

# Parish Magazine

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ST MARGARET MARY'S RANDWICK NORTH

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART RANDWICK

## Editorial

**O**ur world is experiencing a dramatic increase in violence and large-scale conflict. While the ultimate goal of all conflict is to bring about peace, history shows that violence more often delays this goal. Religious traditions and spiritual practices around the world bring the quest for peace to the forefront of our teachings, practices and rituals. The ringing of our bells which can be heard from our Church before our Masses, fosters an atmosphere which invites harmony and peace.

In our current era of technological advancement, our community is no longer defined by the neighbourhood, by municipality, state or national boundaries. The concept of "community" now means, "the whole of humankind." For harmony and peace to exist, it must include peoples of all nationalities, races and creeds.

If you look at the Gospels you might recall that Christ gave to each a different talent. Some are going to be artists, some are going to be musicians, some are going to be doctors, but no matter how many talents we have been given, we can all become a peace maker.

Do you remember the prayer of St. Francis that goes, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring love", all of us has the opportunity in our own way to become a peace maker by implementing the prayer of St. Francis. There are people who are in nursing homes who are extremely lonely and would like a visitor. There are people whose family lives are shattered by incurable illness. You can be the one person who shows them you care.

These are the individual qualities each of us is capable of bringing into the community in which we live. We can change the climate of our culture by personally assuming an individual responsibility that finds us bringing charity, compassion, consideration to those in want and need. Yes, we all know that there are over 800 million people on this earth who earn a salary of less than \$400 a year.

But what is more important is that if all of us brings the gospel of love to that neighbour or that person down the street or that stranger, you will not only change the climate of their life, you make them experience Christ in a more personal fashion. You become his peace maker. And that is what this country needs more of - peace makers.

*Editors welcome feedback on the magazine and its contents.  
Email to: [olshmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:olshmagazine@gmail.com) or in an envelope marked  
'magazine' and left in the Parish Office.*

## From The Manager's Desk

JACQUELINE WALLINGTON

In my last report we were rapidly approaching WYD08 and the supposed completion of our newly renovated Church. In reality, despite multiple assurances that WYD08 would NOT affect our office in any way and contractors still frantically working into and around the initial days of WYD, WYD08 was the biggest bombshell that we have ever experienced!

That being said, the “vibe” surrounding the Presbytery, Randwick and Sydney in general was irreplaceable. We had chants, singers and dancers from countries we could not pronounce. We clothed people from countries that have never seen a degree below 28°C. I saw people walking for many hours, waving flags, the ever so familiar, orange and yellow backpack, and nothing else but smiles at anyone and everyone. Only to be returned by a wave or a toot of the horn, by a complete stranger. Catholic or not, we took photos with nuns that enchanted my childhood memory of becoming a nun with the thought that I could fly as a result of my habit.

Despite all the immense pressure to complete the church on time, the untimely renovation difficulties and the onslaught of chaos that was inevitable with such a mammoth

event, I admit feeling so incredibly privileged and spiritually uplifted to be involved. So much so, that I will now encourage my own children to be a part of the next WYD.

Ok, what else has happened since then..... It is with extreme pleasure that I report that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August the Catholic Church Insurance has decreed that with the insurmountable pressure and obvious loss of potential income, they have agreed to allow all Churches to rent out their halls or any available areas with an end to raising revenue to recoup the ever rising costs associated with running a parish and thereby ensuring even higher revenue to go towards our many many charitable causes.

This was previously reserved to religious events only. Anything else would require full insurance. In the process, denying greatly needed revenue. While this places obvious pressure on the parish to ensure that any event that is held within the premises is compliant with very strict regulations, the outcome, we hope, may contribute towards reducing our ever rising costs.

The launch of our website has been most exciting, with full credit to our Website Team. Our website, after many months of consultation and

investigation, has taken us to an informative, interesting and interactive website. Naturally, we are still experiencing teething problems, but hope to overcome these in time. We are truly privileged to have access to such a facility that will only get better with time.

This month sees, not only a Ventnor Fete, which we hope will raise serious funds toward the further renovations of our Ventnor House, but the Randwick Art Fair. This is to become a regular monthly event within our Parish. The aim is to promote awareness and raise funds for Ventnor House and at the same time provide an outlet for budding local artists. In time we hope to see the Art Fair rise to a similar level as the Paddington Markets. A stage II has us under negotiation, where we will see an extension to the art stalls with the addition of international foods and organic vegetables. The whole Fair will comprise high quality local art, crafts and gourmet foods. All with the view to creating community spirit, awareness and further funds for Ventnor House.

I must confess, after the completion of our beautiful church and the pandemonium of WYD, I was under the impression that our quiet little Parish would return to its tranquil existence. I was wrong!

### DID YOU KNOW.....

Number of trades needed to complete Church renovations = 22

Number of tradesmen = 55

Number of cups of coffee consumed = 1,000's

Number of donors for the Church renovation = 40

Number of times pews were moved = 50+

Date work commenced = October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007

Number of weddings held during renovations = 29

## Ventnor House Fete

It started as an idea for a 'mini' fete to raise funds towards the restoration of Ventnor House but all did not go to plan. 'Mini' grew to 'major'; the heavens opened on the advertised day of Saturday 6 September, and so it had to be rescheduled for the following Saturday, 13 September; and the number and range of goods donated for sale was much larger than expected. Several rooms in Ventnor House were filled to overflowing, causing problems for some of the regular users of those rooms, but through it all people were very understanding (especially in the presbytery where many items were delivered).

How did it happen? A well organised Fete Committee spent months planning the Day, gathering in goods from everywhere, promoting a raffle and arranging local publicity. Thank you to our local catholic schools for their help in this regard. The support of many Mass goers over the last three weekends meant the raffle was a great success and below are the names of the lucky prize winners.

On the day the Trash and Treasure, books and recycled clothing stalls, attracted lots of interest and many passers-by left with shrubs and plants (some donated by Randwick Council) to practice their gardening skills. Delicious home made food and the traditional Devonshire teas were also a hit.

Many people took the opportunity to inspect the building – including a descendant of Edward Dawson who owned the original brick Ventnor built in the 1850's and demolished in the 1960's.



With the profit (approx. \$10,000) the Friends of Ventnor House hope some further renovations may commence before the end of the year.

Raffle results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Sara Iseopax
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Phyllis Newnham
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Peter James
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Shelly Moore
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize Albert Vella
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize Michael Concannon

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Happenings

Over the past several months the ranks of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) have seen some faithful and dedicated people depart and we have had the great pleasure to welcome some new ministers to our numbers.

*Vaya con Dios* to the following:

- Alan Clarkson moved from the Parish and left the OLSH roster. Even though the departure of the Clarkson Family is our sad loss, the Rose Bay Parish will be greatly enriched by the addition of the Clarkson family to their parish.
- Jean-Noel Stock and Marc Simon who have both returned to France with their families; and
- Anne Maree and John Leis who have moved to beautiful Grassy Head on the mid North Coast.

