ability to unravel the story as we cannot follow what happened to the servant. There is no hint to her identity and no record can be found in the newspapers of the event. We can only speculate about her subsequent punishment and time as a convict servant. Was she returned to the Female Factory? The date is too late for her to have received a flogging as such floggings stopped circa 1808, being considered too harsh a punishment – although they continued to be hanged. Was she lodged in the gaol for her error in judgement and how long for such a crime?

John Cormichan's memorial reads,

JOHN CORMICHAN

Departed this life April
23rd 1828 aged 47 years
A faithful servant to Mr.
Roland Hafsall and Fam
ily 12 years*

A much briefer epitaph but with a world of good feeling behind it. John Cormichan was a Catholic convict servant assigned to Reverend Roland Hassall. Hassall had arrived in the colony as an artisan missionary in 1798 having fled unsuccessful missionary work in Tahiti. Sent in the ship *Duff* to Christianise the South Seas with other missionaries all the missions failed and the missionaries came to the nearest civilisation at Parramatta. He belonged to the Congregational Church in England and was described as, 'putting the stamp of Calvinistic Methodism' on the district. He was granted land and was put in charge of the granary at Parramatta and the stores at Toongabbie. Roland died in 1820 but John Cormichan obviously continued in the family service for another 8 years. Understanding the strong feelings between different religious denominations at that time, this memorial is a testament to the high regard a "Calvanistic Methodist" family had for a Catholic servant. That they paid for a headstone for a servant, far below them on the social scale and a Catholic at that, speaks volumes for both the faithful work of the servant and the Christian acceptance and kindness of the family for which he worked.

*Note spelling. At this time an 'f' was sometimes substituted for an 's' so for Hafsall read Hassall.



John Cormichan's headstone



Samuel Barley's headstone

Ancient Warnings Matter



Judith Dunne's advice to

ST PATRICK'S BELL RINGERS..... BEWARE!

Attending a meeting one evening at St Patrick's recently, I was delighted to hear the musical notes of our new bells as it was practice night for the bell ringers. This reminded me of a large sign I recently saw in the bell tower of a Saxon church in Cornwall, England. I took a photo specifically for the amusement of our bell ringers.

A Note to explain: Where we would use the letter 's' in a word today, in the 1700s the letter was often substituted by an 'f' making the sign's message below quite difficult to read.

* Pail means Peal

The sign reads:

*We Ring the Quick to Church the Dead to Grave
Good is our use such usage let us have
Who here therefore doth Damn, Curfe or fwear
Or ftricke in quarrel tho no blood appear*

*Who wears a Hat or spur or turns a Bell
Or by unskilfull handling spoils a Pail *
Shall fixpence pay for every fingle crime
Twill make him careful againft another time.*

*Lets all in love and Friendship hither come
Whilft the fhrill Treble call to thundering Tom
And fince Bells are for Modeft Recreation
Lets Rife and Ring and Fall in Admiration.*

John Higgs & Sam West. Wardens
1783.

Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery



The Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery Parramatta, are pleased to report that following a meeting earlier this year with Mr Richard O'Brien, the City of Parramatta Natural Resource Officer | Environment and Sustainability, we have noted *the removal of a dead tree, which may well have caused damage had it fallen, and some mowing and hand weeding which has recently been done by Council.*

We as a group will continue to identify necessary work within the historic cemetery and lobby Council to allocate resources to these important tasks.

Regards,
Paul Carson, Secretary
Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery Parramatta

Editor's Note:

Parishioners might be interested to know the people who to date are members of *Friends*.

Judith Dunn OAM, Phil Russo, Bob Edgar, Kerima-Gae Topp, Greg Simpson, Frank Duff, Silvana Rechichi and Paul Carson. The Dean Fr Robert Riedling also is attending meetings.

If you are interested in joining Friends in preserving our cemetery's heritage contact Donna in the parish office 8839 8400 to connect with this group committed to such an important and worthwhile cause.

A Joking Matter to make you smile.

GOD IS WATCHING.....

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic Primary School for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The Nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'



Our Knowledge of Rituals Matters

The Dean explains: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

Why is water added to the wine in the chalice?

Keen observers of rituals of the Mass will notice that after the bread and wine are brought to the celebrant at the offertory, the priest or deacon will add a small drop of water to the wine as the chalice is prepared. A question that is often asked is, 'why'?

As we often do with rituals in the liturgy, this action is assumed to have great religious significance, many people associating the mixing of the water with the wine with the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side after his crucifixion, when his side was pierced by a soldier (John 19:34).

That all sounds very nice and holy, and if the mixing of the water and wine reminds people of this event and deepens their appreciation of the sacrifice made by Jesus for them, that's great. The actual reason the priest or deacon — and it is always a deacon if a deacon is assisting — dilutes the wine in the chalice with water is, however, much more mundane and much less pious!

