

footprints

JOURNAL OF THE MELBOURNE DIOCESAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Volume 33, Number 1

June 2018



(Above:) St Brigid's Church, Fitzroy North; *(Below:)* St Brigid's Presbytery



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Subscriptions

Subscriptions are \$16.50 (incl. GST) per year.

Individual copies are \$8.25 (incl. GST).

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Footprints © MDHC Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne 2018

ISSN 0015–9115

Front cover photos: © MDHC Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

EDITORIAL

This June 2018 issue of *Footprints* focuses on the Parish of Fitzroy North, St Brigid's. About 15–20 years ago, two large scrapbooks 1883–1968 and 1968–1985, were donated to the Archdiocesan Archive. They now form the bulk of this issue. They have been lovingly compiled by the Parishioners and carefully preserved. The books themselves have been hand made. Considered by the Parish to be archival treasures, they have been placed in the Archdiocesan Archive. The scrapbooks present a folk history of the building of a parish. They illustrate parishioners, priests and nuns working together to create a community. Their legacy is visible in the buildings and the church works that support them. As an immigrant parish, St Brigid's is a microcosm of the multicultural development of Melbourne. We have included a history of St Brigid's compiled at the same time by Sister Camilla, to celebrate the Parish Centenary 1883–1983. We acknowledge the dedicated work in this booklet.

I expect that the scrapbooks were created to store the vast amount of historical material that was gathered to write this history. It is likely that if these two chronologically arranged scrapbooks had not been created, the photographs, newspaper cuttings, documents and text therein, may have been scattered and lost over time. But they have been retained and we are lucky and grateful. I hope you enjoy them.

Rachel Naughton
Editor of this edition

Archivist's Note on Scrapbooking:

As an Archivist, I would not recommend scrapbooking as a method for preservation. The glue is possibly acidic, the background paper could be also, nothing can be removed and the large size makes them difficult to store. They are also difficult to reproduce in a size that can be read easily. However they are a fascinating historical record.

Archival scrapbooks and archival glue do exist in specialist shops, and for anyone who is interested, are worth investigating.

FAITH-FILLED PIONEERS: 1883–1983

Compiled by Sister Camila, assisted by Parish Priest, Father Anthony Fregolent, the Centenary Committee and many friends and donors from the parish and the area.

It is dedicated to the faithful and loyal parishioners of St Brigid's living and dead.

In 1853 North Fitzroy was known as 'The Quarries' because of the number in the area. It also boasted a swamp north of Smith Street which was often submerged after heavy rains. While Collingwood was progressing as an industrial area, and expensive homes were being built in East Melbourne, the people of Fitzroy were waiting for someone to recognise their needs. Fortunately they had champions in the first committee of citizens elected in 1854. With determination and persistence, they persuaded the Government to pass the Fitzroy Ward Improvement Act, appropriating £50,000 for streets, drainage and sanitation improvements. It was one thing to have an act passed, but quite another to get money to implement its recommendations. However those early citizens were prepared to fight for their rights, and soon Fitzroy was transformed from a swampy bushland into a modern city.

Many of the settlers were church-going people of various faiths, and soon chapels and churches appeared, all denominations contributing to the cost of the buildings.

The fine buildings in use today bear witness to the faith of those early pioneers.

The Beginnings – 1869

Originally Fitzroy was part of the Cathedral Parish but because of distance and increasing numbers there was need for a more central place of worship. So, on 14 February 1869, the foundation stone of St Brigid's was laid and within two years a small decorative Gothic church was built on the present site. A parchment scroll was placed in the cavity of the foundation stone and read:

On 12th October, 1873, Pius IX ruling the Church, James Gould, being Bishop of Melbourne and Sir George Bowen, Governor of the Colony, The Very Reverend Dean Donaghy assisted by Reverend W. Kelly, J.P. O'Sullivan and a large concourse of the faithful, laid the Foundation Stone of the chancel of St BRIGID'S, NORTH FITZROY ... To all present and to all benefactors, health, true peace and happiness eternal. Amen

(A simple cross ✕ marks the spot and can still be seen today.)

