

Parish Magazine

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Editorial	2
Our new Parish Priest	2
From the Manager's Desk	3
What parishioners say	3
Eucharistic Ministers Retreat	4
Jottings from China	5
Finance Committee Report	6
My Story	7
Those new chalices	8
News from Ventnor	8
St Margaret Mary's Primary School	9
Home visits –EMC	9
Book review: <i>The Lieutenant</i>	10
An interview with Fr Tony Bolt msc	11
Film Review: <i>Slumdog Millionaire v The Wrestler</i>	12
Essay: Don't blame me	13
Interesting Websites	14
From the Archives	14
'The Fab 16'	15
Family Liturgy	15
Fr Matthew Smith: Second of a series	16
Liturgical Vestments	16
Do you know	16
The Old Baptistry and Baptismal Font	17
The Back Page with Fr Peter	18

ST MARGARET MARY'S RANDWICK NORTH

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART RANDWICK

Editorial

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our life, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

The Lenten season takes us on a journey within ourselves and a journey toward the way of Christ. This is a season when we reflect and meditate on the last days of Jesus prior to his passion, suffering, death, and resurrection.

Each year, the Season of Lent is offered to us as a time of renewal. Usually, we take up this Lenten journey as the gift of personal renewal in terms of our relationship with the Lord. Our renewal becomes concrete when it comes down to self-denial which allows us to live our faith more authentically.

The alms giving we do helps us express our gratitude and allows us to give generously. However, it can be a time of renewal that is offered to us to hear the cry of the poor and grow in solidarity with them.

Who are the poor? Who are most in need? Who are most pushed to the margins of neglect and powerless-

ness? Who appears to be suffering? Who seems to be tremendously burdened? Not all the poor are in the news, but a sensitive scan of the news is a place to start.

If we spend Lent reflecting upon the situation of the poor, we will begin to pray differently. We will not only see their dependence upon God but we will find ourselves turning to God on their behalf, before we ask anything of God for ourselves. It helps us pray with a renewed spirit.

It frees us from so many of the demands we place on God, especially for things like comfort or success or just getting things our way. With the poor as our prayer companions, we can surrender more easily and ask God for what really matters - first on their behalf and then for ourselves.

Our prayer for ourselves will more freely become a prayer that we might be transformed to be better servants for others, especially conscious of those on the margins of Society. It will ultimately lead us to ask the Lord to help us make our lifestyle more simple.

Finally, it might lead us to ask for the courage to act against those unjust social structures, even to dismantle them.

Our new Parish Priest

Father Peter Hearn was appointed Parish Priest on 1 January 2009. Ordained as an MSC priest in 1976, he brings to OLSH and SMM parishes a rich background of pastoral and administrative experience from his initial appointment as a teacher in Canberra to being Deputy Provincial of the MSC Order in 2005-2008. He has lived and worked as a missionary in the Northern Territory for eleven years, spent five years as Administrator of Darwin Cathedral, been involved in Vocations Promotion and taught English in Beijing.

(An extended interview with Fr Hearn will appear in the next edition of the magazine).



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

From the Manager's Desk

JACQUELINE WALLINGTON

This year will see the completion of all outstanding building items for the church. After allowing sufficient drying time, we will now be in a position to proceed with the final stage of patching, repairing and painting of the transept area. Regrettably there will be minor disruptions but nothing of the magnitude we had before WYD.

Additional repairs and maintenance works will also be carried out on the roofing and sandstone coping on the external parts of the church.

After months of fine tuning, our beautiful baptismal font is running perfectly.

The sound system has undergone some major surgery and as with all technology, has had its good and bad days, however it now appears to be all systems go. (Please do not hesitate to let us know if you do feel something is not quite right).

Further landscaping is earmarked for the tennis court area, increasing safety in this area for all.

Office staffing changes this year have seen us say a tearful farewell to Glenda who has been with us for three years and will be sorely missed. We wish her the very best.

New projects to be undertaken this year will see the installation of protective sheeting for the lower stained glass windows and heating of the church for those chilly days.

The bitumen in the car park had a number of pot holes appear which will be attended to along with some additional car parking spaces created.

The Art Market has been discontinued in Ventnor and the proposed regular Market Days will not now take place.

The Ventnor group will be looking at the main corridor and entrance to restore it to the original tiles, and will be investigating heating options for the downstairs meeting rooms.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Weddings already booked for this year - 38

Average number of daily phone calls through the office - 50

Average daily number of people at the front door - 30

Viewing of our website is increasing month by month

Project Compassion appeal for 2008 raised by Randwick - \$8,366.65

What parishioners say

👍 I'm glad to learn that we should have a see-through projector screen by Easter. It has been disappointing not being able to see the beauty of the whole of the eastern stained glass windows

👎 I don't think we need to have the words of the Our Father on the screen. I'm sure everyone knows it by heart.

👎 I think money could be better used rather than trying to heat the church. Particularly in view of the call for all to use less energy.

👍 The music at midweek midday Masses during the Communion procession has been very reflective and chosen well to respond to the readings. Congratulations to those in charge.

👍 The new layout of the pews seems to be working well and is a great improvement.

👍 I've noticed that Coogee Parish regularly issues the minutes of their Parish Council meetings to parishioners. What a good idea! Perhaps Randwick could follow their lead.

Eucharistic Ministers 2009 Retreat

LYN McDONAGH

Teamwork was behind the very successful afternoon enjoyed by some 32 enthusiastic Eucharistic Ministers on the last day of February 2009.

The venue was the large room in Ventnor, which had been recently cleaned by two of the team members then decorated with a few small flower arrangements on lace cloths adorning the mantelpieces. One mantelpiece also featured a poster of the dove that had figured prominently in the invitations to the event. The room overlooks a pleasing vista to the sea, weather was perfect. The French doors were opened to allow the soft sea breezes into the crowded room of excited, happy participants, with Pat Lalor snapping away on a digital camera and Carmen greeting everyone at the door and giving out name badges.

The invitation had stressed that everyone was to wear comfortable clothing, with no explanation as to the reason. Mmmmmm?

He had chosen a fitting
and encouraging blessing
for all present

Fr Peter Hearn enthusiastically joined in with this by opening the afternoon with a warm welcome and prayer, magnificently attired especially for the event, in his most relaxed t-shirt. He had chosen a fitting and encouraging blessing for all present, which was greatly appreciated and started the afternoon perfectly.

Jenny McCarthy facilitated a revealing session of sharing with various participants revealing how much their ministry meant to them. A very strong message came through of feeling humbled and privileged to be allowed to participate in the bringing of the Blessed Eucharist to others.