All these wonderful people were committed and reliable ministers and will be missed very much at all the masses by not only their colleagues but also other parishioners. We hope to welcome them back in the near future as visitors to the parish and wish them all God's Blessings.

Charmaine Gilden, Joanne Bazi, Frances Scardino and Samera Gilliana were commissioned as EMHCs at the 10am Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi. A very warm welcome to them all, their talents will be very much appreciated during Holy Communion!

Some 36 of our EMHCs volunteered to help distribute communion at either one or both of the opening and closing masses for World Youth Day. These times will remain a very special memory in our hearts for the rest of our lives. OLSH and St Margaret Mary's supplied many Acolytes and escorts for the WYD masses.

## Renovating the Church

JOHN O'BRIEN PROJECT ARCHITECT

The catalyst of World Youth Day fired up the Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Randwick, to embark on the refurbishment of its Parish Church in October 2007.

The refurbishment works included some major maintenance items – roof drainage; flaking lead based paint; rusting stained glass window frames; worn carpet; spalling concrete and poor lighting.

As the church is an item of heritage significance, extra attention was given to its heritage fabric. This entailed the removal of inappropriate, introduced construction, to reveal original interiors, as with the refurbished Narthex.

Whilst the existing church is a beautiful building, it was in need of enhancement. The church was painted. The flooring was sanded and stained. The carpet was replaced. The Stations of the Cross were given an artist's touch. Lighting was upgraded. The Narthex

was enlarged with quality joinery and new detailing. A new Baptistry and Shrine to Blessed Mary of the Cross were constructed.



The Baptistry has a two level font constructed in sandstone with continuous flowing water and new stained glass windows. The marble panel on the rear wall is waiting to accept a beautiful painting to complement the setting. An artist is being sought for this task.

Blessed Mary's shrine has a hand carved painted statue, with framed panels on either side outlining her life and including a prayer of inter-

cession. The new stained glass windows reflect the existing stained glass.

The overall transformation of the church has been well worth the effort and expense and is a 'worthy place of worship'. It has also been embraced by the parishioners who were moved to make significant donations towards artistic items. And who can forget the joy and enthusiasm of the WYD 2008 pilgrims as they filled the church to overflowing, the day after the work was completed.

However, there is still work to be done, with water proofing issues to be resolved, before the painting can be finished and mid to long term works involving the application of lead capping, sandstone repairs, lead light window repairs, church heating and repairs to pews. Such is the nature of ecclesiastical buildings. Each generation must shoulder the responsibility of care and maintenance to ensure 'that they remain loved'.

## And the Official Blessing

Flanked by Frs John Rate, Tony Bolt and Tony O'Brien, Sydney's Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher celebrated the noon Mass on Sunday 21 September. The occasion was the Official Opening of the refurbished OLSH Church and the blessing of the new Baptistry. During the Mass the large congregation joined in the singing of the 'Litany of the Saints' and were invited to renew their baptismal vows.



O'DONNELL MONSTRANCE

At the conclusion of the Mass, the Parish Centre was the venue for lunch and tributes in a number of speeches to all who had contributed to the work of refurbishing the church. There was the chance to view a display (assembled by the National Trust) of Catholic Architecture in Australia with 36 photographs depicting churches and religious buildings.



Part of the celebrations also involved a display in Ventnor House of Sacred Vessels and vestments of historical interest. This was organised and assembled by Fr Patrick Sharpe, and evoked for many of the older attendees memories of pre Vatican II days with symbols and regalia not so prominent in the liturgy now.

## The Birth of a Shrine

PATRICK SHARPE msc

### BLESSED MARY OF THE CROSS IN RANDWICK

When Mother Mary of the Cross lay dying in the convent at North Sydney, in 1909, her last Holy Communion was brought to her by a young Fr Matthew Smith, MSC. Matthew Smith had been ordained on 30<sup>th</sup> November the previous year. When Sister Mary of the Cross founded her religious congregation in 1866, she gave it the name, *Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart*, with the motto, *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved*. This motto was very familiar to the young Matthew Smith as it was the same as the motto Fr Jules Chevalier, MSC had given to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart with the added word, *Forever*. Every MSC uses this invocation each day of his life, and for many of us it was the wake-up call and invitation to get out of bed at 5.00a.m.

At the Mass of Beatification of Mary of the Cross in 1995, my friend Peter and I talked a young soldier into allowing us into one of the stands at Randwick, where we joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph and their pilgrims from Lochinvar. A couple of years later I suggested that a picture of Blessed Mary of the Cross be displayed in our parish church and offered to purchase a suitable one and have it framed. I chose a print of the painting by D'Arcy Doyle. I blessed it on the feast of Blessed Mary and it was displayed in the north transept of the church. It was in memory of the deceased and living members of my family. Later it was moved to a temporary shrine in the south wall of the nave of the church. This framed print now resides at *BRIGIDINE HOUSE* aged care facility.

Annette Marskell once suggested to Fr John Rate, MSC, our Parish Priest, that it would be good to have a life-size statue of Blessed Mary in the church. Fr John replied that it would be too expensive. This year,

when the renovations of the church got under way, Annette again approached Fr John offering to donate the complete shrine to Blessed Mary: statue, new stained-glass windows and other necessary changes to the space. When this was agreed on, I was invited to join the team involved in the renovations to the church and I began to work with Mr John O'Brien, the architect for these renovations, who had already drawn up plans for the shrine and new baptistery.

One of the first things that I did was to write to the Sisters at North Sydney where I made contact with the Secretary General of the Congregation, Sister Sheila McCreanor rsj, with whom I have kept in contact over the following months. So the Sisters have been aware of progress of the shrine since its inception.



Mr. John O'Brien took me to meet sculptor, Engelbert Piccolruaz, to see his work and decide if he should be the person to be commissioned for the statue. Engelbert comes of that part of Europe where Switzerland meets Italy meets Germany meets Austria – the wood carving centre of Europe. After seeing his work, there was no doubt in my mind that he would create a statue of true beauty and great artistry. New stained-glass windows were needed to cover the amber glass ones already in place. Wolfgang Jansen was commissioned to design and

create these. Marble was ordered and things were under way. As the statue of Blessed Mary neared completion, we took Annette to see it. I think that we were all overwhelmed by the beauty of the image that Engelbert had created.

It had always been our intention that the statue should be painted, and we had the right artist at hand. Kevin Tan had already amply demonstrated his talents as an artist in the repainting of the *Stations of the Cross* in the church. Kevin again confirmed his fine artistic ability in the polychrome work he did on the statue of Blessed Mary.

The panels on either side of the statue (not yet in place as I write, but hopefully there as you read this) are the work and gift of Melissa Webber of St. Margaret Mary's Parish, a graphic designer. I supplied the text and Melissa the design. One of these shows the important dates in Blessed Mary's life, while the other comments on her title "*of the Cross*", ending with a short prayer to Blessed Mary.