In 1878 Fitzroy became a city. The number of Catholics in the district was increasing rapidly, so it became necessary to extend the nave of the church to its present length. At about the same time a school was set up in Kerr Street and later transferred to the Nicholson Street site.

On 10 January 1883, North Fitzroy was made a separate parish and Father McKenna appointed as first Parish Priest. During the years of his pastorate he built the presbytery, extended the church by adding side aisles and a vestry, and reconstructed the present school.

Until 1885, the priests had been living some distance from the church in houses situated in Brunswick Street (between the Cricket Ground and Alexandra Parade). The new presbytery was built in the Victorian style on the Nicholson Street site in close proximity to the church. Instead of the heavy stonework apparent today, the balconies were supported by slender pillars and delicate iron lacing. The verandahs were added by Father Parker in the late 1920s.

The early parishioners sacrificed much to provide the best possible buildings that would stand for many generations. One such building was the school-hall built in 1897; but on 10 February 1917 the hall was completely destroyed by fire – only the framework remained.

The present hall is somewhat different from the original (for example, the beautifully carved ceiling has been replaced by a simpler style), but in spite of changes in construction it is still the same great monument of 1897.

School and Convent

Originally the school was staffed by lay teachers. Then in 1886, in response to Dean McKenna's request, the Sisters of Mercy from the Academy took charge of the Girls School while the boys were taught by lay teachers under a headmaster. In 1905 the Sisters of Mercy were replaced by the Good Samaritan Sisters who then took charge of both boys and girls in a co-educational school.

Until 1914 the Sisters travelled daily by cab from Northcote. In that year they took up residence in the cottage on the site of the convent. Early in 1918 the community moved to 'Tara', the brick villa at the corner of Newry and Nicholson Streets. On 20 October 1919 the foundation stone of the new convent in Alexandra Parade was laid by Archbishop Mannix, and in 1920 the Sisters – 15 in number – moved into their new home.

Father Parker then turned his attention to the school. At that time classes were conducted in the rooms attached to the hall, in a covered verandah on the York Street side of the hall, and in a temporary wooden

building (Infants' School). With the growth of the area, the number of children attending the school increased to the stage where this accommodation became inadequate.

Land became available in York Street; so this was acquired as the site for a new school. In 1924, Father Parker's dream of a really outstanding school was realised when the present red brick building was blessed and opened.

The new school was much more than the usual primary school of those days. It provided a Commercial Course and up to Second Year (Leaving) High School and it accommodated more than 1,000 pupils. In addition, music tuition was given in singing and several instruments. (It was sometimes referred to as a 'mini University'.)

The Commercial Class continued until 1970 and the High School closed in 1974. The number of pupils has dropped to 200.

In July 1980, fire destroyed two classrooms and badly damaged others. The task of repairing the burnt-out part of the building was extended to refurbishing and updating the whole school.

St Mark's Church – North Carlton

Geographically St Brigid's is a large parish and the north-western section is a considerable distance from the parish church. The need for a 'Chapel of Ease' and a junior school was seen by Dr Kelly in 1907, and to provide these two facilities he purchased a block of land at the corner of Lygon and Patterson Streets, consisting of three allotments.

By 1935 the population had increased considerably and some money was available so the present Church-School was built, blessed and opened by Archbishop Mannix.

Until about 1970 it served as both church and school. Two Sisters from St Brigid's had four classes there (Preps to Gr, IV). However, because of the change in the make-up of the population in the area, the number of children gradually dropped until there were not sufficient numbers for a school to function.

As a Church it serves well the purpose for which it was built. Most of the parishioners in Princes Hill are no longer young and as well as distance there are three main traffic arteries between there and St Brigid's; so both the Sunday and the weekday Masses are well attended.