The reason for the comfortable clothing edict became apparent in the period following, when Lyn led everyone in breathing and stretching exercises based on Qi Gong principles. The room was a bit crowded for this but with a small amount of collisions, the ministers willingly joined in and any tension that might have been present was fast melting by this time.

Barbara Bowring then presented a reading by Fr Ronald Rolheiser and a meditation focusing on 'the washing of feet' and the 'divesting of outer garments to come down to the basic person within'. This was followed by each participant washing the hands of the person next to them. A most powerful, loving and revealing gesture.

The feeling of peace was
tangible

Afternoon tea was a simple affair which more team members, Frances and Co organised. This gave everyone a chance to get to know each other and enjoy a cuppa at the same time. Little groups of happy chatting ministers were spread all over Ventnor and spilled out onto the grass outside, closely watched

by the resident magpie. During this time the chairs were rearranged into a large oval spread through both rooms with a central arrangement of flowers and charmingly decorated candles on a beautifully embroidered tablecloth.

The second session by Barbara Bowring was a truly peaceful contemplation from the Gospel of John which was greatly enhanced by Barbara's quiet manner of presentation. After the contemplation followed a period of quiet listening to inspiring music which allowed all present to further enjoy the peace which had been engendered by the afternoon's proceedings.

The feeling of peace was tangible all through the large room and truly showed on the faces of all present. A very strong wish was expressed by many that they would like to repeat the experience, perhaps sometime next year.

Many participants who had not had the opportunity to attend a retreat before said they didn't know what to expect. By the time the afternoon had ended they were all expressing a very strong desire to repeat the experience again. The presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident throughout.

A big thank you to all who participated and to the Parish for its support for the day.

Jottings from China

FATHER GREG McENNALLY IS TEACHING ENGLISH AT A CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

HERE HE WRITES ABOUT HIS WINTER HOLIDAYS DURING THE STUDY BREAK.

Since Christmas we have been on holidays for the winter break, including the Spring Festival, China's most important festival. I did a lot of travelling, mostly by train, but also by bus – both suburban and intercity – by taxi – again both suburban and intercity – by motorcycle, by pushbike and by foot. I did a lot of walking.

Some observations. First, the crowds. There are more than 1.3 billion people in this country, and I reckon I have seen most of them. My first train trip was an eight hour journey to Guiyang, the capital of the province, Guizhou, without a seat. You can buy a place on trains here, without seat allocation. I could not even squeeze into a carriage, but was jammed with more than 30 other people between two carriages, plus luggage. Not very enjoyable.

Second, the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. These have real character, even though they are very touristy. I loved the cobbled streets with open waterways down the middle or to the side, with beautiful buildings featuring ancient Chinese architecture – and no cars speeding and honking.

...a return to Fuzhou to see some of my former students

Third, Yu Long Xie Shan (Jade Dragon Snow Mountain). A cable car takes you up to the 4,506m level, and from there you walk up to an altitude of 4,680m. Views are breathtaking, with snow around, mountain ranges retreating into the distance, and a glacier alongside. You just have to take it easy, as the lack of oxygen at this level makes the slightest exertion an effort.



Catholic Church in Dali, built in Chinese style

Fourth, Tiger Leaping Gorge. I spent four days walking along the flanks of Bama Xie Shan, looking across the upper reaches of the Yangtze River to Yu Long Xie Shan. There is a 3,900m drop from the top of the mountain at 5,500m to the river at 1,600m. Awe inspiring.

Fifth, a return to Fuzhou to see some of my former students. This included a meal with the four people who came to Sydney for World Youth Day. Also there was a young man and his wife who do a lot of work amongst the Chinese community in Sydney. I had met him at World Youth Day.

There are two aspects I would like to touch on here. The first of these concerns their personal reactions. The whole Australia experience, over a three month period, has had a profound impact upon them. They now know that China is not the only country in the world, and that everything that China does is not necessarily right. There is much in Australia to admire. On a faith level, it has helped them to see that they are part of a wider picture, that the Church is everywhere.

I will never forget the opening Mass at Barangaroo. As we filed in, with the flags of many nations all around us, suddenly they espied the Chinese flag, and it was “China, China, China”. Nothing else matters; other countries may as well not exist. Over the three months, that perception changed, so that now they have a different attitude to share with their compatriots.

The second of these concerns the Church in Fuzhou. There has been a running battle between the bishop and the Vatican for many years. The former has steadfastly refused to resign, in spite of every effort, both diplomatic and otherwise. The climax really came when the Vatican sent his replacement, who soon found himself in gaol. Who told the police? So now, the Vatican has ruled that he is no longer bishop and that Fuzhou is no longer a diocese.

There has been a running battle between the bishop and the Vatican for many years

But he is still there, at the ripe old age of 89, with some 20 of his priests supporting him; the remaining 30 do not. What a scandalous situation. In these difficult circumstances, our friends are doing their best to be neutral and bring the sides together. They are also involved in various programmes, really helping others to live out their faith.

As you see, I had an extraordinary winter holiday. May our good and loving God bless you all.

Finance Committee Report

MICHAEL JOHNSON

Chairman OLSH & SMM Finance Committee

INCREASE IN PLANNED GIVING

In October last year, I spoke at each of the Masses to provide parishioners with a Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2008. In addition to the financial update, I used the opportunity to invite new parishioners to join the OLSH Planned Giving Programme and to ask existing contributors to consider increasing their pledges. I am delighted to report that many parishioners responded to the request, the result of which was an annual increase of around \$20,000 in contributions pledged. It is the nature of Planned Giving programmes that the total amount of contributions slowly declines over time, so it was a very welcome “shot in the arm” to receive this increase in pledges. On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who so generously responded to the invitation.

BRIEFING FR PETER ON PARISH FINANCES

The Finance Committee’s most recent meeting (12 February 2009) was the first attended by our new parish priest, Fr Peter Hearn. At the meeting the Committee briefed Fr Peter on the state of finances in both Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) and St Margaret Mary’s (SMM). Some of the key points included:

- ◆ OLSH accumulated a substantial bank balance over recent years, due mostly to a series of one-off bequests. The size and frequency of bequests was unusually high in recent years, and it seems unlikely that we will see such generous amounts in future years. We will need to develop alternative sources of funding to take the place of such bequests.
- ◆ The balance of the OLSH parish bank account has diminished substantially over the past year, as a result of the cost of restoration work completed to both the interior and exterior of the church (approximately \$1 million). Very little work had been completed in the several years prior to this programme of work.
- ◆ There remains a long list of parish building maintenance works that will need to be completed in the coming five years or so. We will need to consider a range of options for raising the funds needed to complete these works.
- ◆ With a considerably smaller parish community than OLSH, SMM gathers only a modest amount of receipts via its weekly collections. Despite this, SMM remains in a strong financial position, largely due to dividend income that it receives from a substantial investment that has been held by the parish for several years.