We had hoped (like the people on the way to Emmaus) that the shrine would be finished for WYD08, but that was not to be. However we were able to move the statue of Blessed Mary into the shrine for the last few days of that extraordinary event in the life of Catholic Sydney. Many of the pilgrims and others were able to see this beautiful statue on their visits to the church.

We wanted to have the statue and shrine of Blessed Mary blessed before her Feast Day and Fr. John Rate graciously agreed that we could do this. I was therefore privileged to bless and dedicate the statue and shrine at the midday Mass on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2008. Two Sisters of St. Joseph were able to be present for this event, which was very pleasing.

The parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Randwick owes a great debt of gratitude to Miss Annette Marskell OAM for her outstanding generosity in making possible this magnificent shrine dedicated to Blessed Mary of the Cross. Annette is also a Lay Associate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

The labour pains were long but the outcome, the birth – this wonderful statue and shrine – will be a place to honour Blessed Mary of the Cross and to pray to her, for many years to come.

*It is the intention of Miss Annette Marskell that the Shrine to Blessed Mary of the Cross be a memorial to the presence and ministry of Fr. Patrick Sharpe MSC in the Randwick Parishes in the years since 1981.*



## Riding the Waves of WYD

**W**e had the time of our lives” said proudly by a WYD pilgrim. And we did! Now, where do we go from here? How do we keep the WYD fire alive?

Recently youth groups, students and teachers from surrounding parishes gathered at OLSH Randwick to celebrate a Deanery Youth Mass. It was a great success. Hundreds of young people filled our church, participation from the congregation was outstanding and music was exceptional. Some boys from Marcellin College are still talking about this Mass and raving on how great it was. The music was probably extra special but it was the regular 6pm Mass.

It dawned on me that we have now established a youthful 6pm Mass. by having a certain type of music and preaching by our priests. God has been preparing us

for this Mass. So, we will continue to have a youthful feel. We will ask more young people to participate in different ways. Join the music groups, read the wonderful readings, be an altar server or an acolyte, give out communion, welcome parishioners or just be there and actively participate. Training will be available and a great understanding of the Mass will be obtained.

Our Catechism of the Catholic Church says “The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.” If we start everything and centre everything from the Eucharist then we can truly live out our Christian faith. That is what we hope to do here in Randwick. If you want to know more or you’d like to put your hand up for anything, please contact Tristan on 9399 6775 or email [tristanhaber@sacredheart.org.au](mailto:tristanhaber@sacredheart.org.au)

## Comments by RCIA Sponsors

**I**t's a rewarding experience. You can journey with the Catechumens during the Pre-Catechumenate sessions and help them in their understanding of the Catholic Church and its teachings. At the Easter Vigil it is wonderful to be with a candidate as he or she receives the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

**L**ittle did I know what a real blessing God was bestowing on me when I was first asked to become a Sponsor...I wasn't sure whether I'd be a good sponsor but like Mother Mary deep within I trust that this is God's calling me (I had thought about being one a long time ago) so without much hesitation and a bit of naivety, I said 'yes' to His invitation.

**I** was able to deepen the knowledge of my Faith as I researched answers to some of my questions regarding the Church's teaching, traditions and rituals.

**T**he truth is you don't need to know the Know-How to become a Sponsor - all it takes is a Sincere heart to serve God and an Openness to share your faith experience in a form of companionship.

**I** experience growth of my own Faith as I witness Christ in my catechumen, it is so Beautiful ... and so Empowering!

**I** must say that I really have been blessed with the Gift of a truly God-seeking and Lovely Catechumen sister from the start, whom I eventually able to bond so well with, due to our shared Faith and perhaps some of our similar background and life experiences . Going beyond the formality of being a Sponsor, now she has truly become my 'God-sister', with whom I am journeying along with spiritually.

## Hospital Catholic Chaplaincy Volunteers Retreat

**O**n 28<sup>th</sup> July the Catholic Chaplaincy Volunteers were fortunate to have a retreat at the Kensington Monastery, led by Sr Marie Farrell. This had been organised by the outgoing Chaplain, Fr John Bosman and was also attended by the incoming Chaplaincy Team Member, Sr Ann Duncan. The hospital chaplaincy volunteers are largely made up of OLSH parishioners and several from surrounding parishes, although one comes from as far afield as Breakfast Point.

The large room allocated had been beautifully arranged by Sr Marie, who had meticulously set the scene with wonderful paintings, exquisite fabrics, accompanied by samples of natural beauty from the gardens and finished off with many candles, all of which created a wonderful atmosphere of peace and serenity.

The participants were given the opportunity to examine the many paintings which included many representations of the Madonna and Child from vastly different cultures. Towards the end everyone present was encouraged to choose an artwork that had appealed to them and speak briefly on what it meant to them. Not all the pictures were of paintings, some being photographs of sculptures which broadened the scope somewhat of the volunteers' choices.

At the end of the retreat the only thing the participants were allowed to do to help towards the re-setting up of the room was to blow out the candles. Everyone then wandered up to the Monastery Dining Room where we happily shared a well cooked meal and much chatter.



*Pictured holding Sr Marie's paintings are: from rear, left to right: Fr John Bosman, Kathleen Fenlon, Frances Scardino, Elizabeth Casamento, Trainee David Cordingley, Denise Scabill, John Spora; middle row: Sr Ann Duncan, David Thomson, Brigid Siely front row: Teresa Franco, Claudette Ashburner and Lyn McDonagh.*

# Finance Committee Report

MICHAEL JOHNSON

## OVERVIEW

In terms of Parish finances, 2006 and 2007 were years of accumulation. Although our regular planned giving contributions declined (and continue to do so), we were fortunate in those years to receive some generous bequests that substantially lifted the Parish bank balance. In contrast, 2008 has been a year of spending. Over the past year, we have undertaken a major building works program to renovate the church. Through this program we have invested almost \$1 million in maintenance and improvements to our beautiful church.

## CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

After months of scaffolding throughout the church in the months prior to July, most parishioners will now recognise many of the improvements that have been made. Most notably: the painting of the church (both inside and out), polishing of the floorboards, new carpet throughout, the creation of a beautiful new baptistery and, of course, the redevelopment of the entrance foyer to the Church (the 'Narthex'), which is now a more welcoming and functional space.

The cost of each of the improvements listed above was substantial, but they alone don't add up to \$1 million. A considerable amount of the total expense was for work that is not immediately visible. In particular, removing lead-based paint, which had been applied layer-upon-layer throughout the church for several decades, cost several hundred thousand dollars. The cost of repairs to the roof and repairs to cement rendering were also substantial, as was replacement of the window frames for each of the stained glass windows located high up throughout the body of the church.

Although the recent program of work is substantial, it is clear that more work remains to be done. It is several years since our parish invested substantially in the maintenance and improvement of the church and we have not yet brought the church completely up-to-date. In coming years we will have to replace the slate roof, repair many of the pews and improve the under-floor support. Finance Committee members are meeting with our architect in September to begin framing the next phase of church refurbishment.