St Ita's Central School

In 1930 two Central Schools were set up – one for boys and one for girls. The boys school was St Colman's in the grounds of St Patrick's School, Fitzroy; the girls' was at St Brigid's and known as St Ita's with Sr Emilian in charge.

Forty scholarships were offered by the Archbishop each year and were allotted to students gaining highest marks in an examination that was open to 7th Grade pupils in Victorian Catholic schools. The Diocesan Scholarships, as they were called, entitled the holder to one year's special training at the Central School for a highly competitive Junior Government Scholarship examination. The Government Scholarship covered four year's tuition at a High School and was a much sought-after award. The Central Schools operated very successfully until 1967 when the Government allotted its Scholarships on a per capita basis instead of in an open competitive examination; the Central Schools were then no longer needed and St Ita's closed.

In its 37 years of existence St Ita's helped hundreds of girls to gain Junior Government Scholarships which entitled them to four year's high school education.

Parish Priests

Dean Maurice McKenna: Appointed to St Brigid's as first resident pastor on 10 January 1883 and held that position till 1892. He built the presbytery, reconstructed the schools and extended the church.

Rt Rev. Thomas Lynch: Pastor from 1892–94; he planned new schools but transferred to St Francis before he could carry out his plans. He reduced the parish debt to the extent that his successor could proceed with the new buildings. After 63 years as a priest he died on 20 December 1941.

Rev. Edward J. Kelly: Born at Gawler, Sth Australia, in 1857 and was educated at St Patrick's, East Melbourne. He studied for the priesthood in Rome and returned to Melbourne in 1885. During his pastorate from 1894–1918, he built the hall in 1897 and purchased land at Princes Hill where St Mark's now stands. He wrote for the paper 'Austral Light' and was co-founder of A.C.T.S. He died at St Brigid's on 7 January 1918.

Rev. Patrick M. Parker: Born in Ireland and a man of vision and deep faith. He was appointed to St Brigid's in January 1919. Between 1920 and 1924 he built the convent, the school and enlarged the presbytery. Before coming to St Brigid's he had successfully carried out the mammoth task of raising funds to build Newman College. He died on 5 May 1933 at St Brigid's.

Rev. David Gleeson: Born in Ballyrack, Co. Kerry, in 1872 and ordained in 1898. He served in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for 50 years, 14 of which were spent at St Brigid's. He died on 10 May 1947 at St Brigid's.

Rev. Anthony Rohan: Born in Tipperary in 1881 and arrived in Melbourne in 1908. He came to St Brigid's in 1947 where he died, after only three years, on 29 June 1950.

Rev. Thomas Little: Born at Bacchus Marsh in 1881 and received his education from the Sisters of St Joseph and St Patrick's College, Ballarat. He was ordained in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, in 1915 and died at Caritas Christi on 9 July 1969. The City of Fitzroy honoured him by naming the reserve in Alexandra Parade 'The Father Little Reserve' and the marble altar in the church, presented to him by the parishioners on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee, is a memorial to a well loved pastor.

Rev. John Raccanello: Born in Crespano del Grappa, Treviso, in May 1928 and ordained to the priesthood in 1952. He was appointed Parish Priest of St Brigid's in 1968. His appointment began a new era in the administration of the parish in that he had with him a small group of his fellow Scalabrinian Fathers – a missionary order. In 1971 Father Raccanello was appointed to assist the Central Committee concerned with the Pastoral Renewal (Migrant Section) in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress which was held in Melbourne in 1973.

Rev. John Mello: Born in Treviso in 1936; ordained in March 1962 and was appointed Parish Priest of St Brigid's in 1971. He continued Fr Raccanello's task of implementing the changes in the liturgy following Vatican II, including adapting the sanctuary to the new liturgy.

Rev. Francis Lovatin: Born in the Province of Verona; he arrived in Australia in 1958 and succeeded Fr Mello 1979. He was responsible for extensive maintenance and improvements at both churches.