HALF-YEAR RESULTS

Also at the February meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed the financial position for the first half of the 2009 financial year (July 2008 through December 2008). Key highlights include:

- ◆ Overall income (receipts) for OLSH was \$350,000—up almost \$130,000 compared to the same 6-month period in the previous year. However, looking at the composition of receipts reveals that bequests (one-off donations) were up by more than \$150,000. This highlights the risk of our reliance on large, one-off donations. If we had not received the one or two donations that make up the \$150,000, our regular recurring income in the first half of the year would have dropped by \$20,000, compared to the previous year.
- ◆ A significant cause of OLSH’s decline in regular recurring income was a substantial reduction in interest received. For the 6-month period last year, we received over \$44,000 in interest income; however this year we received less than \$19,000 for the same period. Two factors contributed to this decline. First, our bank balance reduced dramatically as a result of the church restoration work. This meant we had a smaller balance on which to earn income. Second, from September, interest rates began to fall, in response to the global financial crisis. Earning less interest on a smaller balance will likely diminish our interest income for some years to come.
- ◆ OLSH expenses (payments) in the first half of the financial year were \$494,000, which is substantially greater than the same period in the previous year. This is to be expected, however, as supplier payments for our church restoration programme were at their peak, following the rush to complete as much work as possible prior to World Youth Day. With capital expenditure removed (i.e. large, one-off projects such as church restoration), the underlying non-capital expenditure for the first half of the financial year (\$203,000) was almost identical to the amount spent in the same 6-month period in the previous year.

PROPOSED PRE-SCHOOL

As mentioned in my previous update, the Finance Committee has been giving careful consideration to a proposal from an independent operator to establish a pre-school in the Parish Centre. The Committee has taken expert advice from professional commercial real estate advisors regarding the establishment of appropriate commercial lease terms. Last year the Parish made application to the Archdiocese for approval to proceed with the negotiations with the proposed independent operator. The Archdiocesan approval was granted late in 2008. On 18 March 2009, the Finance Committee will meet jointly with the Parish Pastoral Council to review the status of the proposal and to agree next steps.

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 Michael Johnson.

My Story

NATALIE ONG

Good day to the OLSH parishioners! We are Natalie Ong and Pascal Xavier and we emigrated from Singapore to Sydney about two years ago. We have joined the OLSH parish and have enjoyed being part of the community here. So here is our story:

I am Malaysian and completed my university studies in Melbourne. After three and a half years of paediatric training in the UK, I decided to continue my medical training in Singapore. There I met Pascal and we married in 2002 and lived the Singapore 'lifestyle'. Pascal had always been active in the RCIA and a volunteer teacher at a school for teenage mothers run by the Good Shepherd sisters.

Then it all changed
in 2006

As for myself, catholic apologetics has always been 'my thing'. I was encouraged to do a training course in public speaking with a view to addressing complicated moral issues in modern day living. I had given talks in schools, university, catholic centres and marriage preparation courses. Then it all changed in 2006. Pascal and I were not completely happy with our work life balance; we wanted to have kids and wanted to see if coming to Australia was the answer to our longings. Our plan was for Pascal to quit his job then stay with friends in Melbourne and when he found a job I would quit and move over.

This was the longest five months we have ever endured in our married life. The uncertainty of not knowing when we would be together again was tremendously difficult. After a lot of prayers, my mother called one day and said "Pascal is going to get a job soon" as the psalm from Mass that day had read "the poor man cried and God heard him". In two

days Pascal was offered a job, with a company based in Sydney but he was required to stay in Port Hedland for the entirety of the project. Has anyone heard of Port Hedland? It is a mining town in the north west of WA with a population of 16,000.

We lived in a caravan park,
a studio chalet

I quit and packed up our apartment and shipped our stuff into storage. We lived in a caravan park, a studio chalet with one room where the bed, kitchen and toilet were all within 1-2 paces of my husband's generous stride. It was strange for me to be suddenly in the outback, no phones or pagers; internet was a 20 minute walk to the library in the sun. Daily Mass was an hour and a quarter's walk to a small church and the bus ran only seven times a day.



I applied for a job in Sydney, knowing that Pascal would return for one week on a monthly basis as long as he was on the job. We were then transferred to Mount Isa after three months. There during a farewell Mass for one of the religious sisters, we met Father Tony O'Brien who was visiting. I discovered that he was a priest at OLSH and that the job that I had accepted was at the Sydney Children's hospital at Randwick! The job interview was on the birthday of Our Lady! I was also

offered a job at Westmead Children's Hospital and asked a friend what she thought about the choices. She immediately said "choose Randwick, the staff there are wonderful". The answer was clear. There was another eight months of separation.

I rented a house in Eastgardens, struggled to drive a manual car to Randwick and back doing night shifts. Its funny how after being married, going back to doing things on your own again feels so much more difficult when your husband is not there. I missed our life in Singapore terribly as we had a lot of support from my in-laws and the thought of trying for kids was completely out of the question. So more prayers in the pipeline and finally in August 2007, my mother called again and said "Guess what was the responsorial psalm at church today?" I said "It's not the poor man cried...." Mum replied "You bet it is... and you know what this means right?"

So more prayers in
the pipeline

Pascal was offered a job in Sydney. We then bought a house in Bexley and are blessed with wonderful neighbours. It was mid last year when we thought of giving something more significant back to the Lord for all his blessings and protection. We chose the RCIA as it was something familiar to Pascal and something I could contribute in a little way. The RCIA team led by Caresa has made us very welcome and we always got back more than was given. The sincerity and conviction of the catechumens and the journey we have made together has made it more than worthwhile. So here we are Australia, we have embraced life here and so loving it!!

(Readers are invited to submit their story for publication)

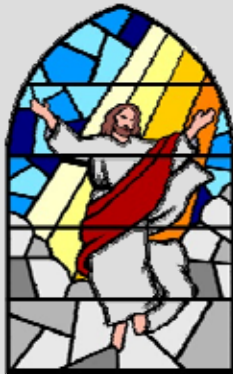
Those new chalices

A beautiful addition to the wonderfully renovated Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, with its new Baptistery and Shrine of Blessed Mary of the Cross, with its restored Stations of the Cross, and cleaned stained-glass windows, was a pair of gold chalices for the distribution of the Precious Blood at Communion. These chalices are inscribed with the words, *Sacred to the memory of Peter John Christensen 27-10-2007*. Peter had been a long time parishioner of Mary Immaculate, Waverly, before moving into OLSH parish, but had frequently

attended weekday Mass at Randwick for many years. He had been a close friend of Father Patrick Sharpe msc for over twenty years.