I quote from a book titled *The 101 Most-Asked Questions about Liturgy* by Nick Wagner (1996):

"This practice comes from the early middle eastern culture where the liturgy originated. It was the custom at the time to dilute strong wine so it would not be too strong to drink. The cultural practice simply carried over into the liturgy with little thought or meaning." The point is also made that there is so little significance to this ritual that it can be done at the credence table rather than on the altar, if wished. So, there you have it. A secular practice was simply incorporated into the liturgy!



Remember: STEWARDSHIP Month in JUNE? Bulletin notices, and a pamphlet urging parishioners to reflect upon how to use their TIME, TALENT and TREASURE to transform St Pat's Parish into the caring community God asks us to be. How should a disciple claiming to follow Jesus, respond?

The Hospitality Group circa 2000: → serving Christmas Morning Tea in the old Marist School block (now carpark); the Pro-cathedral was in the 2-storey Marist building. (Who can spot the then, Dean Kevin Walsh?) Parish soon to move offsite for construction to begin building of new cathedral.



← **The Hospitality Group at St Patrick's-in-the-Field**, in the grounds of Cumberland Hospital, Fleet Street. Christmas Morning Tea circa 2001 or 2002. Parish moved back home to new cathedral in November 2003.

So how do these pictures, unearthed from my archival hospitality files, relate to the Stewardship Campaign in June?

Way back then these people gave of their time and talent in contributing to the faith community. Some volunteered for a short time, some for a long period. But the standouts are the two circled ladies: **Dorothy Soh and Pat Tenido**. Both have notched up over 20 years' service dispensing hospitality at St Pat's. **That's loyal stewardship!**

Seniors matter

Cause for Celebration

“...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



A BIG BIRTHDAY MILESTONE

Noreen McLean, long-time St Pat's parishioner celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday 10th September. Family and friends gathered at Courtlands Retirement Village for the happy occasion.

Noreen came to Parramatta about 1945. She moved to Courtlands Retirement Village in 2003 and is now in care residing in the Nursing Home section.

This remarkable woman of great faith, was very active in parish ministries over a long period of years, as a Catechist, an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, a Welcomer, visiting the Sick in their homes and at the Nursing Home, as well as belonging to the Catholic Women's League.

In recognition of her service she was awarded a Mary MacKillop Diocesan Medal of Honour in 2013.



ONE REGRET

Amongst the huge family crowd were 4 St Pat's People, now living in the village—Margaret Climpson, Pat Tracey, John and Dorothy Green and one friend Felicitas Appathurai who will reach 100 next April. The regret? We have no photo of them with the Birthday Gal.



Happy 100th Birthday, Noreen. Congratulations on achieving the centenary milestone.

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish pays tribute to you and thanks you sincerely for all your years of loving and devoted service in the community.



↑ Noreen's three children, l-r: Jenny, Kerry and Kaye happily wheel their Mother into the party space, relieved the celebration day had eventuated.

Noreen had been so unwell for quite some time that they were on tenterhooks all their preparations for the grand occasion might be for nought.

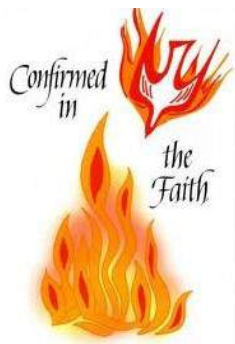
Beforehand she had already had a celebration with other residents.



◀ There was a table full of cards and greetings from family, friends and the usual Aussie politicians and dignitaries, including of course the very special Royal one from King Charles III.

On the wall were interesting posters, including a page from a 1923 newspaper. Maybe we could borrow these items, including the clever 100 made up of photos, down the track to display in the cloister café for a while. Liaising with Kaye to arrange this.

Apparently Kaye's daughter, Leigh is the clever crafter responsible for most of the decorative work.



Fr Chris to the rescue!

Three children, Eliza and Serena Arranz, and Olivier Touche, and their families were unable to be at the group Confirmation Ceremony held on August 29th. Fortunately, alternative arrangements were made for them to receive the third and final Sacrament by which they would be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith.

Whilst the young candidates did not get to enjoy being part of the whole group, the following Sunday at 6pm Mass the Congregation were blessed to witness Fr Chris del Rosario (as Bishop Vincent's delegate), confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Eliza, Serena and Olivier.

The ritual remains the same: The Laying on of hands, anointing with the Oil of Chrism on the forehead with the words, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit", then touching the cheek saying, "Peace be with you."



Photos supplied by the families



Christian Meditation Matters



St Pat's Meditation Group gathers in the Meeting Room in the Parish Office on Tuesday mornings. The session begins at 9:30am, lasting approximately an hour. Of course, there is convivial chatter pre and post the period of reflection, prayer and silence.

It is in the silence that we aim to heed God's invitation to

"be still and know I'm God."

Psalm 46:10

Why not join us and give it a go. Take time out from all the world throws at us daily.