## OTHER BUILDING WORKS

In addition to refurbishment of the church, the Finance Committee has been reviewing high-level plans for refurbishment of other parish buildings. The presbytery is in serious need of renovation, and some thought has been given to an improvement plan, with components phased over several years. Also, there remains opportunity

to improve the functionality and appearance of Ventnor. The relative priority of these potential projects will be considered, along with the ongoing church refurbishment described above, against our pool of available financial resources in coming years.

## ESTABLISHING A PRE-SCHOOL

The Finance Committee has given in-principle approval to a proposal for the establishment of a pre-school in the Parish Centre. The pre-school will commence at the start of 2010 and will accommodate up to 60 children. The pre-school operators will lease the Parish Centre and some adjoining outdoor areas. The committee sought independent expert advice in determining the appropriate rental amount and associated commercial considerations.

The pre-school will have exclusive use of the premises during its operating hours, however other approved parish-related groups will still be able to use the Parish Centre at other times.

## PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR 2008

Accounting for the parish finances are managed on a 'financial year' basis – i.e. from 1 July to the following 30 June. In coming weeks, we will complete our financial position for the year ending 30 June 2008 and submit a report to the archdiocese. Once we have completed that report, I will provide a written summary for all parishioners. This summary will provide an overview of our income statement (income and expense over the year) and our balance sheet (our assets and liabilities). I expect to make that available in the next few weeks.

## PLANNED GIVING

As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, contributions from our planned giving programme continue to decline. In 2008 we have not seen the extraordinary level of bequests that we gratefully received in 2006 and 2007, so what we need to do is to broaden the base of regular contributions. During the next year, we will embark upon a renewal and reinvigoration of the planned giving programme.

\* \* \*

I would be delighted to hear from any Parishioners who would like to provide comments or feedback to the Finance Committee. Please feel free to e-mail me at michael.johnson@y7mail.com or leave a note at the presbytery, addressed to me.

## Memories of a Hospital Chaplain

FR JOHN BOSMAN

**H**ow are you?" I asked the old man sitting at the hospital entrance. "It is a good day, if you can talk about it", he answered smoothly. I had to laugh heartily and kept on laughing all the way home.

I have been working at the hospital campus for seven years. I do not find it easy to put words on those years. The insistent invitations of Frans Veringa pushed me to come this far. The hospital at Randwick is big - it is made up of the Sydney Children's Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Women, the Prince of Wales Public and Private Hospitals. It is so big in structure and composition that no one could present him/herself as being THE one in charge. In such an environment one simply has to work together.

A hospital is like a  
magnifying glass that  
enlarges ordinary life.

A hospital is like a magnifying glass that enlarges ordinary life. The young, though sick, get older, the elderly, though old, are often young and full of life, filled with zest for life. Many of the sick, though sick, are healthy in many ways, and the healthy become sick. The strong get tired, the sick often grow weak and weary, whilst growing strong again.

In a hospital life is intensely lived. It is of the essence to be keenly aware and to take in everything. A down-to-earth approach does not go astray: to be and act as humans might. In a hospital people are together, because, basically, they belong together. In togetherness they are equal and thus carried, yet they stand and walk on their own feet.

The hospital at Randwick has a good reputation. The people who

work there are skilled and good to be with. And yet, when I began work at the hospital I felt uncertain. Sure, many things were clear enough. In the mix of hospital care all the players are important: switch board operators, doctors, nurses, social workers, spiritual counsellors, security guards. Everybody cares and takes care. They work there and are drawn there by their expertise, or by family ties or by the fact of being human.

I met many Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Protestant and Catholic chaplaincy workers. I learned a lot from them. I clearly recall my reluctance (to listen) towards a new translation of the letters of St Paul (The Message-by Eugene Peterson). I was touched and drawn to the beautiful and clear translation. Some years later, reading from the same translation, I understood Jesus' saying of the splinter and the beam in a new way: "Unless you take the smirk off your own face, you cannot take away the smudge of your neighbours face". Many human experiences enriched my inner life.

### BEING TOGETHER

Being together is unavoidable, but not always easy. Being together is not measured by length of days, by sensitivity of heart. And thus it can be that the marking words of his four year old daughter, who in one terrible day fell ill and then died, kept hammering through the tearless brain of her father: "Daddy, I love you!" And thus it can be that eight year old Phillip gave this answer to someone who asked what death meant to him: "Death is like being born...backwards". Those two little human beings had not tasted everything in life, but yet... they had tasted everything in life, but yet...they had tasted life deeply...to the full.

### BEING PRESENT

The pager could call me during all the hours of day and night. The sharp sound or the soft trembling

pushed me away from what I was doing and directed me towards unforeseen encounters. Sometimes the pager coaxed me from the present, away from necessary routine, which after a goodly while enticed me into an atmosphere of (wanting to) think and do anything. I was very fortunate to meet an old, wise priest who whispered to me "John, God does not need you for people to die!" That was a real relief, since with all my good intentions, I was beginning to feel as if I were responsible (God!?). At another time this priest said: "If you don't know how to improve on the silence, don't!" He invited me to trust (more) people and situations.

Ultimately the pager helped me to be present, to trust the now. That meant not (so much) watching the clock, but to live with my heart. I came to discover that heart-language has its own definite, particular grammar and vocabulary: a tear, a smile, a hesitating voice, a trembling hand, bent shoulders, sweaty hands, uncertain footsteps, clenched fists, hungry eyes, a deep intuition which can be dissipated or enhanced by words. It is the heartscape that the prophet describes in Ecclesiastes chapter three. Time and again (and still) I am learning not to use God's name in vain.

To be invited to be  
present at a sickbed or a  
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invited into an ante-room.

Parents and grandparents, whose broken hearts bewail the death of their little ones, may not be comforted with empty, hurtful sayings like: "God loves you now", "God loves your child so much that God wants your child now", "Your child

is safe with God now". "We do not understand God's plans, God knows best". A couple of days ago I said, "God is crying with you", upon which an exhausted grandmother snarled at me: "God does not exist!" I really need not have said anything, except to let my tears silently drop down my face. Somehow it is easier, in the long run, to "be still and to know that God is God".

To be invited to be present at a sickbed or a deathbed is like being invited into an ante-room. It is a privilege to be where everyone and everything is uncovered and open. Sometimes I was invited to administer the sacrament to the sick. Sometimes, not always, I asked by way of introduction what oil made them think of. They answered: bread, cooking, massage, engines, creaking doors, or even (one lady) myself of course. And bread, what immediate association does that have for you? eating, playing. And water? Washing, drinking, abundance. And communion? (with a sigh) everything, my food, unbroken friendship, never being alone.

One afternoon I was invited to be present at the death of an elderly lady. Her daughter was sitting alongside her, gently rubbing her shoulder. Before I realized I heard myself say: "When I come to die I hope that someone will do that for me". How could a priestly presence be more eloquently embodied? Where two or three are gathered (in my name), there I am present.

