

**LIBER ACTORUM ECCLESIAE**



**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**  
**PATRONESS OF AUSTRALIA**



**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH**  
**EAST VICTORIA PARK**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

## **1935 to 1942**

Early in the year 1935 His Grace, Co-adjutor Archbishop R. Prendeville, DD at the behest of His Grace, Archbishop Clune, DD (RIP) selected the site for the church buildings for the proposed new parish Our Lady, Help of Christians E. Vic. Park. The blocks selected were on the corner of Archdeacon & Camberwell Sts and two on the corner of Archdeacon and Balmoral Sts.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Feast of the Patroness of the parish, His Grace approved of submitted plans for Presbytery which was begun almost immediately but there was some delay with operation on the new church – school hall, brought about by the Perth City Council's decision to extend Berwick St which at that time ended at a dead end in Balmoral St. This unwelcome news gave birth to fresh difficulties. New land had to be secured for the erection of new church-school hall as the proposed new road would now divide into two portions the area facing Camberwell St. After considerable transactions, eight blocks were purchased on the southern side of Archdeacon St, four with a frontage on Balmoral St and four with a frontage in Camberwell St where now stands the new church-school hall which had its foundation laid in early August which was opened along with the Presbytery on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1935 by His Grace, Archbishop R. Prendeville, DD, in the presence of a vast concourse. The cost £6,500 included purchase of land (£618), buildings and furnishing of same.

His Grace, Archbishop Prendeville DD, appointed Rev Father Francis J O'Connor as the first parish priest. The new parish included Carlisle and St John of God Hospital, Belmont which was opened in 1934 and cared for from 1934-1936 when E Vic Park took over.

February 1936 saw the opening of the Primary School. Three Sisters of Mercy from Victoria Square Convent, Perth were in attendance to receive the new pupils. With Sister Mary Ambrose in charge with the co-operation of Sisters Joseph and Romauld the Roll Call increased from about 100 to 180 by the end of the year.

A new development in the parish was the appointment on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1937 of Rev Father William Cleary just arrived from Eire as curate. The result was that a second mass was arranged for

the benefit of the people. The new curate laboured yealously in the interests of the parish and as he resided at the hospital, Belmont, was able to care for the spiritual needs of its inmates.

Later on in the year 1937 a new school church was erected in Lyon St, Carlisle. The architect was W Tracey and the contractor H Landwehr whose tender £864 was accepted. It was on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1937 that Archbishop Prendeville DD formally opened the new edifice in the presence of a big crowd. Father O'Connor said the First Holy Mass in it the following Sunday when Fathers Joyce CSSR and Scanlon opened a week most successful mission, many practically 'defunct' Catholics being 'resurrected'. Hence mass celebrated every Sunday at 8.30. Benediction was given on the Holy Name Sodality Sunday each month.

Another progressive step in the right direction was the opening of the first Catholic School in Carlisle. Sister Enda (in Charfs) with the able support of Sister Romauld conducted the school which from a humble beginning of 39 grew to the new gratifying number of 89 by the end of 1938. This new school was opened at the beginning of 1938. Gradually this deserted and stagnant district began to show signs of a spiritual revival and to show its appreciation of the worth of the priests and nuns. Each Sunday witnessed a steady increase in attendance both at mass and Holy Communion.

The next item of interest was the transfer of the curate to Pinjarra, a parish of many parts over which he was to rule as parish priest. Vale Fr Cleary in whose place was appointed Father C Casey, another recent arrival from Eire. It was on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1938, the Feast of Corpus Christi, that Father Casey made his debut in E Vic Park. He laboured well for two years until in July 1940 Carlisle was joined to Belmont as a new parish. Henceforth the parish Our Lady, Help of Christians was to embrace the territory Kent St- Miller St to Railway –John St, Welshpool. In fact the new parish included the territory within one mile radius from the presbytery.

### **Missions**

- ❖ In 1937, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, Rev Fathers Joyce and Scanlon CSSR, conducted the first Mission in Our Lady, Help of the Christians. The results were most gratifying.
- ❖ Again in 1941 in the month of May the second mission was held – this time by Rev Fathers Duffy and Hogan CSSR. The attendances at all the exercises were very marked. It compared very favourably with the first.

- ❖ Another interesting item in the spiritual life of the parish was the First Children of Mary's Retreat given by Rev Father McLaughlin CSSR from Dec 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 1941. The girls were very faithful in coming to the exercises, their number being about 40.

### **Confirmation**

This sacrament was administered by His Grace Archbishop Prendeville DD on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 1937. Fifty eight girls and forty seven boys were confirmed. Again on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 1941 His Grace the Archbishop confirmed.

### **Canonical Visitation**

His Grace conducted his first visitation on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1938. He was again in our midst for the same purpose on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 1941.

### **Sodalities**

- ❖ The Holy Name Society was established in March 1936 and since then it has developed and is now firmly engrafted in the parish.
- ❖ The Sacred Heart Sodality likewise soon made its appearance and is catering for the spiritual wants of the mothers and women of the parish. Its membership is very encouraging.
- ❖ The Children of Mary Sodality has a roll call of about 42 young girls. They are very loyal and attend their monthly meetings and the sacraments very punctually.

### **Societies**

- ❖ The St Vincent de Paul Society was not formed until 1937. It has done immense good and continues to function well.
- ❖ The HACBS from the very beginning of the new parish has played a big part in its development. It has now over 110 members. Many of its members are engaged in war work and are overseas. There is a very strong Catholic spirit apparent among them.
- ❖ The Legion of Mary (Dec 1941): With four active members – Mrs Ramsey (president) Matron Howland (Howard Milten House) K Curtis (sec) Mrs Davidson – Brother M Mulligan inaugurated this latish society in our parish. They have done excellent work in bringing back many hardened sinners to the fold.

Owing to war conditions entertainment is of a limited nature these days. This is the first year (1942) in which we were not able to hold the Children's Ball with the Adults Ball.

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### **25<sup>th</sup> March 1945**

His Grace, the Archbishop, conducted visitation and conferred confirmation on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1945 when 32 males and 31 females were the recipients of the sacrament. Again in 1948, his Grace was out here for the same purpose, 20 males and 34 females were presented.

In those years one mission was given by the oblate Fathers Haugh, OMI and Brealin, OMI. It was very successful and many conversions that were lasting took place. In March (6<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>) Father Begley CSSR and W Dunphy CSSR arrived at the parish for a fortnight's hard work. The parish was thoroughly coached and several 'he I emere???' marriages were rectified. The attendance was excellent and a record number went to the sacraments.

During this period the parish priest, Father O'Connor was in very indifferent health. With a very bad hand he had to make three trips to the Eastern states for operations – the last of which restored full use of his hand. Thanks be to God. During his absence about six months and four months and a half on two of these occasions the oblate Fathers (Breslin, Weldon and John Ryan) and the Redemptorial fathers supplied.

A step forward in the parish was made when the sisters took up residence in the parish in the house which up till then had been the Presbytery. This event was happily accomplished in September 1949. The priest has a temporary abode in the lobby in front of the church.

This year 1949, the Sanctuary was renovated – fluorescent lights were fixed to its ceiling, new hides for the statues were installed and a new revolving tabernacle was donated. Also a new set of Gold Vestments which cost £50 were presented. The Station of the cross and church-School were presented.

The parish began to expand in year 1950 especially in Welshpool – St James's Park – Bentley Park districts. The attendances at mass, sacraments and devotions were quite satisfactory. The number of children at present in the school is average.

Another event noteworthy of mention is that it was decided by His Grace to erect a Christian Brothers Boys Primary School on the land at the back of the convent facing Balmoral St. It will be a regional school our own and neighbouring boys in surrounding parishes being accommodated. The permit for same was granted by Housing Commission in 1951 (June). Tenders are being called. On Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm His Grace will again pay his Canonical visit.

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### **Canonical Visitation June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1951**

His Grace, Archbishop Prendiville again visited the parish to conduct canonical visitation and to confer the sacrament of confirmation. Twenty five males and thirty four females were presented for the sacrament. The Hibernians as usual formed a guard of honour. The church was packed and showed appreciation of his Grace's visit.

The financial side of the parish showed a healthy improvement. The Black Collection and second or post communion collections were satisfactory. Gradually the parish is extending and more students are attending the convent school. Next year it is hoped to build a regional boys school on blocks at the back of the convent facing Balmoral St. These blocks will be a contribution to the regional school from E Vic Park parish. The value would be in the vicinity £2300.

### **1952**

The Mission given by the oblate Fathers Byrne and Keohare was of very high standard. Many 'Black sheep' returned to the fold during that memorable fortnight of May 11<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. The priests conducted this mission under great difficulties – their residence being one of the school classrooms. However they entered in the mission in the proper spirit and I am sure their inconvenience was rewarded with compound interest. HC 2137 confessions 483. The spiritual and temporal affairs of the parish continue to prosper. The Boys' School is taking shape and shall be ready for the boys in Feb.