The chalices were made in Madrid by *Talleres de Arte Granda* and imported into Australia through their Australasian Representative, Mary Roth, a friend of Miss Annette Marskell OAM. They are hand crafted, of spun brass, gold plated and polished. This means they are quite light and so very convenient for Communion to the congregation.

These beautiful chalices are a gift to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church from Father Patrick Sharpe msc, who has been a presence in the parish, on and off, since 1981.



The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.

HENRY KNOX SHERRILL

News from Ventnor

JOAN McNAMARA

Apparently the NSW State Parliament had a longer break over the Christmas/New Year period than any other state parliament in Australia. The Friends of Ventnor have enjoyed an even longer break since the Fete held last September. Hopefully the rest has helped to recharge our batteries and re-invigorate us.

At the end of 2008 the Randwick Catholic Womens' League (CWL) made a \$500 donation towards the restoration fund. Many of the CWL women have been working in Ventnor for many years, organising functions, lunches, and

meetings in less than ideal surroundings (particularly the kitchen), and are very supportive of any fund raising we have held. Many thanks.

The committee has had its first



meeting for 2009, and at the suggestion of Fr Peter the carpet in the hallway has been removed, mainly because of the OH&S hazard it presented. The new kitchen vinyl will hopefully be laid within the next month or so, which will finally complete the renovation of the kitchen.

Can I remind those using Ventnor that they should take their rubbish with them when they leave, unless they have made a prior arrangement with the parish office. Keeping the building clean is a continuing problem due to the diversity of people using it, but if we all do our bit it should help.

St Margaret Mary's Primary School

ANN-LOUISE WALTON

St Margaret Mary's School has been on the corner of Avoca St and Clovelly Rd for over 50 years. The school was opened as a Kindergarten to Year 2 school in three classrooms above the church. The first teachers were Brigidine sisters. In the 1960's more classrooms were added and the school became a Kindergarten to Year 6 primary school. The current enrolment is 179 boys and girls.

not just a school,
we're a family

St Margaret Mary's School is proud of being 'not just a school, we're a family.' Being small we have a capacity to be attentive to the individual. The children all know each other and the teachers know each child. We strive to be a community of learners. The school is supported by a very close community of parents and carers. The school families come together for social events, fundraising and also volunteer to assist in a wide variety of ways. Parents maintain the gardens, train netball teams, and assist in the classrooms, to name a few examples.

Our community is an active part of the St Margaret Mary's Parish. The 9.30am Mass on the third Sunday of each month is Family Mass. The Family Mass team is made up of volunteers from the school and parish who work to

create a liturgy that is family centred, featuring musicians and singers from the children and parents. The Family Mass has grown to become a very popular and well attended liturgy. The Christmas Eve Liturgy, which has been celebrated for three years, is standing room only and this Easter, the team are preparing a beautiful liturgy with live music for Easter Sunday morning.

During Lent we are raising money for Caritas Australia by supporting Project Compassion. Each Friday in Lent the children are asked to donate a gold coin for the privilege of dressing up. This year we are celebrating Favourite Team Colour Friday, National Dress Friday, Colour Friday and Crazy Hair Friday. The children are encouraged to raise their donation by doing some chores at home or giving up some treat. The St Margaret Mary's community is generous and last year we raised around \$2,000.

During Lent we are raising
money for Caritas

The future for the school is a very positive one. Enrolments continue to grow and the school is about to

embark on a program of building and refurbishment. Plans include the building of a new library above a multi-purpose hall. This will be a wonderful resource for the whole community. The hall will provide a much needed gathering space for the school and for the parish on weekends. The library will give the students a modern, technology filled learning space during the day and also serve as an inviting venue for evening meetings, such as Parents and Friends Association meetings or Bible study groups. The plans also include the renovation of the existing presbytery building to provide a new administration centre, staff facilities and a classroom.



The current school building is also having a much needed make-over. The classrooms are being upgraded to provide an environment for learning that will meet the needs of our 21st century learners. It is anticipated that building will commence in July this year and be completed by the end of 2010.

A parishioner writes of making home visits to the sick

Each week a group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from OLSH and SMM take Communion to parishioners in their homes. This is a very humbling and rewarding experience in being able to bring Our Lord to those who are unable to attend Mass for a variety of reasons. Copies of the weekly Bulletin are taken along on our visits to enable those we visit to keep up to date with parish news and events. Although unable to come to church they are still our parishioners.

If you know of anyone who is housebound who would like to receive Holy Communion please leave details at the parish office.

Book Review: *The Lieutenant* by Kate Grenville

M.M.

Kate Grenville's latest novel *The Lieutenant* brings us back to the period of her important novel *The Secret River*, where she looked at the arrival of the First Fleet to Sydney Cove in 1788 and the early days of white settlement in New South Wales.

The Lieutenant mainly centres around an unlikely friendship between a young aboriginal girl, Tagaran, and a young soldier of the First Fleet, Lieutenant Daniel Rooke, who is also an astronomer sent out by Dr Vickery from the Royal Observatory in London.

Grenville takes the real background of two soldiers, Warwick Dawes and Watkin Tench, both soldiers of the First Fleet, and creates a powerful and tender story of great courage and compassion. Grenville found much inspiration from the notebooks of Dawes, who of course is remembered today by Dawes Point in Sydney Harbour.

Rooke is intelligent, well educated but emotionally awkward despite his achievements. This was partly due to the rigidity of the English class system of the times and he found the opportunity to join the expedition a wonderful chance to increase his standing. On arrival, he sets up his observatory at a distance from the main camp; in many ways he also distances himself from the problems of general unrest connected to the management of the convicts and the wretchedness of the ever present shortage of food in the colony.

He finds satisfaction in his meteorological studies and his fascination with the strangeness of the southern constellations. When he is visited

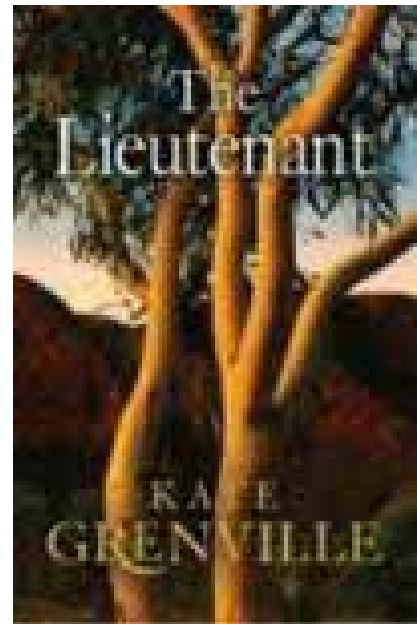
and befriended by members of the local aboriginal tribe he finds an unexpected affinity with their curiosity and interest in his work.