For me Jesus has come closer during these years. He is ordinary, simple, and easy to be with. He listens without pressure, he answers with understanding. I think that when he said: "Do this in memory of me", he also meant "When you share memories I am present". This is so evident. When memories are shared and even spoken around a deathbed, the atmosphere in the room visibly lightens. Yes, he meets us in our daily happenings.

During these long years I was singularly blessed to be connected



with the parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Randwick. Sometimes I was the bridge between the praying community and the suffering community. Life experiences influence prayer, gratitude mingles with what is exceptional, also with horrid feelings that overwhelm when unexpected suffering or death befall us. Prayer never snuffs out our feelings even (particularly) the ones that (so often) bite us: You are stupid! You are ugly! You are evil! I came into hospital chaplaincy feeling uncertain (about many things). Over the years this uncertainty has deepened. I still feel uncertain. It is an uncertainty that now is not so restless. And I have

become more articulate. In my community, in the hospital, in the parish. I have learned to be more articulate in my heart and thoughts. I am not (all that) afraid to express myself, not (all that) afraid to die.

A Jewish Rabbi once said that it is worthwhile to prepare ourselves for death. So why not practice the necessary skills for that moment? Every day there is a chance to say: I love you; please forgive me; I forgive you; I thank you; and say Goodbye in some form or another.

In a kind of a way I have been on a seesaw: going up and down (with whom, I ask myself) between

being unique and being lonely  
being content and being thirsty  
being grateful and being hungry  
outrageous laughter and gasping for  
breath glistening eyes and dull,  
empty eyes sleeping and  
constantly being alert.

These memories and experiences of the hospital are like photos that interpret a sunrise. Photos enhance the moments of that space and music.

These written memories colour the wispy clouds and let sunrays dance on the waves of my heart. With you I am carrying this given beauty tenderly.

## Chaplain's Farewell Luncheon

The Chaplaincy Volunteers managed to turn something sad into a lot of fun. Their excuse this time was in the form of a farewell luncheon to mark the departure of Fr John Bosman from the Hospital Chaplaincy Team. The merriment which was well attended by past and present chaplaincy volunteers and team members was held at the Randwick Labor Club on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. The new catering team at the club happily looked after all present, making sure they were all well fed with good food. It seemed that nothing was too much trouble for the obliging staff. The bar staff also did their best towards helping along the fun.

Elizabeth Casamento made the presentation speech and Fr John eventually made a very nice speech in response, but not until after much prompting from all present. After Fr John's departure some tears were shed. He will be missed very much by all the volunteers. His kindness and support over the years will always be remembered by everyone who had the pleasure to work with him or came in contact with him in any way.

## Essay Against Fundamentalism

CARMEL MAGUIRE

**W**ell back in the last millennium I was sometimes constrained to point out to graduate students that all judgments were value judgments – at the time proponents of academic sloppyspeak, not all of whom were students, believed that any opinion with which one did not agree could be put aside with the confident assertion that it was ‘only a value judgment’. – ‘What other kind is there?’ their antediluvian lecturer would ask. [Mind you, she was so uncool as to believe in standard spelling and in the writing of prose which made sense when read, whether it had been pressed into a wax tablet with a stylus, written with a quill pen or a biro, or tapped into a computer keyboard.]

How can any judgment  
not be based on the values  
of the judge?

How can any judgment not be based on the values of the judge? Human values are not mere whims. They are the internalized beliefs of individuals, which have been shaped and continue to be shaped and reshaped, whether in conformity to, or in revolt from the beliefs of their families, and all their other tribes, social, cultural, national and religious. So how can judgments exist independently of the values at work within the person or group whose pronouncements are based on them? Yes, we are coming to the advertised topic, fundamentalism, because I want to argue that it comes to birth and thrives with the adoption of a narrow set of values.

Lately the fundamentalism most in the news is religious fundamentalism. This surely exists but let’s also acknowledge the various fundamentalisms which we support and which in turn support us. Like most notes in the eyes of others, fundamentalism is very easily detected in their values. The one I see most clearly all around me is the

fundamentalist belief in the importance of sport as a mark of our national worth.

But this strong belief system is relatively harmless compared with the fundamentalist fervour which encourages people to turn on their neighbours and which is frequently pursued in the name of nationalism with which there seems inevitably a basis in religious difference. Think not only about the Middle East where Jews, Muslims and Christians are in conflict, but in the sectarian strife within one religion as between Sunni and Shi’ia Muslims and Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. May the former disappear as the latter appears to have done.

A lot of the public discourse here since the Twin Towers catastrophe in New York has centred on ‘Muslim fundamentalism’ which, in my ‘value judgment’, certainly exists in some members of some cultures. But in Australia we are very much privileged to live among adherents of many religions and, unless we have immured ourselves in walled communities, to have friends from varied religious sects including our own.

We can exult in the freedom of our media (especially in the ABC and SBS) to enjoy a multiplicity of viewpoints. One example is ‘Salaam café’ on SBS television in which a group of young Muslims in one or two episodes gently sent up the objections presented to the court by some Camden residents to the proposed Islamic school there. I do not recall hearing the phrase ‘Christian fundamentalism’ in the program but its presence was unmistakable in the television news footage of the protesters. Remember the lady draped in the Australian flag – what was that saying about patriotism as a last refuge?

I know nothing of Hinduism but I have lived for two years in a Buddhist country, Thailand, and neither there nor among Chinese Buddhists, have I detected any form of religious fundamentalism. I was also

privileged to work with Iranian students, many of whom and their families have become close friends whom I have visited in their homes in different parts of their country. A few are not only firmly anchored in their faith, but also following traditions which do not seem to have been derived from the Prophet and which to me unduly restrict the freedom of women in society. At the same time they are not sparing in their generosity and warmth to other ‘infidels’ like myself.

Most of my Muslim friends, however, are supported by their basic belief in Islam while, like many Catholics, they adhere to the values derived from their scripture, tradition and experience of the world around them. Neither the more nor less orthodox of Muslims in my acquaintance is ‘fundamentalist’ in the sense that I have found exclusive sects in Christianity to be.

But in Australia we are  
very much privileged to  
live among adherents of  
many religions

My difficulty in understanding the Christian sects who insist on a literal reading of the Bible is not what they believe but what they do not seem to be able to believe. For instance, why the fuss on denying the timescale suggested by geologists and palaeontologists? If God made everything, why couldn’t He/She have also invented the notion of time? In the broader sphere, if we all believe in a God who is infinite, is it impossible for us all to listen for the voice of God in every other person, culture and religion?

And could our judgments then reflect awareness of the wonderful panoply of values right here for our appreciation? Does the essence of fundamentalism lie not so much in the values themselves but rather in the rigid rejection of possibilities for their enlargement?

## Review: Salley Vickers' novel *Miss Garnet's Angel*

M.M.