## **1953**

His Grace, Archbishop Prendiville, DD opened the Regional Boys School in the midst of a huge crowd of people. The priests of the region comprising E Vic Park, Vic park, Queens Park, Belmont, Rivervale, Carlisle, Kensington, South Perth, Como, Gosnells, Armadale, Riverton, were there as were a representative gathering of Christian Brothers. The First Superior of the new school which was blessed and named “St Francis” by His Grace, was Brother Quirk. The roll call for the first year was about 70. A bazaar held this year netted over £500. Xmas tree and Jubilee sale also worthwhile as were the tuck shops.

## **1954**

This year was another good one in every way in the parish. On Feb 24<sup>th</sup> of this year, Father O'Connor celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood – thanks be to God. His Grace, Archbishop Prindeville was represented by his Lordship, Bishop Goody, DD at the celebrations. Bishop Goody conveyed congratulations of the Archbishop to Father O'Connor and on behalf of the parishioners made presentation of a wallet of notes. Miss Pauline O'Connor, a niece of the Jubilarian composed a most beautiful motel for the occasion “Exultate” which was sung admirably by the parish choir. Rev Father Les Curran PP of Newport, Melbourne travelled all the way to be present at the celebrations.

On Nov 28<sup>th</sup> His Lordship Bishop Goody DD, conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to 46 males and 34 females. The annual fete was held towards the end of the year. Mother Stephanie and her staff were of great assistance throughout her three year term of office which ends next Feb.

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## **1955**

The spiritual side of the parish is continually giving very great satisfaction – especially is this noticeable with the increased numbers approaching the communion rails. There was no mission this year unfortunately owing to lack of accommodation. It was hoped to have new presbytery erected the following year. Great worry involved over the right of ways and closure of Archdeacon St. Senator JM Fraser and Mrs Wigmore with the appreciated advice and assistance of Mr Ken Hatfield solicitor helped to bridge many difficulties with Perth City Council, Lands Dept and owners of right of ways.

The bazaar tuck shops etc made this a very good year financially. In August of this year we inaugurated a new system of finance for the parish – we introduced the envelope system and it proved very worthwhile, so much so that it is now our principal means of income. The first year netted £1350 -8-7. So we are cultivating the envelopes!!! EXIT BROTHER QUIRK. Mother Albertine is in charge of convent.

This year brought us further towards our objective of sealing the right of ways and closing Archdeacon St. The right of ways are now in our possession from Devenish St to Carson St – more than we bargained for. It meant the lot or none so we took the lot, paid £150 for lot. Archdeacon St went through Road Closure's Bill at last after trying for 21 years – thanks in great measure to Senator JM Fraser and Mr Ken Hatfield, solicitor.

Rev Brother Goggins is new head of Boys School which now has an attendance of over 100!! The men of the parish and parents and friends branch did valuable work in saving us several hundred pounds with their help in converting the basement into a new classroom at reasonable cost of roughly £250. New blackboards were erected in all classrooms as were demonstration boards. The convent school was also serviced and the school yard attended to.

A busy bee painted the interior of the church saving the parish over £300. The exterior of the church received a good coat of paint for just the price of the paint. The school rooms are next on the list for renovating.

## **1957**

The envelope system improved out of sight. New presbytery at last started. Great meeting of 26 tradesmen called. Foundations (concrete) laid by Busy Bees. Bert Sublet John Bianchini, John Saligari, Jim Kelliter, Harold Shepherd and Cyril Retting most worthy of mention.

Redemptionish Fathers Wallace and Haroberry gave a successful mission Oct 6 -20<sup>th</sup> HC 5700, confessions 700. The Busy Bees continued their good work Saturday after Saturday until early in the New Year when the presbytery was finished and officially blessed and opened by His Grace, the Archbishop. On Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1957 Rev Father P Ahern was appointed to the parish as curate. He lived



in a front room of the CBC 'pos term' and was glad to take up his new flat early in March 1958. The new presbytery cost in the vicinity of £4800. The Busy Bees saved us approximately £4200. In Feb 1958 Mother Brigid (Willoughby) was appointed Rev Mother of the Convent to succeed Mother Albertine. She immediately started alteration to the convent and building an extra six rooms for the nuns to live in at the back of the old convent. WJ Binachini was the builder and did an excellent job at a reasonable cost. The new chapel in the convent was blessed at 10am on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1958 by His Grace.

### **1959**

Another addition to the parish set up was the opening and blessing of the new residence for the Christian Brothers, plus a new classroom. The builder for the residence was Mr Alf Power and for the school room Mr Russell, brother of Rev Father Joe Russell. His Grace blessed the buildings at 4.30pm on Wednesday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. The brothers Doyle (principal) Mohar and McPhee shifted in that evening. The school year opened with 217 boys. The Stations of the Cross were erected in CBC chapel on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March. During the year also an extension was made to Sister Kieran's classroom of a sum of £1200. High honour given to me Domestic Prelacy 13-11-59. Archbishop rang.

### **1960**

This year was a notable one for the parish. It opened with two new classrooms to the brothers' school to accommodate the boys up to junior standard. Mr Jack Bianchini, Ches Douglas and Joe Higgins. The first steel arch for the church was erected on 21<sup>st</sup> March. I laid first brick at 10.20am 30<sup>th</sup> March and Jack Bianchini who supervised building laid second. The last truss was put into position today March 30<sup>th</sup>. Building continued to progress until the great day arrived – the opening of our new church on Silver Jubilee, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 1960. Fancy the parish 25 years old!!

His Grace, Archbishop Prendiville performed the ceremony and congratulated the PP and parishioners on wonderful achievement. The Archbishop presided assisted by Rt Rev Monsignori W Waton and Sullivan. Rt Rev Monsignor F J O'Connor, the parish priest was celebrant of the High Mass with Frs Mullins and Brunette as sub deacon and deacon respectively. Very Rev Father K Crowe preached the occasional sermon. The church looked beautiful and was packed to the doors. The curate F P Ahern conducted the choir which rendered the mass beautifully. Refreshments for His Grace and clergy were served in presbytery and for the people in the hall. It was a memorable occasion, never to

be forgotten – the new church opened free of debt – the cost of the building itself just on £11,000. The High altar, lady altar seats, stations pulpit, altar rails were all donated. The beautiful stained glass windows were also donated. Special thanks to John Bianchini builder, Peter Overman architect, Bill Anderton accountant, Jim Kelliher, secretary and Stan Kisgatan and Joe Higgins. With the new church in service the parish continued to prosper. The spiritual life of the parish improved. The children increased at convent school and also at Brothers.

## **1961**

The Redemptorist Fathers conducted a most successful mission from Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. Very Rev Fathers Crowe and Middleton did not spare themselves. Rev Father Rowe CSR spent one week prior to the mission on visitation. Many poor sinners came back to the fold, DG confessions numbered approximately 900 and Holy Communion approx 5600.

On Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1961 the two new stained glass windows – the little infant of Prague and St Joseph were put into place. Look exquisite. Pity the remaining two have not arrived, however they should be here next week. These last two, the baptism of our lord, and the scourging at the pillar arrived and were fitted on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> just twelve months bar a day later. This was very disappointing. However now the whole frame is covered with stained glass is a striking feature in our beautiful new church.

Canonical visitation and confirmation was held on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 1961. His Grace Archbishop Prendiville DD graciously honoured us with his presence. Everything was found in the parish, spiritually and temporally to be in a sound condition. 144 boys were confirmed together with 105 females.

## **1962**

In January of this New Year the convent school and presbytery were painted by Mr Joe Dimech – wages paid to him being £199. The paint was provided by the parish. An item of special interest was the sinking of the well in the presbytery yard to provide water for the reticulation around the new church, presbytery and convent – the convent paying for their share. This has proved worthwhile as the whole appearance fronting Camberwell St is very pleasing and satisfactory and makes the church property a show place and is the subject of many laudatory comments. The forty hours devotion was held on March 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. The parishioners and school kept the vigil very creditably.



### 1963

On Sunday Jan 27<sup>th</sup> Fr Pat Ahern shifted to Victoria Park after a term of just over five years service in the parish. His place was filled by Father Pat Baker, a Columban father who is to do temporary supply until Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1963. The car park and school grounds were sealed by List Mo and so a great improvement will be noted for the beginning of the new school year for 1963. The cost was £733 plus cyclone fence along front of Camberwell St £38.

Three new stained glass windows – the last supper – the consecration of the mass – mate anabilis arrived from Van-man studios, Sydney during last week of June together with the nativity for the Lady Chapel. All were placed in position on Sat June 29<sup>th</sup> by W John Bianchini and John Clissa. Also noticeable in sanctuary are two new statues, sacred heart and our Lady Lourdes – the work in paper mash by Joe Dimech of Pollard St, Bentley. He also made Our Lady of Fatima. The sanctuary now is a thing of beauty of which we are all so proud.

A new dividing fence, 6ft high at rear of the new church and a new dividing fence separating Convent and Presbytery are also features worthy of note. The ‘Crying room’ for mothers and their

babies was made sound proof also. The court yard between presbytery and new church was concreted at the end of May and has therefore eliminated a very annoying sand patch. The symbol of the Blessed Trinity was placed in position above the Baldacino on the high altar on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug '63 being the creation and work of W Joe Dimech. It fills in a big blank space above the altar. It was a donation to the church from my dear sister Mrs E Woodthorpe. Extensions to convent school were undertaken – new classroom and enlargement of another. Mr J Bianchini was the contractor. He did magnificent work. Also erected were several new toilets in school grounds to measure up with requirements of the Government Health Department. A lovely brick dividing fence was also built at the back of the new church. The new additions to the convent school were blessed by the PP on June 28<sup>th</sup>, the day before he sailed on the 'Galileo' for overseas for five and half months.