There are great scenes where he comes to gain the trust of a chief and several of the women. His interest in linguistics creates a bond with the young girl Tagaran who responds to his awkward attempts to understand her language. Soon he is filling his notebooks with his interpretation of their conversations and of course becomes aware of the immense cultural divide. The black and white world pictured in *The Lieutenant* is quite different to that which Grenville depicted in *The Secret River* where there was minimal reaching out. One can visualise a major question about the lack of understanding between the two cultures which continually fed fear and possibly the cause of so many of the problems of today.

Rooke of course was primarily a soldier and when called upon to join a 'hunting party' could not actually refuse though he made it clear to his senior officer that he was most reluctant to go. Rooke was very aware that the governor wanted to make a telling point following the spearing of one of the convicts permitted to hunt for food.

Rooke's relationship with Tagaran faced him with a moral dilemma of sorts, as, though the friendship was quite platonic it was also loving and playful and sure to be viewed cynically by his fellow officers who already saw him as a loner and a possessor of grandiose ideas.

Rooke's eventual refusal to go ahead with the governor's order resulted in his being sent back to



England, his career ended. When he told the governor his reason for not continuing as part of the 'hunting party' his statement was that if he was part of the machine he was also part of the evil. He knew what his life meant to him now. He was going to Antigua to start what he saw as his destiny – working for the elimination of slavery.

The challenge implicit in *The Secret River* – 'what would you have done?' is echoed somewhat differently in *The Lieutenant*. Rooke saw the challenge to himself to be a better person by putting his own life and career at risk.

The Lieutenant is a work of great literary imagination and a clear-eyed study of what might have been different had there been more men of influence with Rooke's sensibilities. One can speculate that perhaps there really were people who doubted what the British were doing with their settling and taking over.

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.

CLARENCE W. HALL



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

An interview with Father Tony Bolt msc

Father Bolt was first appointed to the parish in 1958 and now he is back – after fifty years. In this article he tells us more about himself and his experiences.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLING

My primary school education was with the nuns at the convent schools in Bulli and Thirroul. I won a Bursary that enabled me to do my secondary schooling at St Joseph's College Hunter's Hill completing my Leaving Certificate in 1949. My four siblings (one of whom is still alive) also won bursaries.

YOU FOLLOWED A TRADITIONAL PATH IN BECOMING A PRIEST?

Yes. I went to Douglas Park in 1950 then finished my studies at the MSC Theological Seminary in Croydon, Victoria. I was ordained in mid 1958 and my first appointment was as a curate at OLSH for around four months.

YOUR CAREER TOOK AN EARLY TURN AWAY FROM PARISH WORK?

There was a shortage of qualified teachers in our schools then and the Superior asked me to enrol in a Science course at the University of New South Wales completing the degree in 1961. During that time I lived in the Monastery at Kensington.

YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TEACHING EVER SINCE?

Very much so. From my first teaching appointment at Monivae College our boarding school in Hamilton, Victoria in 1962 through to being Superior for six years to 2008 at our novitiate in Kochin in the state of Kerala in India. During my time at the novitiate 49 men took their vows to become priests

AND IN BETWEEN?

At my first stint at Chevalier College Bowral there were 14 priests on the staff. Later I was the headmas-

ter there as well as being Headmaster from 1980 to 1986 at St John's College Darwin. At Downlands College in Toowoomba I was also the Rugby coach. I also taught at Daramalan, our college in Canberra.

YOU ALSO TAUGHT IN RABAU?

That was an interesting appointment. I went there to relieve a priest who had taken ill, to teach in our minor seminary at Ulapia. It was 1975, the year New Guinea was granted independence.

YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THAT ISSUE?

There was a sense that there could be rioting, but not so. All the ceremonies were joyful and peaceful but I believe independence came too early. A gradual approach would have been much better and events seem to bear that out.

EDUCATION HAS BEEN A MAJOR PART OF YOUR LIFE. IF YOU HAD A GOLDEN WAND, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED?

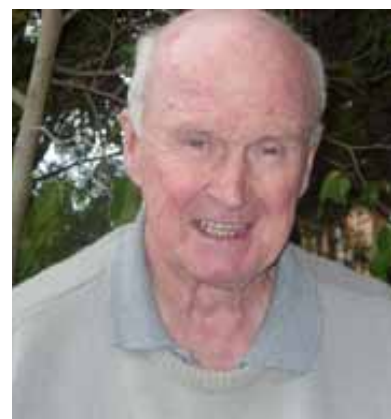
There has always been a gap between the expectations of teachers and parents. Better co-operation is the key with both working together. My experience with school boards where each group sees themselves as equal partners resulted in better schools, better students and a caring community for everyone.

HOW WAS IT YOU WENT TO INDIA?

The Novice Master who was to go there could not get a visa and I volunteered to take his place. A wonderful and rewarding experience.

REFLECTIONS ON INDIA?

The faith of the people is very much a community affair not so much a



private and individual matter as it is in Australia. Being together in community gives a sense of belonging and enrichment to everyone. I think it was like that in Australia years ago but declined although there are signs of its return. The number of small groups here in OLSH is encouraging.

WHAT INTERESTS DO YOU HAVE?

Teaching was an all consuming role especially when in boarding schools where 16 hour days were not uncommon. But I would like to have information of all kinds – about the church, spiritual issues, history and the like more widely available. The internet is now the best vehicle for doing that, not just for students but the general populace.

SO, HAVE YOU STARTED?

Yes. Right here at OLSH. I have nearly finished putting on the internet Mary Agnes Finn's book, 'Golden Jubilee of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Memories of Randwick' It's a great read but the book is out of print and is an unknown gem for the younger generation.

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU NOTICED AT OLSH?

Lots but I find remarkable that one of my roles in 1958 was to do hospital visitation and now fifty years later I am back doing hospital visitations one day a week. How sweet and constant life can be.

Film Review: *Slumdog Millionaire* v *The Wrestler*

F.R.

“Why is it so?” was the clarion call of Julius Sumner Miller in trying to explain the apparent unexplainable. And so it is with *Slumdog Millionaire* and *The Wrestler*. Two movies with similar themes, both four-starred by reviewers yet one gets audience acclaim and the other is a dud.



Slumdog tells the story of a Mumbai teen, Jamal Malik, who grew up in the slums, becomes a contestant on the Indian version of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* He is arrested under suspicion of cheating, and while being interrogated, events from his life history are shown which explain why he knows the answers.