Rev. Titian Martellozzo: Born in the Province of Padova in 1928 and was appointed Parish Priest of St Brigid's in January 1981. He was responsible for the restoration of the school and church as well as major repair work at the presbytery.

Rev. Anthony Fregolent: Born in Sernaglia della Battaglia (Treviso) in 1944 and ordained in 1969, he was appointed Parish Priest of St Brigid's in January 1983. Prior to this appointment he was editor of 'Il Messaggero' the monthly magazine for Italian families in Australia. Since 1975, he has cooperated with Ethnic Radio 3EA for religious programming, and will continue with this work. His apostolate also took him to Alphington and Bulleen parishes.

The Scalabrinians

Towards the end of Fr Little's pastorate the parish underwent a complete change in composition and character.

Many migrants had settled in the Carlton/Fitzroy area, the largest ethnic group being Italian. There was clearly a need for Italian-speaking

priests to minister to these people and to help them adjust to a new way of life in a strange land. Recognising this need, Archbishop Knox invited the Scalabrinian Order to take charge of St Brigid's following the retirement of Fr Little in 1968.

The Scalabrinian Order is a missionary congregation which was formed in Italy for the purpose of going abroad to care for the spiritual and temporal needs of those who had left their homeland to settle in a new country. As migrants, the Fathers fully understand the problems facing these fellow migrants, and so are eminently suitable to cope with the ethnic situation in North Fitzroy and Carlton. As priests of the parish their apostolate is not confined to the 'new' Australians; they look after the 'old' ones no less zealously and have integrated both groups into one family unit.

During their time in the parish, all buildings have been restored and updated so that after 100 years and many changes (the Reilly Street Drain is now the F19 Freeway), these buildings form an imposing monument to the sacrifices and dedication of priests and laity who built and maintained them.

The Convent, now the Catholic Italian Renewal Centre

As in other parishes, the number of teaching sisters living at the convent had dwindled, until in 1979 the building was too large for the few remaining sisters. On 17 March the sisters vacated the convent in a response to a request to use it to further the Apostolate to the migrant within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It is now known as the Catholic Intercultural Resource Centre or Catholic Italian Renewal Centre.

It provides many facilities for migrants including Prayer Meetings for chaplains and lay people. The Book Shop contains books of a catholic nature, tapes on scripture and other books pertaining to the various cultures of migrant groups.

At the rear of the building are two small offices where queries concerning Social Services, Pensions, Compensations, Translations, etc. are attended to by two competent people

Upstairs are the offices of the Natural Family Planning of Drs Lyn and John Billings. Weekends are also provided for Engaged and Young Married Couples.

On 1 February 1983 part of the balcony was renovated and transformed into a workable area for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre of Victoria.

Finally, the Association of Teachers in Victorian Catholic Schools has occupied a couple of rooms in the building. These Associations support and represent teachers in all aspects of their working life.

And so for seven days a week the Centre is a hive of industry.

Variety is the spice of life

All things change ... perhaps the most common of all is our Melbourne weather. So why not our parish? It's been going for 100 years.

One aspect is the Sunday English Mass. Here one sees a sprinkling of Australian born, quite a number of Italian born and second generation Italians, a handful of Maltese, Yugoslav, Vietnamese and other nationalities. Some of the Carlton children from the flats attend this Mass – with the Sisters of Mother Teresa after Mass proceed to the classroom for Religious Instruction and Preparation for the Sacraments. Our own school children are conspicuous by their absence; the reason for this is that most live in other parishes. Their parents work around the city of Carlton and Fitzroy. Then the children from the flats ... why cross the dangerous freeway when the state school is in the same ground? Also there are very few young families in the parish.