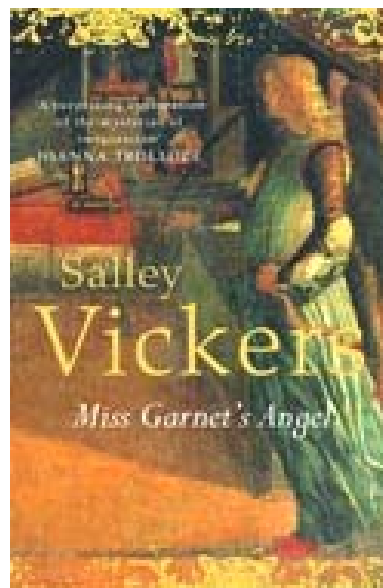
Salley Vickers' book *Miss Garnet's Angel*, is her debut novel and is an engrossing tale of self discovery, redemption and religious themes. It is also a love story and Venice is the setting for this journey of the spirit.

Julia Garnet is a retired school-teacher from England. When she is left a legacy following the unexpected death of a friend with whom she had lived for many years, she decided to take a trip to Venice to face up to an unexpected sense of desolation in her previous orderly, even regimented life. At an age when one would perhaps expect a more settled life, she takes an apartment, in winter, in the city, famous for its architecture, its art, its beauty, and its somewhat fading glamour. Initially she is somewhat overcome, and even a little scornful of what she perceives as indulgent beauty and careless piety. Inevitably perhaps, she is seduced by the artistic portrayal of Gaudi's painting of *Tobias and the Angel* depicting the angel Raphael. This is

the start of what one can see as her emotional awakening and her voyage of discovery. She also, for the first time, falls in love.

What has been described as her 'epiphanies', is a study of a personality slowly and painfully awakening to the prospect of friendship, beauty, generosity, and a sense of place. She permits herself to acknowledge the frugality and mean-spiritedness of her earlier life, as her new life becomes enriched. Although she does fall in love it is not the centre of the story, and the object of her love turns out to be unsatisfactory in a very modern way.

The story is multi-layered, with the ethereal vision of Venice, and the mysteries of Christian belief interspersed with the knowledge of changes in one's life being a possibility. Then there is the ancient tale of Tobias and his travels which come alive along with Julia's voyage of discovery. Her awareness of the ever present comfort of Raphael is also her guide.



As Julia grows emotionally, and for the first time in her life permits herself to be moved and even tormented by the inexplicable, one is not surprised at her quiet sadness at the end of the story. She experienced so much, and her quiet reflection on her life and its transformation has enriched and prepared her for its poignant end. Julia is a character to cherish.

## Randwick Art Fair Launch

The first Saturday in September saw the successful launch of the Randwick Art Fair at Ventnor House. Despite atrocious weather, hundreds turned out to welcome local artists to the inaugural Art Fair in the historic Ventnor House.

The brainchild of local artist and organiser Jane Bayutti, the Art Fair offers artists in the local community the opportunity to exhibit their original works.

"Our community is rich in creative talent, and the Fair is a great way of bringing culture and diversity to the heart of Randwick," said Jane.

Local artists for a long time have lamented the fact there is nowhere locally for them to exhibit. Ventnor provides a terrific backdrop for the colour and expression of art.

The art fair is about building community, celebrating culture in Randwick City, and providing opportunities for local artists to showcase their work.

The Randwick Art Fair is planned as an ongoing event for the first Saturday of each month. Artists interested in participating can call Jane Bayutti on 0417 209 094.



## Kid's Church

**E**ach first, second and third Sunday of the month the 10 o'clock Mass is different, well, not different like it being a Latin Mass but different because the focus is on kids – it's called 'Kids Church'. Why? Because the emphasis is on ensuring that the younger members of the congregation begin to appreciate their Mass.

How does it happen? The children, pre-schoolers and primary school children, are made to feel special by being welcomed by the priest at the start of the Mass as they gather around him at the foot of the altar. The priest prays over them, the choir may sing a short 'sending' hymn, and the priest hands over their candle and a Lectionary (a book of readings arranged for the Mass). With one of the older children, or a leader, carrying a lighted candle, signifying the Light of Christ and another carrying the Book, they are led by the Co-ordinator, Claudette

Ashburner, or Anne Brophy, Pauline Roberts or Trudy Sutton, down the secret staircase to the Parish Centre.

There they say the Opening Prayer (similar to the one that is said at the Mass in the main church). Then, after listening to the simpler readings and Gospel for the day, there is a general discussion. But, in a really different way, perhaps acting out the events in the readings, singing an appropriate song, or breaking into groups to talk about the Gospel.

It may sound pretty heavy going but it's not. The children may draw pictures of the events, do bible crossword puzzles or search for names on word search sheets. They learn some simple prayers and have their own prayers of intercession as well as a shortened version of the Creed. They are learning about the Mass in an educational but enjoyable way, and they are praying.

By then it is Offertory time and they return to the church where some of the older children are involved with the Offertory. When it is time to say the Our Father the priest invites them around to join hands until it is time for the Sign of Peace. They are then sent back to take the Sign of Peace to their parents.

How successful is Kids Church? Claudette Ashburner is full of confidence that it encourages the children to be mindful of the importance of the Mass. "Sure, the numbers are not yet great, mostly around the twenty five mark," she said "but with increasing publicity about it I'm sure that they will increase. Not only would we like more children but we would welcome some parents who could join the team". For more information and if you wish to become involved ring Claudette on 9398 1351.

## Vale Edith Follows

**T**he late Edith Follows (nee Dew) was born on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1912 and went to her eternal reward on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008. She lived in Randwick all her life until 2004 when she went to live with her niece at Eagle Vale. Her schooling took place in the old wooden building still standing in the grounds behind the church. Edith received her first Holy Communion from Fr Peter Treand MSC - a founding member of the MSC Australian Province and parish priest of Randwick from 1891-1926.

She was a founding member of the Lay MSC Association when the group was formed in the 1970s, and was a reader at weekend and weekday masses for many years. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Sodality, a member of the Catholic Women's League (Combined Eastern Suburbs Area) and a member of the Legion of Mary. Requiem Mass in thanksgiving for the life of Edith Follows was celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in St Margaret Mary's Church Randwick North. Edith was buried in Randwick cemetery.

## Fr Tony Bolt msc

**I**n August 2008 we welcomed Fr. Tony Bolt to our two parishes. Fr. Bolt is originally from Thirroul NSW and went to school at St. Joseph's Hunter's Hill. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney in 1958 and spent three months at OLSH in the same year. He has rejoined us after an absence of 50 years!



Congratulations on achieving your golden jubilee Father!!

The majority of Fr. Bolt's ministry has been as a teacher of Chemistry and Physics in Chevalier College Bowral, Downlands Qld, Darwin, Canberra and Rabaul. He also taught in the Novitiate in Hamilton, Victoria. The last 6 years he was Novitiate Master in Kanjoor India where he taught mainly Religion.