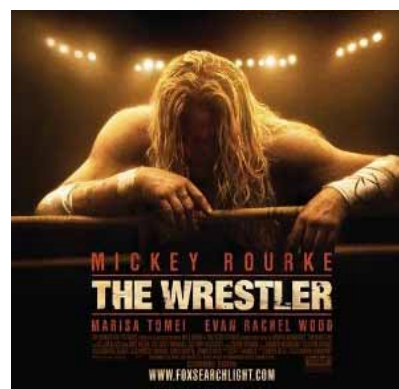
The Wrestler similarly tells a story of an individual, Randy “The Ram” Robinson, trying to overcome adversity. He is a faded, retired, professional wrestler, but finds his quest for a new life out-

side the ring a dispiriting struggle. Jamal triumphs, but Randy doesn’t make it. *Slumdog* is not without its critics some of whom claim it portrays India in a poor light, over emphasising the poverty of India, and especially Mumbai, and that the child actors were exploited. But if you’ve been to Mumbai, its portrayal in the film is reality, and a holier than thou attitude by Hollywood film makers about child exploitation has a hollow ring – think Judy Garland.

The acting in both films is top drawer. Dev Patel (the teenage Jamal) plays the part perfectly, with the right blend of innocence and unsophistication as he battles with Prem Kumar (played by Anil Kapoor), the arrogant quizmaster. Compare our Eddie Maguire with Prem and realise why Channel Nine paid Eddie \$5 million to keep the audience on side.

Mickey Rourke is no dilettante actor, with numerous credits (and some minuses) to his career. His portrayal of Randy as a real life has-been wrestler carries strong conviction, no doubt helped by Rourke’s own experiences in the

ring in the 1980s. ‘If you don’t succeed at first try again’ might be Randy’s motto but he tries too many times, downhill all the way. It’s essentially all about Randy while the other actors in *The Wrestler* really have scant parts, and scantily clad to boot. Not so scanty is the sexuality, violence and language which is overdone. MA 15+ is a pretty soft rating.



Both films had their supporters for this year’s Oscars. That *Slumdog* walked away with eight Oscars and *The Wrestler* none is a good measure of their comparative success and their appeal as viewable films. If you don’t see *Slumdog* you’ll miss a really good cinematic experience. If you don’t see *The Wrestler* you’ve saved your money as the Global Financial Crisis kicks in.

So, you like the occasional night out at the theatre?

Well, *Oklahoma!* will be playing at the Church in the Market Place in Bondi Junction from 23 to 30 May next. Songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein II with some really experienced actors, the Waverley Lugar Brae Players production of this musical can offer a guaranteed enjoyable outing. Telephone 9389 5361 for enquiries and bookings.

Your taste runs to drama? Then, *The Man from Mukinupin* might be your choice. A co-production with Melbourne Theatre Company it is being staged by Company B at the Belvoir Theatre from 28 March - 17 May. Wesley Enoch and the great Kerry Walker muck up big time for this special 30th anniversary production of Hewett’s full-throated glorification of our dark side. Telephone 9699 3444 for enquiries and bookings.



Essay: Don't blame me

CARMEL MAGUIRE

It's a very popular game, - the blame game. Unlike the stricter codes of football, for example, the rules are very simple. Mind you, AFL has the intriguing tendency to kick more behinds than goals which fits in well with blame game rules. In it more points accrue to players who can identify and isolate fewer blameworthy causes. Unfortunately there is an increasing tendency to concentrate the blame for almost everything on very few causes - global warming, the economic downturn, climate change, greedy other people, and the hardy perennial, the government.

And of course when disasters occur like the Victorian bush fires, the more blame which can be laid on human sources the better. Flush out the arsonists, however few and pathetic they may be, and those of us who are not directly impacted feel a lot better. Moreover, when the arsonists cannot be blamed for all the blazes, there is always the media.

So it was the fault of
the media.

At the Family Mass in February in a brave attempt at dialogue with the young gathered around him on the altar, after a few questions Father Hearn inquired about who would take the children if they were sick enough to go to hospital. The confident answer was 'a fireman'.

I'm not sure what answer Father expected but I presume that the young person's preference for a fire truck over an ambulance or even a parent may have been influenced by the television's saturation coverage of the bush fires. So it was the fault of the media.

Not all excuses used to be so obvious. My late father assured the Christian Brother who accused him of having thrown a punch at a fellow six year old in the playground of St James's School in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, that the wind had blown his arm out. Brother was not impressed and, in a household with Irish parents, there was also zero tolerance at home.



I did hear in a sermon in a place near to the home base of this magazine an attribution of the beginning of the Catholic Church's current problems to the French Revolution and modernism. It was like a spin in a time machine. An argument old enough to seem new, without resorting to Adam and Eve and original sin.

While the old stories have lost most of their power to console many of us, a little more imagination could enlighten some of our contemporary debates. Perhaps we could give asylum seekers, leftists and rightists, even Muslims, though maybe not Lefebvrists, a break and look a little deeper.

'Life was not meant to be easy', in the words of a former Australian Prime Minister. But the rest of Malcolm Fraser's quote from George Bernard Shaw is 'But it can be delightful'. Well, if it's not delightful,

there must be something, preferably someone, to blame and there must have been infringement of our rights.

In my long apprenticeship to becoming a reasonable driver, I was shocked to be told by one of several teachers that 'my side of the road' did not exist. My entitlement was to a strip of the road the width of my vehicle and no more. A current driving hazard goes well beyond other drivers to our own insurance companies who will disavow our policies if we confess guilt in any accident. 'I'm sorry', if it's due and we are still conscious, may lessen road rage. Some contraction of our rights might be useful in medical liability cases too and may ameliorate the reluctance of young medical graduates to choose obstetrics as a specialty.

Our current Prime Minister has said sorry to aboriginal people. The sky has not fallen in but the reversal of the wrongs done to them in our name is a work not yet up to speed. We also still have the abomination of that detention centre on Christmas Island. I'm sorry that a new Australian Government has not yet put off the field many of the players in the immigration blame game played in the name of faux security, so why don't I make more fuss about my feelings?

.. my answer is

'Who? Me?'

I guess that, hard as it is to admit, when I hear the haunting question of the African American spiritual, 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?', my answer is 'Who? Me?'