### **1964/1965**

Father Ken Keating who was appointed as assistant to OLHC on 21-5-63 carried on in the capacity of adm of the parish until PPs return on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1964. Two lovely Carrara marble statues of sacred heart and OL Immaculate to replace existing statues were placed into position in sanctuary – bountiful gift of Mr Tom O'Neil of Sydney. Also donated by him and his good wife were six lovely onyx marble candlesticks, plus new monstrance stand and new chalice.

Visible also in the parish equipment is a new building in the grounds of the Boys Regional School – it consists of a staff room, storeroom and two new toilets for lay teachers. The Legion of Mary came to life again and is doing excellent work around the parish. The homes and hospitals are being visited and it is evident that great spiritual activity is existent in the parish.

The Lay Catechists numbering ten received their Diplomas from His Grace, Archbishop Prendiville DD – a very proud moment for them and the parish. These good souls devote much of their time to the children in the state schools during the week and then on Saturday after lunch and Sunday after last mass. A very happy occasion was the establishment of a parish social club known as OLHC Social Club. It caters for parishioners in age group 40-99. They meet every Friday evening at 8 o'clock and the various age groups spend a few happy hours with games and fun of mixed variety.

Then on May 24<sup>th</sup> the Pilgrim statue, was introduced into the parish. Mr Joe Edwards (Leederville) very kindly and enthusiastically visited and spoke to a very large number of parishioners

about the blessings that come to a parish when Mary's statue is honoured and taken into their homes. The statue devotion was inaugurated in the parish on Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, May 24<sup>th</sup> 1965. It drew great numbers each night until the Oton ? (Mr S Kingston) in company with many parishioners in cars formed a procession and proceeded to his home for a week. And so it continues to go around the parish and is drawing good crowds each evening.

Set up for the first time in the parish is a Parish Library situated in the old choir loft in the parish hall; it provides a reading room also for the many people who are making use of it. Thanks to the keen interest of Father Keating.

### **1965**

On Aug 15<sup>th</sup> most Rev Fr McKeon DD, visited the parish for Canonical Visitation and confirmation. There were 87 boys and 95 girls confirmed. His Lordship also visited the sick and infirm of the parish and this was most appreciated by all those concerned. Later in the year from Nov 7-24 a mission given by the Redemptorist Fathers, Father James Hogan and Father Murphy stirred up the faith once more in the parish and was a great success. Many returned to their duties.

### **1966**

On Sunday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> the Legion of Mary held a day of enquiry into the Catholic Church. It was a most successful afternoon (2pm-5pm) and was brought to a close with Holy mass explained by Fr Depiazzi and celebrated by Hons Fr J O'Connor and Fr W Foley preached the occasional sermon.

The Longmore Remand and Assessment Institution for Delinquent Boys and Girls was opened in the parish at a cost of £245,000. His Grace requested that we provide Holy Mass there each Sunday (which is said at 9.30am) also this year Swan Cottage Homes was handed over to E Vic Park parish and mass is celebrated in the small chapel provided by the corporation for all denominations at 11.30am every Wednesday morning. An approach was made to the Board of Management of Swan Homes for the necessary permission to say mass there for the catholic inmates on Sundays but it was refused. Apparently a certain amount of bigotry exhibited here.

However Mr Brian Harty, president of the local Legion of Mary provides the necessary transport and so quite a number of Catholics attend the mass at OLHC E Vic Park. By the way also

Mr Phons Whitely looks after the few catholic children for mass on Sundays from Mofflyn Homes (Methodist) in Sussex St, E Vic Park. Very practical catholic action! The outside of the church was painted by an Italian friend for only £85 in the month of Sept 1966.

In the parish at the CBC Regional school a start was made on the erection of the new science laboratory made possible by the Federal Grant of \$38,000. The region received \$30,000 advance from the National Bank and this plus extra \$8,000 for lowest tender of \$38,000 will be recouped by Federal Government. The region pays the interest meanwhile.

### 1967

Rev Father Keating was transferred to South Perth on Sat March 4<sup>th</sup> and his place was filled by Rev Father Paul Merks who arrived at his first post only being ordained in July 1966. From Xmas '66 – March '67 he assisted at the Cathedral. At the Convent, changes also made – with four young nuns sent to new destinations also Rev Mother Brigid (Byrne) and the convent staff was to our great dismay reduced and comprised of five old nuns which meant we had to provide three lay teachers – two paid by parish and one by convent.

At CBC Brother Sharpe was shifted to Bedford and Brother Edmonds a local boy (ex parish) was appointed principal. The Canonical Visitation and confirmation took place on Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> 1967. His Lordship, Bishop Myles McKeon was the officiating prelate and confirmed 116 males and 93 females. Visitation of the sick in their homes in the parish was a special feature and much appreciated.

Renewal to portions of the CBC Boys College – the primary section was begun and cost over \$10,000. When finished the school could claim to be one of the finest around. Rev Bro Consultor Examiner Bro Kelly remarked that it was one of their most up to date schools. The present superior has done much to promote the standard of education in the college – yes Brother Edwards deserves great commendation for the work he has put into the school. The atmosphere in the school is excellent.

A very successful mission was conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers – Father Hogan and Russell (Melb). It lasted from March 11<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 1969 (Palm Sunday). The 'old sinners' who returned

to the fold numbered 14. The school yard in Convent School was bituminized for the cost of \$300. Father P Merks was transferred to the Cathedral Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1969 – his place being taken by Rev T Gaine who in turn left E Vic Park on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A terrible blow struck the parish on Saturday evening (at 7.30) January 24<sup>th</sup> 1970. Three young lads set fire to the parish hall and school. The fire brigade from Perth, South Perth, Victoria Park and Cannington saved four classrooms and front portion of the hall which was insured for \$10,000 and furnishings \$2000. Builder JJ Sommers of North Beach Parish with his quote of \$12,300 got the job of restoring Hall and school and did a very good job. A new cyclone fence around the school also improved the appearance of our parish equipment – it cost \$405.

In January-Feb 1970 the sanctuary in our church was brought up to date liturgically – costing in round figures \$1300. To this was added an electronic organ to replace old harmonium which had served the parish since its inception. The electronic organ was purchased from Rev Shoemaker congregational minister in Victoria Park for \$700. The presbytery inside and outside was painted for \$500. The water service with copper piping was also renewed around Berwick St side of church to toilets at back; also for \$220 the iron roofing of convent school northern side veranda was restored. The P&F Busy Bees reticulated the portion of school ground which was a sand patch. Then underway is building of new classroom at rear of the convent school – turning the undercroft into a very light and airy room at J Bianchini's price \$3854.



On July 31<sup>st</sup> 1971, I suffered a coronary celebrating nuptial mass and was taken by ambulance to St John of God Belmont. Father Harris OMI supplied until locum terens, Rev C Stinson was appointed until I resumed which never happened as soam jerems took on later on. I resigned parish under medical persuasion on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1971 and said farewell mass Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1971 (over 1000 present) and received a testimonial \$1051.14, plus \$184 Xmas dues!! So ends the reign of the founder of the parish from Virgin bush May 1935 – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1971 – Monseigneur Francis J O'Connor.

Fr Stinson was appointed parish priest in October 1971 but owing to ill health only held the position for twelve months. He died suddenly in St John of God Hospital Belmont. After the usual filling in time Fr P Farely was appointed in January 1973. He established the parish council in May 1973. They were officially received by His Grace Archbishop Goody on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1973 on the occasion of confirmation and Canonical Visitation. They are still doing well. They are responsible for the organising of prayer groups and discussion groups, the latter sometimes with great interest but often poor results. However you can only keep faith with God.



We will have Confirmation on August 16<sup>th</sup> 1978. Not much has happened in the parish since last Confirmation only the alteration of the sanctuary. The stone wall at the side of the sanctuary was removed and the floor raised to the level of the rest of the sanctuary. There was placed a lectern and further over the baptismal font. The work was blessed by Archbishop Goody on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1979.



The 'singing' room was converted to a 'reconciliation' room and Sunday sacristy. We are having Confirmation on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 1981. Bishop Quinn will officiate. Fr Farelly still reigns.

### **1984**

Father Phillip Farelly resigned on March 13<sup>th</sup> 1984, after 10 years service, and was replaced by Father Brian Harris who came to Our Lady Help of Christians after serving eleven years in St Jerome Parish, Spearwood. Fr Farelly is being cared for by the sisters of St John of God in the new priests' retirement units they had built. Monsignor McMahon and Fr Frank Kearnen are his neighbours. Thanks to the Columban Fathers who supplied the Pastoral needs of the people for the two months till Fr Harris took over as pastor being duly inducted by his Grace Archbishop William Foley DD on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1984. Peter Hamm, Principal of Xavier College resigned on 20/6/84 and was succeeded by Ron Dullard on 12/2/85 as principal. Eight new teachers joined the staff following eight resignations.