Finally a word of admiration for those devout elderly migrant ladies who come to the morning Mass rain, hail or shine despite the difficulty of language. They have not learned nor had the opportunity to learn the language like other members in the family who go out to work, so they suffer a great loneliness because of their inability to communicate. Yet, through all the change in Church Liturgy, culture and language, they show great fidelity and quiet, peaceful presence before their Lord. For many of them a little exchange of a smile or a word is their only contact throughout the long day.

So at St Brigid's there are the poor, the lonely, the elderly – the poor of Christ. If St Brigid's Parish was not open to serve them in their need, where would they go?

And so 'the wheel has come full circle, and St Brigid's continues to open its doors to all comers.

1983

FITZROY NORTH ST BRIGID'S PARISH HISTORY: 1883-1968

Fr. Thomas Little.
Fr. Little succeeded Fr. Fahy and was the last
of a long line of "Nauger Priests" to serve the
parish of St. Brigid's.
The above, marble altar was a gift from
parishoners 1968.
Fr. served St. Brigid's for 18 years.

**FEARFUL GULLY
APPROX. 1910**

Above: Fr. Little in his "Dodge"
He would drive to St. Mark's
on Sunday afternoons for
Benediction; with the altar boys
in the "dinky car."

September
SEVENTEETH ANNIVERSARY
OF BRIGID'S SALVUS
MARIO FURTAN
(1891-1908)
*
TRIBUTE ORDER
Miss. Patsy of Christian
Barns, Mother and parent
to be invited.

Thomas Little was born at Wexford, County, Wick, Ireland, on the 11th of August, 1850. He received the ordinary education of his country, and was educated at the National College, Dublin. He having obtained his Bachelor's degree in the Royal University, and having also been awarded a Bachelor's degree in the University of St. Michael's, Toronto, in 1901, he was ordained a priest in 1902, at St. Peter's Cathedral, New York City.

It was indeed a happy day for the diocese when Fr. Little came to work in St. Brigid's, during the summer of 1902. He was warmly welcomed by the people, and he soon began to work with them and amongst them. His influence in the diocese, during the past few years, has been of the highest order. He has been instrumental in the establishment of many new churches, and has been instrumental in the establishment of many new schools. He has also been instrumental in the establishment of many new societies, and has been instrumental in the establishment of many new organizations.

Fr. Little gave of his very best in good health and in vigor. He was full of energy, and he was full of life. He was full of hope, and he was full of faith. He was full of love, and he was full of mercy. He was full of grace, and he was full of glory. He was full of peace, and he was full of joy. He was full of life, and he was full of love. He was full of grace, and he was full of glory. He was full of peace, and he was full of joy. He was full of life, and he was full of love. He was full of grace, and he was full of glory. He was full of peace, and he was full of joy.

"Stand in the Sight of the Lord in the Dark of His House."

ST BRIGID'S VESPER MASSES
and then through the vestiges
May we find peace being
Early mass and the sacramental feast
that flows were deep about the sparkling fountains
of these and provide us — our blessed souls!"

Ludden 1889, November 21, 1901,
St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy.
In the memory of Fr. Little, in Parish House
St. John the Baptist, Ave. Two Daily 0800-1000
St. Mary's, Dunderberg 0800-1000
St. Thomas, Hawthfield 0800-1000
St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy 0800-1000
Father Little died on July 9, 1901, and the memorial
service was held at St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy
on July 11.

It was exactly five years the annual
quest of the soul of
Fr. John Thomas J. Little
Pastor of the Archdiocese of
Melbourne
Who died on July 9, 1901, in the
51st year of his age, and the 18th year
of his episcopate.

Look, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the soul
of Thomas, the servant and slave, may be united in
the company of the just in awaiting His, through
Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen.

Text enlarged from
opposite page.

Thomas John Little was born at Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, on Christmas Day, 1888. He received his schooling from the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in his home town, and from the Christian Brothers at St. Patrick's College, Ballarat. On leaving school he became a junior teacher in the State Education Department, and later went into business. Finally, he found his true vocation in life when he was accepted by Archbishop Carr as a student for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Entering St. Patrick's College, Manly, New South Wales in 1910, he was ordained a priest forever at St. Mary's Cathedral, on November 30, 1915.