Interesting Websites to keep you informed

CathNews is a service of Church Resources which provides a range of services for the Church and the not-for-profit sector. Their website provides a round up of news about Catholic affairs and matters affecting Catholics. Headline news items, opinion pieces, all sourced from newspapers and journals are provided on a daily basis by subscribing to their free newsletter. The site also provides links to other interesting websites. www.catholicnews.com

Busted Halo, the site for young adults. It is sponsored by the Paulists and most of the material is written by young adults for young adults. It includes discussion boards on various topics and offers a weekly e-mail service. A top class website. Log onto www.bustedhalo.com

Compass the ABC program of religious affairs screened on Sunday nights has its own website providing both transcripts and videos of programs. It too has some interesting links. Log on to receive Compass updates weekly. www.abc.net.au/compass

Eureka Street is published daily by Jesuit Communications Australia at www.eurekastreet.com.au. It has always styled itself a publication on public affairs, the arts and theology. You can subscribe to either a free daily or weekly email. The daily email will alert you to articles that respond to news events as they occur. The weekly email compiles the week's articles for those who do not wish to receive the daily email.

The Tablet the British Catholic weekly newspaper with its reports on current affairs, politics, religion, social issues, literature and the arts is the best of Catholic newspapers. Full coverage of the paper requires a paid subscription but its website provides a free copy of some of its lead articles. www.thetablet.co.uk

We've all received some emails telling us about some wonderfully funny story or incident that turns out to be neither wonderful nor funny. Well, this one hits the jackpot – wonderful, funny and, oh so true, especially for mothers. **The Mom song**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN3iRHRN4N4

From the Archives

Way back in 1945 in a Kindergarten class at Brigidine College nineteen 'little darlings' were taught by Mother Declan. Here they are in the photograph below.



Kindergarten class of 1945 at Randwick.

Who were they? Are you there?

Tell us if you know – in an envelope marked “Magazine photograph” and leave at the Parish Office or email the details to olshmagazine@gmail.com. Our next edition will (hopefully) be able to print the class list

Celebrating ‘The Fab 16’

Two big events occurred in 1959. Work began on building the Sydney Opera House and, more importantly, Tony O’Brien and twelve of his Missionaries of the Sacred Heart colleagues became priests – four more were ordained later and all became part of the group known as ‘The Fab 16’. And, on 14 March this year, some fifty years later, there were some joyous celebrations at OLSH to mark this golden jubilee.

The occasion began with a celebrated Mass. Large though the OLSH altar is, it seemed so small

as it was surrounded by sixteen priests, accompanied by three MSC students including Sandy Abbey, a former OLSH parishioner, now into his fifth week of studies to become an MSC priest, and Tom Stanley, a parish acolyte.

The principal concelebrant was Jubilarian Fr Leo Hill who was on the staff of the parish in 1960. Another Jubilarian Fr John Doggett a missionary from Milne Bay Province delivered the homily.

The Lectors were Helen Armstrong and Peter Hendricks (who is one of the MSC students). Sister

Elizabeth Crilley (a sister of Jubilarian Fr Frank Crilley) read the Prayers of the Faithful. Music was provided by the Marcellin Singers. A big surprise was that the organ was played by our new parish priest Fr Peter Hearn.

Several hundred parishioners and friends of the Jubilarians were present. At the conclusion of the Mass most people made their way to the Parish Centre for lunch and to hear some wonderful speeches, including one by Sister Valerian, a sister of Tony O’Brien who took the opportunity to mention some ‘home truths’ about her brother!



Family Liturgy at OLSH and SMM

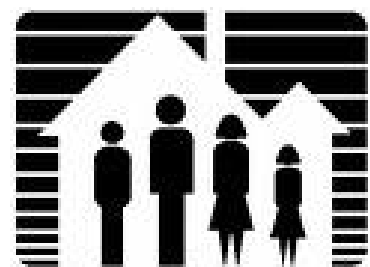
Providing a child-friendly Mass that encourages young children to actively participate in the liturgy and be part of our growing community is an ongoing activity of some parent leaders at both churches of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary’s.

The monthly Mass is a special opportunity for all families and parishioners to come together and celebrate Sunday Mass in a relaxed family oriented environment. All readings are tailored towards young children and taken from a special children’s lectionary.

The gospel readings and the homily are interactive whereby the children are being invited by the priest to join them in the sanctuary for a question/answer session to reinforce the teachings of the readings.

Throughout the Mass children are encouraged to be involved in the liturgy such as participation in special processions, readings of the prayers of the faithful, liturgical dances and the Lord’s Prayer.

Singing and music is interspersed throughout the Mass with both parents and children involved and



those who have attended this Mass have been full of praise for the quality of this aspect of the Mass.

The family Mass is usually followed by morning tea providing a getting-to-know-you opportunity for parents. For more details contact the Parish Office.

Our Parish Priest: second of a series

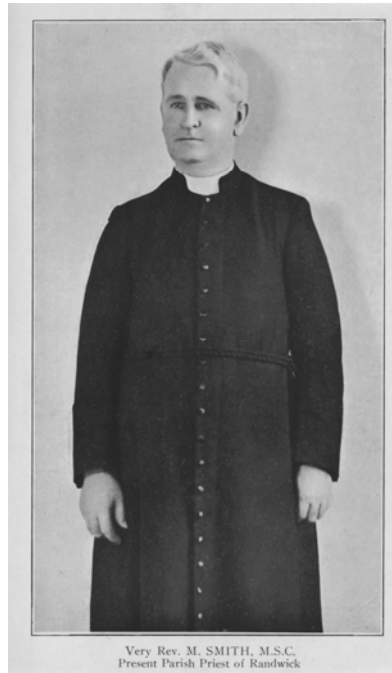
FATHER MATTHEW SMITH msc

Father Matthew Smith was parish priest of our parish from 1926 to 1939 succeeding Father Peter Treand, who had been parish priest from 1891. Father Smith initially thought he might be unworthy to be a priest and indicated he would like to be a lay brother. He was ordained in 1908 and was the priest who gave Mary McKillop her last communion in August 1909.

A very diffident man he was nonetheless a man of considerable ability. When first ordained he taught theology in the seminary and was appointed as Professor of Dogmatic Theology. He was a Superior in a number of houses before being elected in 1920 as an Assistant General of the Congregation in Rome and served in that role for six years.

As parish priest he won for himself a wide circle of friends by his cordiality and his generosity. Nothing seemed to trouble him and he was always ready to give freely of his time and energy. His eloquence as a preacher packed the Church at Randwick through the 1920s and 1930s.

During his tenure, Father Smith built the third presbytery, replacing the old stone building on the same site. Built in brick, it had seventeen rooms, two storeys high, verandahs at back and front ten feet wide, with seven bedrooms on the first floor with chapel and community room, and on the ground floor a library, parish office, study rooms, dining room and kitchen. This building became part of the parish school in



Very Rev. M. SMITH, M.S.C.
Present Parish Priest of Randwick

the late 1970s until it was demolished and replaced with a new school building in 2005.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 1935 and to mark the event Father Smith enlarged the original 1921 Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. This was completed in 1937 and dedicated in 1941 to the memory of both Father Treand and Father Smith.