### **1985**

The previous year the school has been neglected spiritually and the mistake of making up numbers, saw many non catholic students and non catholic teachers lowering the catholic environment. Better things are expected in this new year of 1985.

The parish council received new blood as did the Xavier College board of management. The Legion of Mary and the St Vincent the Paul need new blood. The Hospital is visited regularly and mass celebrated every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Mass is celebrated for the inmates of Swan Cottage Homes each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month.

Three acolytes Paul Travers, Andy Pereira and John Bianchini were prepared and called to the ministry of acetylates in Oct 1984. These leading Catholic laymen assisted Father at Sunday mass and bring Holy Communion to the sick of the Community each weekend. Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1984 ushered in the Golden Jubilee year of the parish community and the Silver Jubilee of the church. A special mass was celebrated on Australia day followed by a BBQ. Christmas vigil masses were celebrated in the open air on the Xavier College Campus. Very cool weather kept the crowds down.

The numbers of peoples coming here to mass is growing. It is delightful to see the number of young couples and teenagers coming to the Sunday Eucharist. The Jubilee year ushered in the

memories and the great need this parish has is to build community to bring young and older members together to bond those who have opted to go elsewhere back to their home parish. With this in mind we drew up plans to extend the church and add on a foyer and a meeting room to cater for all – for the older members as well as the not so old a social-common meeting room cups of tea, books to read, films to be seen. Children’s liturgy on Sunday youth meeting nights, parish committee’s meetings – togetherness for sure. Eventually after much alteration of plans and builders, tenders were called and the job of additions given to Gladwell Industries for the sum of \$79,879.

The parish continues to grow slowly and this September averages 350 people each weekend. The sacrament programme is working well than the school. Teachers are working cohesively together and I visit the classroom each week having offered classroom masses at all levels during second term.

The Redemptorist fathers are visiting the 370 homes with Catholics living in residence and their week of preaching will see the spirit of God poured out on the cold and chill the warm and alive drawing us all together in the Lord. His Lordship Bishop Healy will administer confirmation after the mission on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Jubilee ceremonies finished with a solemn high mass celebrated with his Lordship Bishop Healy as principle celebrant with Frs Harris Way Hewitt, Hesse, Hannigan, Barry Whitely, Dowd and Barker on the feast of Our Lays Immaculate Conception December 8<sup>th</sup>. After mass at 11am a feast of food and drink was catered for in the parish hall by Pat Kenny from the Savoy Plaza. Over 550 people accepted our invitation and many old parishioners gathered to reminisce over the 50 years of parish community life. Many brought photographs and these were all displayed on the felt boards in the parish hall. Alice Corry made the jubilee cake and Father Harris cut the cake and all sang ‘For we are jolly good fellows’ John Bianchini president of the parish council thanked His Lordship and the many priests brothers sisters and past and present parishioners gathered in community to salute the pioneers. Father Farelly was absent on leave in Ireland. Christmas masses saw big crowds attend the in the church celebrations at 8pm and midnight and 9.30am Christmas morning.

## 1986

At long last the New Year saw the completion of the Parish Centre and the touch up to the extensions. The building was a muddled job and the builder Gladwell went bankrupt. John Kinnard was able to tidy all the loose end up at the end of the year.

Xavier College went from strength to strength under Mr Ron Dullard and his staff. Pupil numbers remained fairly static about 420. A grant was obtained to give work to 3 unemployed young peoples and under the supervision of Michael Downers and CEP programme, the school grounds were landscaped and a covered eating place was built for the sunny and the wintry days for all students and a peace grove was blessed by Archbishop Foley and dedicated by the Governor Professor Gordon Reed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1986.

The parish lost several elderly members though numbers remained fairly stable not as many young families moving in and the young peoples are going to the cathedral and surrounding parishes to fit in with their timetables and the parishes. The numbers at morning mass increased. In this area the acolytes were called upon in October November and early December as Father Harris had an eye operation. The Acolytes conducted a morning Eucharist service and generally cared for the needs of the parish during the week. Different priests were contracted to celebrate mass at the weekends.

One notable event was the 'back to the sacred heart sodality' organised by Mrs Rose Burke on the first Friday of June. 60 ladies many wearing their red ribbons and medals celebrated at the 5pm mass and shared tea in the parish centre afterwards.

The parish council, school board, the P&F, the catechists all worked on their own fields in catering for the spiritual, educational and liturgical need. The St Vincent the Paul Society is down to 3 members but continues to function. The sacrament programme saw Sr Mary Keely and Mrs Luisa Durkin and Mr Tony Murphy the class teachers conduct parent meetings and commitment ceremonies. Thirty pupils were presented for reconciliation and first Holy Communion.

Towards the end of the year the parishes in the zone were asked to count numbers at the weekend masses and think of the idea of amalgamation. We found numbers at the three masses varied

between 320 and 380. Christmas masses were celebrated indoors and sherry and Christmas cake shared after all masses.

### 1987

With the building programme now complete renewed efforts were made over the year to build up numbers, The 'Earthen Vessels' – the Saturday night folk group lost Keith and Wanda but gained several young girls who enjoy the singing. In July Anne and Peter Smith left for Bunbury and this leaves only Mark and Rita and by August signs were given that interest was waning.

Mr Francis Douglas joined Xavier College this year and his musical expertise and liturgical interests saw the children at Xavier learning to sing and to play many instruments – piano, organ and guitar. In August the parish purchased a beautiful big organ – full console. Our parish organists are enjoying the new sounds as are the parishioners. Numbers attending mass are building up to 400, though this figure still varies. The acolytes continue to assist the parish priest at mass and with the communions after final mass on Sunday. The council and the committees continue to work well. The Finance Committee – Dan Gotti, Dennis Ham, Pat Roberts and Father meet each month to review the financial needs of the parish and the commitment to the school loan taken out to 1999.

The outside of Presbytery and church was painted in the months of August. The presbytery was rewired, a very big job too, and a Solarhart hot water service is to replace the expensive oil heating service early next year.

Xavier College and the parish community were successful in being granted \$68,000 by the CEP programme. The 3 young people (different from last year) again under the supervision of Michael Dawnes brick paved the entry to the school and the parish hall. The hall is to be painted, new window treatments, new ceiling, and new kitchen. We hope to use it when the Archbishop comes for visitation and confirmation in Nov. The costing \$24,000 to the parish. This is now reduced to \$14,000 as we will see to the updating of the kitchen area next year.

The first Communion class numbers 31 and the college will present 38 young people for confirmation. Sr Mary our Co-ordinator has been working hard preparing the candidates. She took

them to York for a weekend away which benefited the young people greatly. Father Harris joined them Sat and offered the sacrament of reconciliation to the candidates. All but a couple responded.

### **1988**

The New Year sees two new teachers, Susan Leary (Yr 4) and Anita Rifici (yr 1) librarian Mrs Elizabeth Shepherd and new bursar Mrs Joyce Archen came onto Xavier College staff. Further improvements to the grounds and updating of the lighting sees the school buildings and grounds in great shape. The front of the old convent now the music department and school shop has been revamped with new brick fence and new lawns laid.

In May, Sophia Hamon long a resident in Waminda River Cottage Complex left the parish \$6776 in her will. The monies have been invested with the Chancery. The parish is running smoothly. The Golden Oldies meet every forth Wednesday and enjoy the variety of activities provided by Led and Molly Butson. Miss Anita Rifici from Xavier College has gathered around her several mothers to run a children's Sunday liturgy attracting some 20+ children each week to the 9.30am mass. Numbers at mass are growing thank god. The liturgy is enhanced by the singing groups and the altar servers are growing in numbers.

Several women in the parish became converts. One of these ladies Mrs Lyn Malateste gathered mothers around and set up a mothers play group which meets each Friday. Mothers and children use the parish centre and its facilities. It is a great sight to see the growing numbers of younger parents and then children mixing it with the 'oldies' at the morning tea after 9.30am mass each Sunday.

Just before Christmas, the parish installed ceiling fans throughout the church building and increased the lighting. These new benefits showed up well at the children's mass (vigil 7pm) and midnight mass. Great crowds came. Only 9.30am on Christmas Day this mass attracted 250 people. From Pentecost 88 to Pentecost 09 the called for a Year of mission – new people new life. Grass roots consultation and then the advent program saw great group activity in the parish. Some 35 people met regularly to discuss the strengths and weaknesses, the opportunities and threats to growth and development in the Archdiocese at all levels. Thus YO Mission has had the effect of drawing many wonderful young couples together. I am looking forward to them to perhaps lead the parish at council or executive level.

The school year ended with graduation masses at Yr 11 and Yr 7 levels. Next year we go to Yr 12. Over the last five months a working party comprising the PP, the principal, chairman school board (and repres from CEO) of Victoria Park and East Victoria Park – the 3 schools Xavier, St Joachim's High Street and St Joachim's Primary – working towards the amalgamation of both schools on two sites. Nothing really definite was declared.

## **1989**

The New Year began happily. Many of the parishioners were away but returned refreshed to throw themselves into the working out of their lives in the life of the parish. Some movement was obvious. Some old diehards left us in death, others moved to other parish communities, selling up their big family residence for the small unit (Daryl&Joan!). The advent of younger families and their little ones became obvious. Some declared their presence and we accepted them joyfully. Other families were hiding behind their non-practise (sadly).