It was, indeed, a holy day for the diocese when Father Little came to work in it. Without seeking it, he became a legend in his own lifetime, and people now very old in the parishes of Fern Tree Gully, Dandenong and elsewhere still speak of him with love and reverence. The celebration of his Golden Jubilee at St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy, filled his soul with pride and gratitude. The numerous gifts presented to him from the priests and people in all the parishes where he had ministered brought forth from his kindly heart the deepest of thanks.

The City of Fitzroy was proud to honour this good man and model priest by naming in his honour "The Father Little Reserve." The beautiful marble altar and the newly decorated sanctuary, both presented to him to honour his Golden Jubilee, were erected to the glory of God, and as a perpetual memorial to a well-loved Parish Priest — Father Little.

Father Little gave of his very best in good health and in sickness. He was kind and charmingly gracious, good and solidly pious. He moved unhurriedly through life inspiring to nobler deeds those with whom he came in contact. To know him was to have the best brought out of one, and to taste the sweetness of a true human friendship.

Today, it can be said without fear of contradiction, that God reigns in many homes because he laboured incessantly, and used his talents unselfishly to give and to obtain the very best religious facilities he could obtain for those committed to his care.

Rightly can it be said that he lived virtuously, achieved nobly, and, as a consequence, he has left behind the record of a good and useful life.

"Safe Home" was an expression used often by Father Little, as he wished farewell to a guest. Now, at the end of his long priestly pilgrimage may be "Safe Home."

May he rest in peace.

ET FRUCTUS VESTER MANEAT

... and then through the twilight,
May my kind prayers bring
God's angst, and the Sacramental breath
That blows worn ships down the smooth-flowing tide
Of Sleep, our peaceful sea — save blessed Death."



Golden Jubilee, November 30, 1965.
St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy.

In the Master's Vineyard, as Parish Priest:

St. John The Baptist, Fern Tree Gully ..	1919-1926
St. Mary's, Dandenong ..	1928-1941
St. Teresa's, Essendon ..	1941-1950
St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy ..	1950-Jan. 1968

Father Little died on July 9, 1969, and the consecrated Requiem Mass was held at St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy, on July 11.

"Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of
His saints."