## World Youth Day (WYD)

HOW WE DID IT AT OLSH SCHOOL

NATIUS McADAM

The preparations for WYD began well over a year ago, with our Year 5 & 6 students learning about WYD in their Religious Education lessons. We also had a major count down; starting at 500 days, with each class awarded our own OLSH WYD cross and icon to be placed in their class for a week. We were fortunate to have an experienced WYD participant on staff, as Ms Fernandez attended the 2005 event in Cologne, so the interest and excitement has been vibrant throughout the time of preparation. Earlier this year we were invited to send a limited number of students to participate in the WYD Cross and Icon arrival at Marcellin College. Even though it was our Annual Athletics Carnival day, we had over 20 students who asked to attend the gathering. We were also invited to prepare a liturgical movement as part of the liturgy. It was a moving experience for all who attended.

The preparations to house the pilgrims were most extensive, with visits from the Fire Brigade, Police, Catholic Education Office and World Youth Day personnel to ensure we complied with safety regulations, with the executive team all trained as fire wardens and a range of installations such as the showers and smoke alarms. On the last day of the term we had to empty 17 rooms - we were lucky to have some Marcellin boys to help with this task.

Was it all worth it? It certainly was. The welcoming BBQ held in the



school grounds for over 800 people, including both home stay and school/parish based pilgrims, parishioners and staff, was an amazing event, with a welcome from our mayor and Father John making the visitors feel welcome and the locals proud.

We hosted pilgrims from Mexico, United States, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Melbourne and Poland. One of the exciting events was having the news team from Channel 9 visit to record the daily weather report, to mix with the pilgrims and locals. Our PNG visitors got up early, at 4.30am to dress in national costume, and kept warm by running around the middle playground.

Our mornings for the team leaders began at 5.45am, to prepare breakfast for over 300 each day. The pilgrims certainly appreciated the hot BBQ sausages and eggs. The volunteers were rewarded with a lovely presentation of thanks, through song and dance, from our PNG pilgrims on the last day. We have received several letters of thanks for our hospitality.

Some of the pilgrims must have really enjoyed their stay in Australia, as some were reluctant to leave.

Some were still here when school resumed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We were fortunate to be able to house them in the parish centre for the last evening.

The events of WYD speak for themselves, with outstanding liturgical experiences, for the pilgrims to hear from and meet the Holy Father, celebrations of youth and life. One of the most remarkable impressions was of young people who are passionate about their faith, and who were genuinely happy people, most of whom had very few material possessions, but enjoyed the simple things in life - singing, dancing, praying, and having fun. We did not have any incidents that were unsavoury in nature or action. It was a delight to host the pilgrims.

The challenge for the future is to find ways to capitalise on the richness of the experience and enthuse our youth to take forward the words of Pope Benedict when he asked the youth of the world the following questions "What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?"

Our celebrations concluded with a thank you dinner hosted by Father John in the school library, with Tristan Haber's leadership acknowledged and all volunteers thanked.



## What Parishioners Say

### BOUQUETS

- 👉 What a wonderful shrine of Mother Mary of the Cross
- 👉 We'll all miss John Bosman and his quirky homilies
- 👉 Thanks to the parish office staff for helping me (with a real problem)
- 👉 The extra foyer (*Narthex*) area at the entrance to the church is first class
- 👉 I like the idea of the automatic doors into the church but in winter they allow large draughts of cold air to enter
- 👉 It's been a long time since we had a fete so the Ventnor one was a great way to help raise funds and also have a friendly chat with other parishioners

### BATS

- 👉 It's strange that the pews are numbered but have been placed out of order
- 👉 Where is the library?
- 👉 Names of the members of the Finance Committee are listed on the parish website but not the PDT. Why?
- 👉 If I hear another word about WYD I'll scream
- 👉 When will we get a full financial report of the parish?
- 👉 It's great to have a website but not much use if weekly bulletins are not up to date
- 👉 The homilies are getting longer but...

## A Springtime Journey into the Heart of Our Faith Mission

J.M.

I noticed the invitation to the Mission in the bulletin, and my interest was then caught by the gentle and sincere manner of the presenters, Fr Frank Anderson msc and Sr Madeleine Barlow olm, when at the weekend Masses prior to the start, they personally invited parishioners to attend.

It required a real effort to front up for the five days, not because of the content, but mainly because it may have been springtime by the date, but as far as the weather was concerned it was midwinter. Day or night it was pretty cool sitting in the parish centre on those hard chairs.

It is said if a thing is worthwhile it takes effort, and in this case the effort was definitely worthwhile. Together with music, song and the spoken word we were introduced to a new way of thinking about the texts read every week in the Liturgy of the Word and Jesus' life on earth. There are so many things to reflect on in my quiet times – the importance of the Sunday Eucharist in our lives as a community, the ancient idea of baptism, and what the words 'the Body and Blood of Christ' really mean, and much more.

Thank you to the MSC community for giving us this opportunity to grow.

## Church Architectural Terms

### SANCTUARY

The front part of the church from where the service is conducted.

### TRANSEPT

The area between the sanctuary and the nave that extends beyond the side walls, giving the church a cruciform floor plan—meaning that it is cross-shaped when viewed from the air. This area was historically used to accommodate large numbers of clergy, the choirs, or members of religious orders

### NAVE

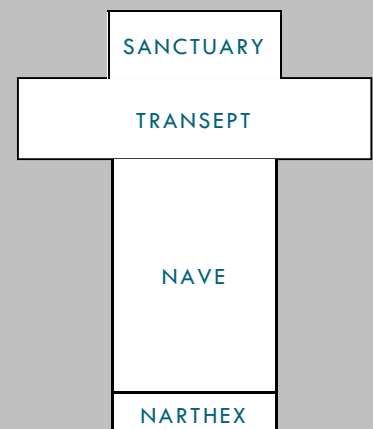
The architectural term for the place where the congregation gathers for worship.

### NARTHEX

The historic term for what might otherwise be called the foyer or entry way of the church.

### SHRINE

A shrine is a building or a place that is dedicated to one particular type of devotion that is limited to commemorating an event or a person.



## OLSH Church Building

IT IS 120 YEARS OLD

The first church building was a brick school church, designed by Mr Aston Watkins and able to hold 300 people. At this time the Franciscans at Waverley came on Sundays to celebrate Mass and Benediction but in 1885 Cardinal Moran transferred the Randwick parish to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and on 15<sup>th</sup> November Fr Tierney celebrated Mass in the school church.

It soon became apparent that the school church was too small and plans were made to build a church and presbytery. The church was designed by the architects Sheerin and Hennessy and built by Eaton of North Sydney. In May 1888 the new church was opened with the name of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

This building now forms the Nave of the present church, including the baptistry and the steeple. It was considered the most handsome church in Sydney after the Cathedral, being built in a neo Gothic style of brick with stone facings. A feature of the building is the stained glass windows, depicting the life of Jesus. These were all donated and were made in Tours, France in 1899. There is a particularly beautiful pair of windows on the south side, given as memorials in 1918.

Recently two old photographs of the interior of the early church were discovered. They show two altars, the second being our present main altar; as well the altar in the shrine and the statue of the Sacred Heart now in the right hand transept. At the back of the altar there are the stained glass windows that are now on either side of the sanctuary.