Xavier College opened with great vigour. Only a couple of new teachers. Work began in earnest early in the year towards amalgamation with St Joachim's primary and secondary. By Oct '89 all was on step and the new principal was chosen – Mrs Anne Parker (formerly principal St Joachim's). The new name was chosen – Ursula Frayne Catholic College (the first religious (mercy) principal college owes her all the background. A new uniform colour and style was chosen. The teachers were assured of a position and all were satisfied. Ron Dullard, the principal left us for CEC. Planning officer Michael Dovenes left us for Kalgoorlie CBC – manual arts, Michael Carrol left us for Seton College – Chemistry master. The newly formed college will operate on two campuses in 1990.

The sacrament programme was divided. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr for 1<sup>st</sup> reconciliation and children in 4<sup>th</sup> Yr – Eucharist. The parents were to give their wholehearted backing and concert. More special ministers chosen – Margaret and John Wilcox, Len Winton, Kath Irving, Josephine Bertram. The Communion round is growing all the time.

The parish workload was steady. Many parishioners leaving through death and relocation. People growing older and needing more care spiritually. Thank God for the acolytes (Paul and Andy) and new Eucharist minister. Father Harris entered St John's for eye surgery Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. Successful thank

God. Parish council elected and in position Oct 1989. John Wilcox, Kevin Bertram, Cath McCabe, Pat O'Rourke, Peter Malatesta, Len Winton Dino Mariani.

Amalgamation of the colleges proceeding to Xavier on 3/12/89 the patronal feast of the college saw 500 parents, teachers and students celebrate Fr Peter Bianchini and old boy of college, Fr Tom McNulty, Frs Moester and Keogh Salesians concelebrated. Many old Mercy Sisters and about a dozen Anestea Bros swelled the ranks – nostalgia, memories all in readiness now for the combining of Ursula Frayne Catholic College in 1990. Michael Carrol leaves us for Seton and Frances Douglas – the music teacher for CEO. We wish them all well.

### **1990**

Our new college is Ursula Catholic College, Principal Mrs Anne Parker. The New Year began with Father Harris on the sick list. Father was in an accident two days before Christmas caused by a sudden drop in his physical health. Over the four months that followed his specialist ordered Father to test his blood sugar level four times a day as he injected himself four times with insulin. Gradually Father really came to be much better in health and has returned to his old self thanks to St Lucy (eyes) Dr Pancras (diabetes) and St Blaise (throat).

Many families went on leave over Jan and Feb. Evident in the parish area – the number of old homes now demolished to make way for the duplex, triplex scene. Numbers are on the slow increase. Young families became known because of the parent's desire for baptism for their little ones. Thank God for this otherwise they would never be known. So numbers are really steady.

Our new college Ursula Frayne opened in Feb and we soon resolved the big problem where next? At an interim board meet and at the school community meet it was resolved that the new year 1991 would see all the primary school (2 streams) on the Balmoral St Campus and all the Secondary School (8-12) on the Duncan St Campus eventually in 5 streams. Teachers were still on tender hooks as to their positions. Children in lower grades coming to Vic Park would be bussed down to East Vic Park. There were many liturgies and school masses to bring the new school together. The motto – Centred in Christ – is worn on every outer garment by all attached to the school. Am happy to report a more spiritual aspect to our education platform.

On the parish front, there are now two mothers play groups. The college gave us a grant to help us refurbish the old toilets \$9000. They are now our pride and joy. Several teachers left after term two, Michael Kennessy, Rosalie Wallace from our Balmoral St campus. There was celebrated first communion in May. Reconciliation will come up in Sept and confirmation in November.

The St Vincent de Paul Conference now has 9 members and has a wide outreach – 699 people were assisted and 516 families were visited. They made visits to hospitals and two institutions. Clothes and furniture were given to 80 and 70 people respectively. The parish donated \$950 to the work of the St Vincent de Paul – marvellous work indeed.

The work of our catechists is minimal but will grow with the years. We have three active catechists.

The parish council was a No No – somehow it never got off the ground. Finance Committee works with Father. The acolytes and special ministers are working really hard to reach all the house dependents. Many more people are moving into the parish as older single contacts and are housebound. Thank God for our special ministers Margaret and John Wilcox, Len Wenton, Kath Irving, Ray Patrony and our acolytes Paula Travers, Andy Pereira and John Bianchini.

No youth group – children's Sunday liturgy runs well and is drawing 30 children each Sunday to the parish centre conducted by parents and teachers. We have now introduced the practice of reciting the rosary before mass celebrated each weekday. Baptisms and marriages mainly for outsiders. Many funerals record the oldies are going to their reward.

In September the pews kneelers were lined with foam and carpet. A little luxury for our wonderful mass goers. For the presbytery a Solarhart energy source replaced the ancient oil heating system. The tank weathered and the commodity was no longer cheap. Happy to report the Ursula Frayne Catholic College is at last coming together. Busy bees are attended by 70-80 parents and ensure that the primary school (s streams) will be set up to function as from 1/1/91. All the primary school on the Balmoral St Campus.

I am sad to report many involved and loyal parishioners leaving for other areas. But am hopeful of many new families coming may become more involved. Parish Dinner is planned for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish Church. Special mass and dinner in the parish hall on 9<sup>th</sup> December



1990 at 12.30pm it will be fully catered for by Pat Kenny (Savoy Hotel). We are expecting His Lordship Bishop Healy for official visitation and administration of the sacrament and confirmation to our young men and women on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November at a special celebration and Eucharist at 11.30am.

The Bishops visitation came and went. His Lordship was not very well and so there were moments of stress for all. The Christmas masses were again very well attended especially the vigil mass conducted by the children for the little ones of the parish. We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mass with parishioners and all joined in the buffet tea afterwards – a fitting close to another year.

### 1991

The New Year was ushered in with a special mass to ask Mary our mother, helper of all Christians to bring us all closer to her Divine Son. January 1<sup>st</sup> is no longer a holy day of obligation but the crowds were there – those who wanted the blessing on their New Year and to thank God for the old year. Weddings and baptisms were many. Many families do go away on holidays taking advantage of the school break.

The opening school mass for the whole staff of Ursula Frayne Catholic College took place on the Balmoral St campus in our parish church. Truly great to have all the teachers and admin staff together (104). At long last all the primary children are on the Balmoral St campus (East Vic Park) and the secondary students are all on the Duncan St (Vic Park) campus. Here's hoping the two campuses will flourish. The school year began on 31/1/91 earlier than usual.

February saw the sudden death of our much loved and revered Archbishop William Joseph Foley. He died in the early hours of Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Bishop Healy was chosen administrator of the diocese. He is a great pastor. On the parish front numbers are going up and down – old people selling up and moving to units or to stay with family. A number of young families are moving in but are not very supportive.

On the school front some staff changes Sr Mary Keeley and Dennis Kelly both left us after serving the parish for 15 year. They were both farewelled with joy and sadness. Spiritually the parish is alive, numbers at morning mass are growing – the rosary is recited each morning and confessions are made available each day.

Numbers at Sunday masses (3) continue to fluctuate; five parishes in close proximity and most homes have a motor car. It is hard to keep all parishioners. The children's Sunday liturgy still attracts many little ones each week. The catechism team is working hard each Wednesday – not many children coming but this must change.

The folk group is almost gone. Joanna Davies, Maria Casalengo and Maria Schiavone lead the singing and music each Sunday. At last in June we invested in a new overhead screen projector. July 23<sup>rd</sup> saw the announcement of our new Archbishop. Quite a shock to most – His Lordship Bishop Hickey from Geraldton. He will be installed by Cardinal Clancy at the end of August as Archbishop of Perth.

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – On the school front we have prepared the children of year 3 for reconciliation and 40 children made their first confession. The children of year 4 will make their first communion at the end of October. It was decided to concentrate on the child receiving only one sacrament each year. Prior to this a child received both reconciliation and Holy Communion in the same year (Yr 3).

The parish grounds are looking great thanks to the weekly efforts of Len Wenton who cuts the main hedge and sees to the weeding etc. Len took Ted Butson's place as Ted moved to Rockingham earlier in the year. We have lost several great supporting parishioners over the year – Maurice Howard, Jack Carmody and John Bianchini to name a few. Johnny Bianchini's funeral was simply wondrous – packed church – standing room only – choir loft and outside. Bishop Healy and Bishop Hickey attended with some 75 priests, religious men and women and hundreds of friends. A man of God, a man of the church.

Thirty two Yr 4 students were prepared by their teachers Mrs Elliott and Mrs Bozae and received their first Holy Communion at the end of October. The catechists have been busy at work during the year and their little class on a Wednesday had benefited six children. It must grow with the passing time. The Beatty Ave State School has no reps the Millen State School two and four children from outside the parish.

The various appeals, mission, project compassion and the catholic community care appeal were all successful thanks to the wondrous generosity of the parishioners, mainly pensioners and working class people. The school year ended on a high note with the prospect of building and refurbishing on both campuses.