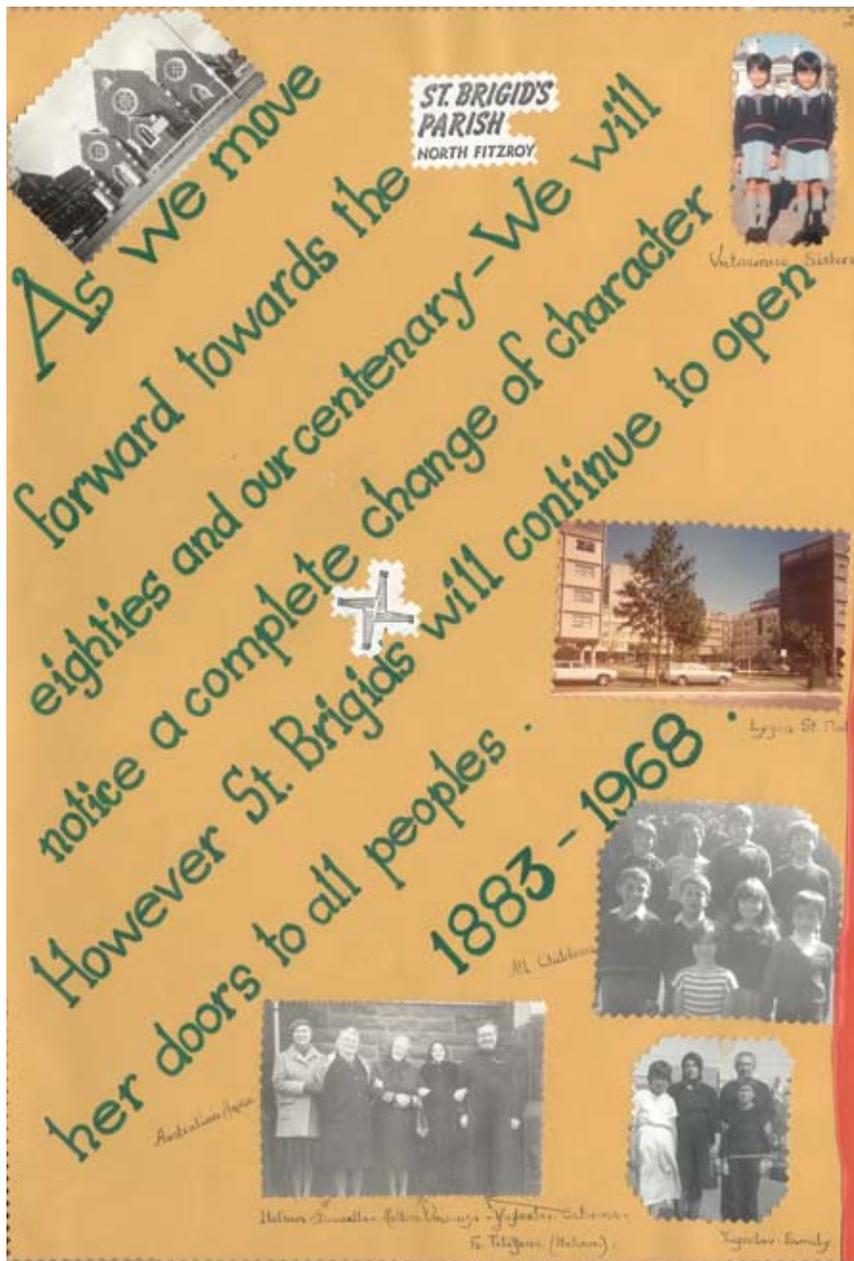
Of your charity pray for the eternal
repose of the soul of

Rev. Father Thomas J. Little

Priest of the Archdiocese of
Melbourne

Who died on July 9, 1969, in the
fifty-fourth year of his sacred
ministry, and the eighty-second of
his age.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the soul
of Thomas, Thy servant and Priest, may be counted in
the company of the just in everlasting bliss, through
Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.



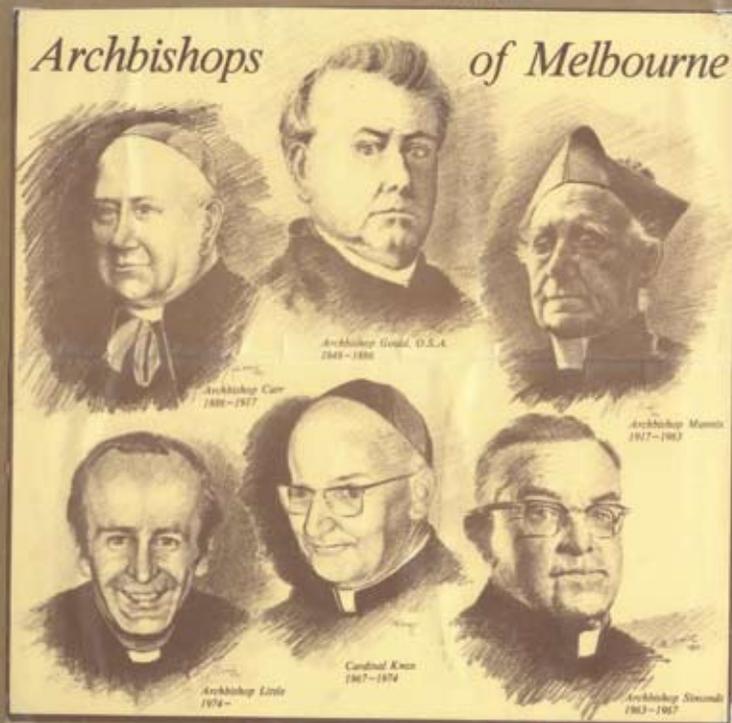


St. Brigid's Parish
NORTH FITZROY

Archbishop Carr 1886-1917.
 United St. Brigid's Parish.
 Confirmation of 200. His first visit
 1897. Opens new school and hall.
 1000 children on roll.