At this time in the late 1800's Randwick was a fashionable and wealthy suburb. A number of the homes of this time have survived and are now being restored. In Milford Street, opposite the car park is the home of Sir John See, Lord Mayor of Sydney, now the Milford House Nursing Home and along

Avoca St and down Alison Rd can be seen other large homes built at this time. So many generous donors contributed to the furnishing of the church. The old school church continued in use below the church and a stone presbytery, built at the same time as the church, was further down the site.

By the end of the First World War it became obvious that the church needed to be enlarged and Mr Hennessy was asked to complete the original design and include a new school building. The transept and sanctuary with the high altar and two side altars, as well as a sacristy were planned with a six classroom school underneath. Provision was made for three large stained glass windows, one behind the main altar and two in the transept. The windows behind the old altar were transferred to the north and south sides of the sanctuary. The builder was Mr J. Ptolomy of Concord, and the church was blessed and opened on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1921.

Next came that striking feature of the church, the great Eastern window. This was designed by Alexander Gascoyne of Nottingham and was built and installed by John Hardman and Sons, Birmingham. The window was blessed by Archbishop Kelly on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1928.

The final major addition to the church was the Shrine to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in the north-east corner. This had been the dream of both Fr Treand and Fr Smith and is a memorial to them. The shrine was designed by Agabiti and Millane, later joined by Greene and Scott and built by Mr H.A.Taylor of Concord. The Shrine was opened on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1937. At the same time Mr Taylor built the wall confessionals on either side of the nave. These have been modified over the years and in our newest renovations two confessionals have been converted into a Shrine to Blessed Mary of the Cross and a new baptistry.

BARBARA BOWRING

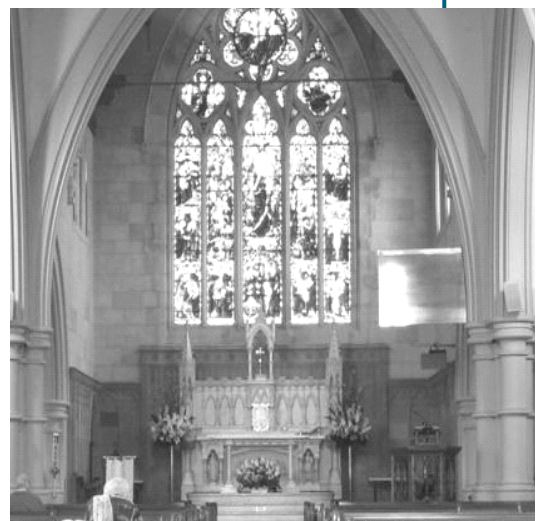
In 2008, the 120th year of its existence, our beautiful church has been renovated and renewed. A narthex has been created at the entrance and the whole building has been painted, repaired, given new lighting and a sound system, ready for another 100 years of the worship of God in the Randwick Catholic community.



OLSH SANCTUARY PRE 1895



OLSH SANCTUARY POST 1895



OLSH SANCTUARY 2008

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Fr Tony Bolt msc

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Jacqueline Wallington  
Trish Myers  
Glenda Nomchong

Tristan Haber (Youth)

### HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Fr Roy O' Neill msc  
Sr Ann Duncan rsj

### BRIGIDINE HOUSE HOSTEL CHAPLAIN

Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

### INDONESIAN CHAPLAIN

Fr Ho msc

Parish Magazine  
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## The Back Page WITH FR JOHN

**A**s I write this, in this first week of Spring, I can't believe that it's already 7 weeks since Sydney lived through the exciting World Youth Day (WYD) experience. We are still in recovery mode as far as our energy goes, but are still able to savour the unexpected fruits the event brought us.

At our recent Randwick-Botany deanery meeting the 12 priests who gathered at OLSH presbytery spoke of what the event meant to them and their parishioners. They mentioned the spirit of joy and goodwill that filled the city, the thoughtfulness of bus drivers, the local Council and ordinary citizens, the energy and commitment of parishioners and schoolies, the faith and enthusiasm of the pilgrims, and affirming presence of the Holy Father. One wise comment was that perhaps the abiding significance of WYD would be that so many young Aussie Catholics re-connected with their church and felt they really belonged to it.

Last week we had the Council of Priests meeting with the Archbishop. He was clearly delighted by WYD and told us of the Holy Father's genuine appreciation to the Church in Sydney for all that it had done. He added that the WYD came in on budget (which was pleasing to the ears of the PPs present). Bishop Anthony Fisher delivered a briefing paper on the whole event, quoting the Daily Telegraph as a fair summary of public opinion: "*It could have been the tambourines, the happy pilgrims or even the lamington-munching nuns. Whatever it was – it's now official: Sydney loved World Youth Day. After grumbling before the event, most Sydneysiders changed their tune, thinking it was great for Sydney*". A galaxy poll found that 71% of respondents thought WYD was a good thing, and 81% were glad thousands of young people enjoyed themselves without being a nuisance.

One opinion piece I particularly liked was by Laurence Freeman OSB, director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, who came to Sydney for WYD and was part of the Christian Meditation experience/exposure at Paddington Uniting Church. In his regular column in London's *The Tablet*

(9/8/2008), p.15, he wrote: "*It is the Church's audaciousness that takes one's breath away. As the pews of former Christendom continue to empty, the piazzas can still be filled with enthusiastic young people who are oblivious to the criticisms levelled against the institution they feel triumphantly they belong to. There is rich contradiction everywhere. A papacy that advocates restoration of the Tridentine Rite shares the limelight with rapping priests and rock concerts as well as Taize worship and Christian meditation*". He goes on to speak of the paradoxes within WYD and within the contemporary Church, and yet these are the very things which stop the Church from becoming exclusivist or sectarian, and which continue to surprise us.

On the very day that the Pope was welcomed in Sydney Harbour, the Christian Meditation group went into a women's prison some miles away. They discovered that Cardinal Pell had visited this same prison recently, and "*the genuine kindness of his presence with them was still lifting their oppressed spirits*". But more importantly they discovered that these women understood the likes of St Therese of Lisieux who found her vocation loving the world, while living hidden away in Christ. He writes: "*For me the prison was a grace in paradox: flashes of divine goodness in places the world punitively labels bad. Yes, God also manifests in the young and beautiful as well as the broken and unattractive. Faith always scratches below the surface of things*".

Isn't it true that it's incredibly difficult to judge people, or to judge events like WYD? There are things which happen beneath the surface which can suddenly change the way we see it all. We never really have a handle on the whole truth, only our partial and somewhat prejudiced view of it. So, how difficult then to pass any lasting judgment on such a paradoxical event as World Youth Day! And, to conclude, Father Laurence says that when all is said and done, "*Where two or three are gathered in my Name, I am there with you, is really what justifies World Youth Day*". As with all mysteries that confront us in life, most of us are still "treasuring all these events (of World Youth Day) and pondering them in our hearts" (Luke 2/19).