On the feast of St Lucy, I signed up with the Mercy order to have Sr Philomena Lowe work as my pastoral assistant visiting the parish over two days a week (\$7200 pa). Christmas crowds were down this year because we celebrated midnight at 10pm and we lost 100's!! Shall remedy the situation next year!!

## **1992**

The New Year began well with great crowds attending even tho it is no longer a holy day of obligation. Eight new lights – great balls of fire – replace the triple groups. They burn less electricity and certainly add to the beauty of the church. Priced at \$3,300 they are guaranteed for 30 years. To update our sound system, 2 new loudspeakers and four new microphones and amplifiers and radio mobile mike were purchased for \$10,300. Everyone present can now hear and see!! The people are giving well and can see where their money is being spent! I feel the church building has all it needs for the full presentation of the liturgy.

January end saw the coming together of the Balmoral Campus of Ursula Frayne College – all the 520 primary students from pre-primary to year 7 double stream. The new uniforms were 2/3 visible – all students must wear the proper college uniform in 1993. We lost only one teacher pre-primary, and the staff returned relaxed and ready for action.

The opening staff mass was celebrated in the parish church on January 28<sup>th</sup> and all college staff and a great blessing was given to the work of the teachers in catholic education, and the teachers themselves then entered a two day seminar on curricula planning and administration.

At a meeting of the RE program is planned to celebrate a parish mass with the teachers and children of particular grades conducting the liturgy. Full use will be made of the new sound system!!! Each class will take it in turns to conduct a class mass on the Wed of each week. Parish and school working close together.

The pastoral assistant Sr Philomena had January off and began work Feb, working through the census and visiting the various families in the streets recorded in the census box. She reports to the parish priest each week on all the case histories. Sister is a former teacher from Xavier College days – a good talker and a better listener. Sister works 2 days a week.

All the committees are working well. Some parishioners are calling for a parish council. What we want here with small numbers are peoples of action not talkers and watchers!! The acolytes and special ministers are working well. More and more oldies are becoming housebound and need the services of these special ministers.

Numbers attending have not increased. Some 14 families have left and others have become house/hospital bound. Many units have been built in the Swansea and Hubert St Area. Many old homes demolished and clusters of units built in their place.

Over the year, Yr 3 students were presented for reconciliation (We are now dividing the reception of the sacraments. Yr 3 for reconciliation, Yr 4 for Holy Communion). This took place in July. At the end of term 3 the Yr 4 students were presented for Holy Communion. We are having confirmation each year.



A new format was introduced whereby confirmation becomes parish based not school as are the other sacraments. Sister Philomena and our chief catechists Lois Seman and Lisby Everett

prepared the twelve candidates and presented them to Monsignor Michael Keating. Because of the small numbers it was truly personal and memorable. This took place on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Am happy to report Ursula Frayne Catholic College is coming together. The board signed up with builders Gladwell with Tom Rushton as architect for \$1.9 million expansions and renovation due to be completed for the start of 1993 school year.

### **1993**

The New Year began quietly and the school opened early February. Miss Grace Ricardi is the deputy principal primary as Jun Di Carlo is on long service. The builders are going real slow and the finishing data looks now to be April 14<sup>th</sup>. The official opening is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Classes here in the primary saw the moving around of teachers and two new faces Bill Pavey and Karen Forsight. The principal Anne Parker keeps up the terrific pace but is well and also well up wit all that is!

Church crowds are on the increase slightly with more Indians and Burmese attending. At Mrs Jo Courtneys invitation we have purchased 200 new hymnals to lift up the singing. Mrs Grubb and Mrs McCabe have begun a parish/school choir which has great promise.

Numbers of families continue to fluctuate. Sister Philomena began work Feb and went overseas on 3 months long service in April 15<sup>th</sup>. She has been doing visitation and leader of discussion groups and drumming up the liturgy. A wonderful help on the parish front. Sister returned 15<sup>th</sup> July just in time to prepare the parish for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Harris as a priest. It was a wonderful parish mass – the liturgy was extra special, the floral arrangements made a sight to appreciate, the parish choir (Mrs McCabe) and the school choir (Mrs Grubb) provided the music for the day of celebration.

A crowd of 380 packed the parish church and everyone (220) went down to the parish hall for a catered smorgasbord luncheon. Mrs Alice Corry was the organiser of the day and Jack Billing presented Father Brian with a cheque for \$1000 (given by the parishioners) just before Father cut his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake. What a most memorable day.

Ursula Frayne Catholic College presents a beautiful sight as one passes by on Shepperton Rd. Lots of money and improvements have seen a big updating of facilities both at Duncan St campus (senior school) and the Balmoral St (Primary school). The various awards granted to students in the musical field and the performing arts – dancing poetry and verse show the expertise and high achievement of the students.

The catholic faith continues to grow through the weekly masses and liturgies and the sacrament programs (reconciliation Yr 3, Holy Communion Yr 4, Confirmation Yr 7 onwards). Father Gerry Haulahan is coming in Nov to confirm 16 candidates.

Mr Jun De Carlo has been appointed Principal of Servite Primary from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1994. His successor is Mr Hamish Valentine, presently principal of the junior school, Trinity College. The senior students put on 'The Boyfriend' at the theatre of performing arts within our Ursula Frayne College. A splendid production. The mother's playgroup continues to grow. There are two groups of a dozen mother meeting one on Tuesday, the other on Friday.

Nov – the St Vincent de Paul Conference now boasts of 12 members and they have invested in a big freezer which saves lots of dollars. The members are kept very busy with the food parcels and visits to the needy families. The catechists also are drawing a few more children from the two surrounding govt schools. At long last!!

### **1994**

How time flies! A lovely crowd of parishioners welcomed the New Year for a thanksgiving mass – no longer a holy day yet we gathered to ask Mary the mother of God – Help of Christians – to be with us every moment of everyday. Being an elderly citizen's community there has been many more funerals these six months. Some new families are moving in but do not want to be named! Or to be committed. We have a wonderful and dedicated band of generous and committed parishioners.

The list of elderly and home based parishioners grows and every month we appeal for more acolytes and special ministers to attend to their needs. Those committed to this ministry to the sick deserve a medal.

This is a special year – The international year of the family. The parish executive have planned a family get – together each month drawing young and old to the gas BBQ, donated by the Stuart and Paula Bell family. The last weekend of every month something is planned around a meal.

The Swan Cottage Chapel sees the elderly citizens of this immense retirement village come together twice a month for mass. The first Wednesday is a healing mass. Some 18-22 men and women gather to renew friendships. Each Sunday the parish bus brings 14-18 seniors to the 9.30am mass in the parish. Well done bus drivers.

The Ursula Frayne Catholic College School year began on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb with the new head of primary, Mr Hamish Valentine at the helm. All teachers were in great shape after a six week holiday. Numbers were on the increase 1008 – primary and secondary. This I felt was the first positive year to prove co-education is a success. The principal – Mrs Anne Parked was in great form – a very gifted and workaholic teacher giving us all a supreme example of dedication and efficiency. Over the six months Arthur Nunes retired (17 years on the staff) and Bill Pusey (18 months on staff) left us and staff were chosen to replace them – Mrs Tracey O’Toole took over Yr 7 AN and Thomas Roberts took over 6BP. I feel all is going nicely on the primary campus – the parish is pouring \$13000 pa to meet our commitment and to establish a base for the parish tax deductibility. The final basis of finance is secure and my only worry is the number of families not paying fees. (The fee structure is minimal compared to other catholic colleges). There are many opportunities offered for parents and staff to come together.

Easter came and went. The ceremonies were well carried out – without pomp and circumstance. Because my priestly ministry over the 40 years I have many baptisms and marriages from outside the parish. The first six months have been very heavy. Sister Philomena continues to visit the senior citizens of our closely knit parish. She is a truly compassionate woman, well loved by the special group she attends. The confirmation class is her responsibility and sister is right on the ball. We have 14 students to present to Mons Peter McCrann on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1994 for the sacrament of confirmation.

The parish catechists are on the job each week during school terms. Lois, Lishe and Doreen are hard at work each Wed seeing to the spiritual needs of a growing number of children. At long last

we are viable – in fact we could do with more catechists. The poor and needy are looked after by an energetical and caring St Vincent de Paul Conference. Their poor peoples mass takes place on 13/14 August. We have 10 members serving the public.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July, Lee and Gary Blair, Ryan and Elle Blair invited special friends and myself to our first home mass to bless and consecrate their beautiful new home in Etwell St. 'Twas a lovely occasion – Mass and supper. In this international year of the family I hope to get a list of families who will have their own home mass.

Because of IYOF, I asked Meepi and Mel Capone to produce a lovely banner which they did. It hangs on the left hand side of the sanctuary. On 21<sup>st</sup> August, Monsignor Peter McGrann administered the sacrament of confirmation to sixteen candidates. Sister Philomena was coordinator of the programme and conducted a first class programme assisted by our parish catechists Lois Seman, Lishe Everett and Doreen Sayce. These three devoted catechists helped the school teachers Teresa Dorman and Sylvia Marchant in the first communion programme on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

The first reconciliation programme was finalised in July. All the sacrament programs went off successfully. September saw the outside of the church thoroughly painted and early November the outside of the presbytery. Ideal Painters came in (six men) and effected the job in a couple of days.