Ill health forced Father Smith to retire from active work and he was appointed Superior at Douglas Park in 1939. He resigned six months later and died in 1941.

(Reference: MSC publications. An article about Father Treand appeared in the September 2006 issue of this magazine).

Do you know

The names of the relics of the saints or martyrs that have been placed beneath the altars of the churches at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary's? The practice of placing such relics under altars is a long standing tradition. However finding the record of the details of the relics is not easy since they seem to have been lost in the mist of time. What a wonderful story it would be if we could find those details.

Liturgical Vestments

Some of the vestments worn by priests when celebrating the Mass.



ALB

The alb is the long white, robe-like vestment worn at all liturgical celebrations



STOLE

This is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the alb and under the chasuble.



CHASUBLE

This is a long, often ornate, sleeveless poncho-like garment. Normal colours of the Chasuble are Black, Green, Red, Violet and White and are worn during the various seasons of the Church and on special occasions

The Old Baptistry and Baptismal Font

BARBARA BOWRING

When Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church was built in 1888, a semicircular area in the north west corner was set aside as an area for a Baptistry. Five stained glass windows, some depicting baptisms and one of children with a guardian angel are set into the surrounding wall.

Originally a high wrought iron divider with double gates enclosed the area which was raised one step above the church floor and the floor was adorned with tessellated tiles. The Baptismal Font was carved and painted with a wooden sliding cover surmounted by a carved depiction of John the Baptist baptising Jesus.

The Font and the cost of setting up the Baptistry were provided by Mrs P.R. Larkin. Ellen Therese Purcell married Patrick Ryan Larkin in 1875 and they had a family of eight sons, of whom the sixth - John, and the eighth—Septimus (Ambrose), died as infants. The marble plaque recording the gift of the Baptistry in memory of these two infant sons was removed during the recent renovations.

Patrick Ryan Larkin was one of Randwick's first parishioners and one of those who requested that Randwick should become a separate parish with its own priest. Born in County Clare he had arrived in Australia in 1857 with four shillings in his pocket but quickly

prospered, owning extensive produce stores in George St and Darlinghurst and the Prince of Wales Hotel. In 1868 he bought a two storey stone house in Avoca St, Randwick with grounds extending from Short St to Spring St. This house he named Glengariff and it survived, though altered to flats, until it was demolished in

1988 to make way for the Royal Randwick Shopping Centre. Paddy was a generous supporter of the Catholic Church and the Little Sisters of the Poor until his death in 1910, and he and Ellen are remembered as being amongst the first members of the Randwick Catholic Community.

The Baptistry was in use till the late 1960's when new rubrics following Vatican II ruled that baptisms should take place in the sanctuary. The Font was moved and until very recently could be seen between the main altar and Our Lady's Shrine and was moved when needed. The Baptistry area was later changed to a Confessional and Reconciliation Room enclosed with wood panelling; later still it became a space for Parish notice boards and a Library. With the renovations completed in 2008 the whole area became part of the new Narthex or entrance area.



Our new Parish Priest, Father Peter Hearn has arranged for the old Baptismal Font to be retained and restored.



*A joyful Easter
to all our readers*

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The Back Page WITH FR PETER

After just over three years administration for the MSCs it is so good to be back in fulltime "ordinary" ministry in parishes.

I had used the imagery of being embraced by a giant octopus to illustrate my early encounter here. I was wrong. There are certainly many more than eight "arms" to it all. I think I've met nearly all "arms" by now. So, I suppose what follows is more observations of a selection of my experiences as I get to know the parish, rather than any vision for the future. I look forward to meeting with the Parish Development Team (PDT) and other groups for future imaginings and doings.

My home base, the MSC community, is a joy to live in. There are five of us all told with another, Fr Joshua, a young MSC from India to join us after Easter. Our community prayer begins the day well, meals together, faith sharing, Gospel preparation and adoration all enrich our lives. Each of us has spent time in other cultures – Tony Bolt in India for over 10 years, Tony O'Brien in PNG for 7 years while I worked in the Northern Territory spending four of the 11 years in an Aboriginal community. Four months teaching in Beijing for me was also a very different cultural encounter. I think it means that we are still very much in touch with the wider MSC world where our confreres, together with the OLSH and MSC Sisters, minister in 57 countries worldwide. I like that broader vision, especially as I am on the Vocations Promotion team for the MSC Australian Province, and it helps me keep our wider mission in mind.

Parishes, like any organization, depend very much on not just good office management, but on personable office workers. Our parish office staff, a mixture of employed and volunteers, is an easy-going outfit, supportive and relatable. I'm impressed by the number of people in the parish who volunteer for a wide variety of "works". The list is long. The pastoral skills evident in the training of facilitators for the Bible Study course and the RCIA facilitators show how seriously the parish has taken lay involvement and training – and these are but two of many groups. It is quite evident to me that a sustained effort has gone into building a solid rela-

tionship with the parish primary schools. They are key places for communicating our faith. The added dimension of family Masses sustains the momentum. Marcelin and Brigidine involvement in liturgies is most welcome and, as I have written elsewhere, one can't help but be hugely impressed with both Colleges. I hope a priest can visit the Government Schools once a semester to meet the students and support the catechists in this vital work.

Music, good music, can go a long way to make up for flaws in liturgical celebrations. How blessed are we at Randwick, and how generous are the leaders and groups. In my reading around the issues of parishes and the challenges of communicating our faith, especially to a younger generation, a couple of articles in the last issue of the MSC magazine *Compass*, were enlightening. They could be a good base for reflection for our PDT and others. There was much discussion around the necessity of Catholic identity: "if a group has no or very low boundaries or distinguishing features then it loses sociological validity." "If a faith community is indistinguishable from other groups which often make far lower demands on the individuals, why be a part of it?"

This is part of a theme for the Church to establish and maintain a religious identity in a culture "which is saturated with choice. The core message here is to recognize secularizing influences and to negotiate a place which synthesizes heritage and the demands of living in contemporary culture." With regard to youth, "Research suggests that for Gen Y youth, their peer group is the primary influence in their decision making, and the main focus for their need to belong." This is an insight that suggests that peer ministry such as in Antioch is well-focused. Without doubt, the key area remains the Sunday liturgical celebration: "engaging, formative and consistent celebrations that build up a parish as a mature community of faith, with confidence to dialogue intelligently, honestly and compassionately with its local world." Welcoming (new) parishioners could be added to that list.

These are just a few random thoughts as I acclimatize, and I look forward to exploring the possibilities.