Sharing Matters

A Mother shares times of suffering and sadness in her life, still keeping faith in God's presence.

My daughter Terese was born in 1962. She had a hard start in life. Her DVA father found the woman of his dreams and left us to fend as best we could. A very cold woman cared for Terese and her brother while I was working. When she was three months old I met her stepfather and life became good for a while. I took diet pills to keep slim. All I did was to lose motherhood and my six children.

Then there was a 28 year no contact because I was an embarrassment to the family. Then God stepped in. He let me walk down the stairways and then to take a medical to find out I was diabetic and needed help.

My daughter Terese was located and came to look after me. For two years she was my full time carer. Then another two years of week end care. Then on Mother's Day, 14th May, 2023 God stepped in again, Tessy and myself after 32 years were mother and daughter again. We had a lovely day, made plans for the next two weeks.

But on 17th May, my Tess on her own at home, had a fall in the bathroom and died. She was found by her daughter and ex-husband and I still have not been let know by her family of my daughter's death. My other daughter, Sonia, told me and the day I had an assessment Terese was taken to rest where and what way I still do not know. So I ask for prayers for my grandchildren, Terese's two girls, one or both to come and see me. I know they must hurt as I also do. Only the Father and Son Jesus can let us see care from death when it comes to call, but when and why we do not know.

Thank you for reading my story.

Fr Robert's Notice in the Bulletin, 27th August,

Farewell Fr Chris [del Rosario]...
Some sad news to share with you.

Fr Chris has been appointed as the Administrator of St Thomas Aquinas, Parish, Springwood, effective Monday 02 October.

Whilst this is good news for the parishioners of Springwood, it is a loss for the cathedral where Fr Chris has been an Assistant Priest since 2019.

Having said that, it is a well-deserved appointment for Fr Chris as he takes up a leadership role at St Thomas Aquinas. Of course, Fr Chris will be here until his new appointment and we will have news of a farewell in next week's bulletin.

I hope to be able to share with you shortly too details of Fr Chris' replacement as Assistant Priest here at St Patrick's.

Editor's note: as we go to print Fr Chris' Farewell has been scheduled for Sunday 1st October after 11am Mass.

But as yet we are still in the dark as to who will be appointed in the place of our beloved Assistant Priest.

Animals Matter

to Allison Johnston

I have been vegan for over 8 years (7 years vegetarian before that). It has been great for my health as I no longer have high cholesterol (there is no cholesterol in plants except coconut and cocoa butter, but there is a high amount in animal meat, dairy and eggs) and so many other health benefits such as losing and maintaining my weight. For the animals, I have a deeper connection with them, aligning with my personal values of being nice to myself and others. By others I mean other people and everyone we share this beautiful world with. It also aligns with Catholic values, "thou shalt not kill". It doesn't make sense to me that this commandment seems to be only for the human species and not other species as well. I want to live in a loving and peaceful world.

Can and should everyone be vegan? I believe everyone can be vegan as all of the nutrients are available through food (need to supplement B12 as our food is now so clean). The food is so delicious! Fruit and vegetables, grains, beans and lentils, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices. As for the 'should', I think it's up to each person to decide (I hope everyone will!) through researching veganism (such as: health, environment, animals specifically factory farming). My husband Glen went vegan 3 months after me as he loves animals. He also no longer has high cholesterol and has had so many other health benefits.

From a religious point of view, the first page of the Bible says there are plants for us to eat. Dominion I take to mean to look after the animals. There are different translations, Jesus ate fish, fish may not be fish. He ate to show the people that he wasn't a ghost, that he was real. Just before Jesus was crucified, when he was in Jerusalem, he saw animals tied in the temple where they were selling things, he released them.

Children love animals but somewhere along the way this love of animals is disconnected from what one eats. Please take a moment and think back to when you were a child. How did you feel about animals? My baby Michael (his first birthday was in June) loves animals! He loves seeing them in real life, loves his toy animals and loves to read about them in his books. He loves food! When he first started eating solids, he was very excited about pumpkin and about kale. He wasn't excited about peas or about carrots, I wondered why. Then I thought how I was excited about pumpkin and kale and not so much about peas or carrots, so I got excited! and he loved them!

So, shouldn't we go by what it says in the first page of the Bible to eat plants, then how Jesus released the animals at the temple and the innocence of children and animals?

**God created all of us.
We all matter!**



Some of the places visited and people met by our pilgrims

Sacre Coeur, Paris



In Lourdes, France



Candle-light procession, Fatima Portugal



Lourdes Basilica



In Segovia, Spain



New Basilica, Fatima



Cristo Rei Monument, Lisbon



Lourdes Grotto



Our small group, another selfie



Our group in Lisbon, Portugal



In Assisi, Italy, Post WYD retreat



Fr Chris & priests!



Fortified city of Avila, Spain



St Pat's pilgrims and Fr Chris



Aqueduct, Segovia, Spain



Images captured... memories for pilgrims to treasure.