How the year has flown!! The AGM of the school board is set for 28<sup>th</sup> Nov and the final speech and award night 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. Father Harris is to have a week off in Broome 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. On his return all was set for the end of the year and preparations for Christmas. The Christmas Masses were well attended- numbers steady. Many people go away for the holidays. All is quiet with the school closed for the holidays.

## **1995**

The New Year began quietly, Father Harris took January off recovering from a smashed elbow – in the care of the sisters if St John of God, Safety Bay. He returned at end of January a new man – Sister Margaret arranged a new meal set up at Waminda and engaged Teresa Harmen as housecleaner each week.



The school opened for business on 31<sup>st</sup> January '95. Numbers of students – 1024 and fourteen new teachers made for a stronger school community and a more stable and viable financial proposition. Mrs Anne Parker is our Principal and we have a head of Secondary Ian Hales and a head of Primary Hamish Valentine.

1995 is the Diamond Jubilee of our parish community established 8<sup>th</sup> December 1935. We have formed a Jubilee Committee – Kathy McCabe, Alice Corry, Gary Blair, Peter Malatesta, Tony Muratore, Shirley Davies, Sister Philomena, Danny Gotte, Paula Bell, Dennis Kelly, Linda Maier and Father Harris.

This Jubilee Committee will be responsible for planning and management of preparation for the big day to be celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> December with mass (concelebrated with Bishop Healy) and buffet luncheon. Parishes around about have been notified and all are invited to express their intention to attend. It will be a catered for event and all will be asked to pay for their luncheon.

The parish community continues to maintain a steady pace. Families come and go balancing out fairly well. We still keep numbers for all weekend masses and these numbers show a drop in attendance. The St Vincent de Paul Society continues to serve the poor and needy of the area. The over 40 club meets each month and draws 20-30 to the meeting. Tours are conducted every two months and are well received.

The children's liturgy on Sundays lapsed towards the end of last year but plans are a foot (May) to start up again thanks to Lynne and Peter Malatesta. The mother's playgroup Tues and Fri continues to grow. Some 20 mothers in both days bring their little ones to the parish centre for 2 1/2 hours. Well organised and well conducted – the only damage done to the sprinklers!! Tony Muratore is chief of sprinklers and landscaping, Michael Evans cuts the hedge and is chief of operations – odd jobs, Anthea Thornley waters the inside greens on the sanctuary.

We received five new special ministers and 1 new acolyte on the feast of Corpus Christi. The work of the ministers to the sick is done with great devotion and compassion. We lost Len Wenton, Patrick Donnelly and Raphael Mahony over the 11/2 years. The ministers at the altar meet every month. Confirmation classes begin May 3<sup>rd</sup> under the guidance of sister Philomena. Sister P is doing great

work around the parish visiting, teaching and counselling. Every first Sunday of the month we hold a Holy Hour at 5pm conducted by Sister Philomena. This Eucharist programme began in June. We have formed a committee to plan the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in December. The big day – 10<sup>th</sup> December '95 with a special mass at 10.30am. Bishop Healy has accepted the role of chief celebrant. Invitations are to be sent out to the priests who once lived here and who served the people as assistant priests. The religious sisters and brothers have been invited as special guests and for this we had a special fundraising – 100 club, cake stalls, film afternoon, all in all raising \$2000 over the six months. The price of entry for parishioners old and new was set at \$10 for adult and \$5 for children under 12. Admission by sticker only. At our final meeting 4/12/95 close to 290 adults and 32 children have tickets. Promises to be a great celebration – catered for by Harmony Caterers. Cathie McCabe and Sister Philomena are in charge of the liturgy and liturgical movements. The Julian Singers have accepted the musical role – they are to be fed after mass in the parish centre.

Fr Gerry Hanlahan and myself, Father Brian Harris will assist the Bishop. Acolytes and ministers of the eucharist will see to the communion reception. It promises to be a great day. The papal blessing has been obtained and will be presented to the parish by the bishop on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. The actual day is the 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Mary's Immaculate Conception day, our Jubilee day.

The school community is truly go-go. Building work has begun in preparation for building two new Pre-primary, new tuckshop, several new classrooms and generally a reorganisation of buildings on the limited school ground space. The Diamond Jubilee of the parish was celebrated with great joy on the 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10.30am mass in the parish church. Bishop Robert Healy was the main concelebrant. The liturgy was beautifully prepared and presented the singing by the Jubilan singers was most memorable (especially the credo). All guest and parishioners some 330 of them adjourned to the parish/school hall the original church building for a buffet luncheon. It sure was a mighty bun fight!!! I learned a few things that day – how to organise a crowd like that for a luncheon set out on 3 tables. All in all – well done committee and people of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The primary school finished the next week. Ten teachers are leaving so that will put a strain on senior management to get replacements. We must engage the best for Ursula Frayne College. The Christmas timetable was a simple one and crowds were modest in number but devout and sincere in

their presence and involvement. Vigil mass at 7.30pm and Christmas day 9.30 am (505 people). Father Harris kept real well and all was well!

## **1996**

The New Year began quietly with a large crowd of parishioners at morning mass to ask God's blessing on the New Year. Father Harris took a holiday break for the week. January is usually a relaxed month, bringing in the school children at the end of January. We opened the school year with all the staff at Ursula Frayne catholic College celebrating together at a well prepared Eucharist both campuses coming together. Father Bert Fullbrook (Chaplain at Duncan St High School) joined me in a concelebration. Our oldest parishioner, Mrs Jessie Stockden turned 95 years the next day.

The school opened with 493 children on our Balmoral Campus recording 12 children in Kindergarten – a new addition to the school family. We welcomed ten new teachers and Miss Piccardi and Mr Hansen shared the roles of head of primary as Hamish Valentine was on long service leave. Lots of building had taken place during the holidays and well into the first term. Four new classrooms and a new tennis court/netball court area cleared and erected.

Father Harris went to Broome for the Episcopal Ordination of Chris Baudets in early February. A wonderful experience. The acolytes and special ministers are most active taking the Blessed Sacrament to the sick of the parish. With every passing year we notice the aging parish seeing the passing of our senior citizens and others moving into rest homes and hospitals. The St Vincent de Paul Society is still very busy caring for the many poor and needy of the parish both catholic and non-catholic. What a wonderful calling is theirs.

On the ecumenical side of pastoral life the men and women meet with others on prayer days – World Day of Prayer. This year held at St Joachim's – our turn next year!! The children's playground on Tuesday and Friday mornings is drawing some twelve mothers to each session. Plenty of children too! Their shed is bulging with plastic toys.

The children's Sunday liturgy has lost a couple of teachers, but still battles on drawing the lucky children who come to mass each 9.30am. The altar society committee continues to keep the church sanctuary clean and filled with lovely flowers. Thank you ladies. The Catechists work very solidly

during the school terms and are preparing the children for their first reconciliation and Holy Communion. Thanks Lois Seman, Lisbey Everett and Doreen Sayce.

Sister Philomena is our wonderful pastoral worker, visiting the sick and the elderly. Her brother who became very sick drew her home to Ireland. She stayed to comfort her family members when Christopher Lowe went to his reward. Sister was away some six weeks. We thank sister for the devoted teaching role she plays out as she prepared the children for their confirmation this September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The class teachers and Father Harris are busy in this third term getting the year fours ready for their first holy communion Father Brian interviewed all the parents. The year three's were prepared for their first confession and received the sacrament on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1996. The first communion classes (two of them) will receive the bread of life on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 48 students in all. The school board is coping with the prospect of losing our Principal Mrs Anne Parker after 12 years. We will welcome the New Principal Mrs Jennifer Nicol in the New Year 1997.

The P+F association has been working very well and is especially geared to the FETE to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> September, the occasion of Bishop Healy's official visit to the parish is almost six years since he has been. The parish looks forward to his coming.

The visit of our Bishop was well received. Our parish community welcomed him with great joy and were open to him at the parish meeting on the Sunday night. The confirmation ceremony went off without a hitch.

Of note was the carpeting of the church and the parish centre at a cost of \$7500. It has lifted both buildings – a royal burgundy colour with little stars inset!! Great to see. The year came to a great ending. Many farewells to Anne Parker from school and parish – a wonderful Christmas programme – sizeable crowds, manageable for Father. Weather just right. We look forward to the year of Jesus.

## 1997

The New Year – the year of Jesus – began quietly as many families took advantage of the school holidays and went away. The social committee organised a parish BBQ which brought 33 people together to celebrate the New Year. Ursula Frayne Catholic College opened its doors at the end

of January for another new year. Pupil numbers are up over the 1000 and some new staff members were welcomed at the service day.

Every first Friday we celebrate healing mass and administer the sacrament of anointing. Every first Sunday sister Philomena conducts a Holy Hour. Numbers are small but the devotion is very evident. The Lenten season began with the focus on the morning mass and sister conducted a Lenten programme to prepare a group of interested parishioners for Easter. Sadly on Palm Sunday the leader of our music and director of the choir Katchy McCabe suffered a collapse and the Easter Liturgy was largely sans music. Am happy to report – eight weeks later, Kathy is back with us but now leaving the parish for a larger home for her large family.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> March the Legion of Mary Praesidium was set up under the guidance of Tony Pitchford. The president of senatus. Eight parishioners came along. All were on probation for 12 weeks. First week of may saw David O'Rourke elected president, Lorna Langley treasurer and Sybil Gordon secretary, Linda Maier is on leave in Austria. Agnes Johns is seconded from Manning to balance numbers! Father Harris as Chaplain attends each week to help steer the tiny craft.

The Yrs 3's are busy preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation and sister Philomena and the catechists busy preparing a large number of Yr 7's for Confirmation. The returned Bishop of Broome – Bishop Jobst is the confirming prelate. On the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians May 24<sup>th</sup>, the archbishop made his first visit to the parish. He was well received and joined us for supper in the parish centre after the evening mass. He used the visit to bless a group of pro-lifers (anti abortion) who had joined us from Rivervale-Belmont areas.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, Father Harris blessed Xavier House. This building (situated next door to the presbytery) used to be the convent of Mercy for the sisters in the area. It is now the music centre and will be used by the P+F assoc for their meetings. Using the front part of the building.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June, 40 Yr 7 students were presented to Bishop Jobst for Confirmation. They were a difficult group, immature and from poor family background. They gave sister Philomena and the Catechists a hard time at the night classes. I decided after consultation never to present a Yr 7 class

for the sacrament of confirmation. From now on the presentable age will be 15/16 yrs of age. The ceremonies went well especially the music thanks to Davina Farinola and Luke Hines.

At the end of term 2, forty children were presented for the 2<sup>nd</sup> rite of reconciliation. All went well. Early July I attended seminar at St Thomas More College – Clergy formation. In August Peter Collins was chosen to take the place of Kevin Tutt the vice principle of Ursula Frayne Catholic College. Kevin was returning to Adelaide.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 39 boys and girls made their first Holy Communion – too big a crowd at 11.30am. Made the decision from now on to send children to their own parish for the sacraments of reconciliation and communion. The parish must be the focus of their catholic life.

The school year came to a busy conclusion with graduation and awards nights and masses celebrated to thank God for the academic year. The pastoral scene was quite busy too, plenty of baptisms (49 all told) marriages five and funerals (13). The Christmas masses were beautiful, ceremonies and the crowds ample. The altar society ladies did our beautiful sanctuary well, golden altar cloth and cope to match made it a royal salute for the Infant J king.

### **1998 - Year of the Holy Spirit**

The New Year began with a great crowd of parishioners at morning mass (104) to ask for Gods blessing on us all and Mary Our Mother to help us and guide us. At the end of January the new school year began with new structuring in place. Prep school PP to Yr 3, Junior School Yr 3to Yr 6, Middle School, Yr 7- Yr 10 and senior school Yr 10-Yr 12. This means that the Yr 7's would be moving over to the Duncan St campus later in the year. Several new teachers joined our staff and this primary campus, sadly all women. Vary few male teachers even apply for position on the primary campus.

The catechists began work in earnest with only eight children to prepare for the sacrament programmes. Sister Philomena returned to continue her invaluable work of visiting the sick and elderly in the parish. The pastoral work continues – I have conducted twelve funerals in the eight months of the year, 16 baptisms with five marriages. From the bookings I have received there will be another eight around the diocese. A questionnaire was put out in July and many people came forward to help

with the cleaning of the church washing. Another bus driver came forwards and many new readers and families donate flowers. The church sanctuary looks very beautiful all the time.

Tony and Maria Mancini retired from cleaning the church after twelve years and Jan Fernandes and Claudette Gibson have taken over every fortnight. They receive (\$10 and hour each). The children's playgroup ladies (Tues & Fri) organised a new paved side path right up to the toy shed. I know it was a good move. The Swan Cottage community and the Rowethorpe community provide many calls on our special ministers and acolytes. These men and women do a great work caring for the sick and homebound.

### **1999 – Year of God the father**

The year began with a great crowd of parishioners at morning mass to celebrate the feast of Mary, the mother of God. This parish community has always had a strong devotion to Mary. Attendance at Sunday masses remains consistent 230-270. Several funerals and parishioners moving to rest homes account for the drop in sacramental numbers!!

The Ursula Frayne College opened on time in Feb '99. The principal, Jennifer Nicol was seconded to Notre Dame University of Australia. John Armstrong became acting principal. Many changes in staffing. Here's hoping for some stability. Pupil numbers have dropped somewhat. General tone of school good.

In October the parish pastoral council was set up with Teresa Harmen in the chair. Members – Mary Ellen and Bert Spadanuda, Mark Hughes, Dennis Kelly, Mini Hanna, Nuccia Eyres, Shirley Davis, sister Philomena, Paul Constantino, Shirley White, Tony Muratore. This was very important for the life of the parish community. The legion of Mary and the St Vincent de Paul continue to flourish. Visitation of parishioners with attention to the sick and elderly and the food parcels brought to those in need.

The sacrament programme presented problems. Some non active Catholics at the school refused to bring their children to their OWN parish priest to receive the sacraments. Father Harris was summoned to the Bishop and reported it was diocese policy that children at catholic schools receive the sacraments in their own parish church because Ursula Frayne is a regional school it is

necessary to work with the other priests in the zone to accept the extras in their program. Parents with little faith only wanted the sacramental stamp of approval. It will take some years to convince these people! In the main the faith filled catholic parents were right behind Father Harris. The victors wound the day!! Some families had to attend the EVP parish on order to win a jumper! And their children receive the sacraments.

Hospital work continues with the help of the special ministers and acolytes. Bless them. The Christmas crowds were about the same. Masses 7.30pm, midnight mass Christmas day 9.30am, 730 attended.

## 2000

The joyful hymn “all the earth proclaim the lord, sing your praise to God” ushered in the jubilee year 2000. It is the 28<sup>th</sup> in history and was proclaimed by Pope John Paul II for this year 2000. The apostolic letter “*Lertio Millenio Advemente*” was published on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1994. It fits into the preceding jubilee but with a special significance, being the beginning of a new millennium, a fullness of time and a closing of a millennium marked with sad and joyous events.

In our catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and consequently of solidarity, of hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and peace with our brothers and sisters. A jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

As parish community, we gathered at the end of December with the evening mass. Before the mass we blessed the Parish Holy Door and all who entered through the door proclaimed the glory of God and asked God’s-Grace and favour for all who inter through the door. All the Parishioners prayed for the needs of the church in the New Millenium –World peace and Unity among the faithful and the peoples of the world.

The year was lived out in Faith, Hope and Love. We lost many people in death and gained many more in Baptism. Among the deceased we mourned the passing of Josephine Courtney who was Parish Organist and Reader for many years. She was an inspiration in serving the needs of the poor and needy as President of the St Vincent de Paul conference. We also lost Sister Philomena Lowe a



Mercy Sister who was our Pastoral assistant, assisting Father Harris in the Parish Community, visiting the houses of the faithful – two days in the week.

In September Arch-Bishop Hickey came to administer Confirmation to eleven children in the Parish. Bishop Healy also formally visited and received the reports of the various Parish Committees. The Acolytes and special ministers were commended for their untiring service to the Eucharistic needs of the sick in the home and in the hostels and hospitals.



#### **2001 – 2005**

2002 after the Jubilee year the Parish Council had a change in members. Teresa Harmer became the President and focused our attention on the house and church buildings. We planned in 2001 and went to work renovating and updating. Thresas background in house building came into good use. The whole house was transformed. New carpets were laid throughout and every room was painted a different soft pastel shade. It freshened up the house and made a terrific difference. The council members all became involved and had a hand in the planning and renovations.

Sister Philomena passed away and was replaced by Sister Gemma who continued the work of visitation. The work load became a bit much and she was replaced by Sister Elena a more robust lady from the farming district of the wheat belt.

2003 saw the transformation of the outside of the Presbytery. A patio was laid and the gazebo erected on the garden paving stones. A splendid outdoor setting – lending itself to barbeques and external activities for the Parish... We have regular BBQ's for the young people and the seniors!



Celebrations during these years – focused on Father Brian Harris (Our Parish Priest since 1984) who celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 2003. This was a year of great planning and jubilation. Both Parish and school joined in feting and Pastor emeritus His 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2000 and his 20 years in 2004 were also kept as milestones shared by all in the Parish family.



Sister Elena left the Parish in 2004 and was succeeded by Sister Maureen who continued the wonderful work of visitation of people in their homes. How lucky we are to have such dedicated pastoral assistants.



2004 after a years planning, the Council took the big step and charged the Sanctuary painting the back wall (and a big one it is) and regilding the Tabernacle and setting up new lighting to brighten up the whole electrics – over the altar, around the Tabernacle and also the Lectern. At last readers can see!!

We thank Heather Gilmore, President of the Council for many tasteful and effective colour schemes. Tis fresh and new appearance and a delight to use.





The Parish Council works very efficiently and effectively in the Parish community covering the financial, pastoral, administration and social areas of Parish life. We thank them for giving their time and their expertise, the sharing of their many gifts.



We await the official visit of our Archbishop, Rev. Barry James Hickey in the month of November. Planning has taken up our time and energies – all must go well for his coming to us.