Archbishop Couillard 1888-1896.
 Laid the Foundation Stone
 of first Church of St. Brigid's
 1869.
 Presided at many functions.

Archbishop Mannix 1917-1963.
 Laid Foundation Stone of
 Convent and School 1920, 1924.
 St. Patrick's Day Processions.



Archbishop Little: 1974 -
 Request for Convent to
 further the Apostolate to the
 Migrant Community. 1979.
 Centenary Mass of Parish.
 1983.

Archbishop Knox: 1967-1974
 Appointment of Scalabrinian
 Fathers to St. Brigid's Parish.
 1968.

Archbishop Simpson: 1963-1967.
 Performed Confirmation
 Ceremonies.
 Assisted at Parish functions

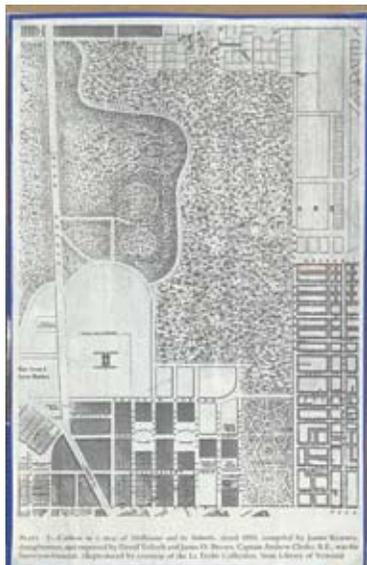


Figure 2 - Colburn in a map of Melbourne and its suburbs, dated 1855, compiled by James Watson, draughtsman, and engraved by David Fisher and James D. Brown. Captain Andrew Clarke, R.E., was the Commissioner. Reproduced by courtesy of the La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria



Figure 3 - Colburn in 1866. Melbourne's early settlement north of Victoria Street (to provide the site of the Victoria Bridge) was outside Colburn. The first extension to Colburn was opened in 1862. (From the La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria)

MELBOURNE 1855-1983



Figure 4 - Planes of a map dated 1878. Colburn's street pattern, attaching to part of Flinders Park, had been established. (From the La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria)





Dean Donaghy (1837-1901)
 Second Dean, September 1876 - December 1901

Dean Donaghy.

From 1876, Dean Donaghy served the Catholic people of North Fitzroy for seven years. He contributed to such progress at St. Brigid's by extending the nave of St. Brigid's and organizing a parish school in a private house in Kerr St. Classes later moved to a building adjacent to the church.

Dean Donaghy may be rightly called the founder of St. Brigid's Mission.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, 1876.

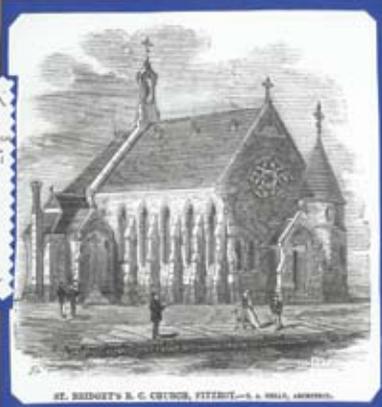
In Jan. 1869 it was proposed to build a church of 800, Fitzroy and the land for it was a valuable grant.

A church and school were much needed in the district as the dwelling known as St. Vincent's was unfit for use, a meeting, convened by Fr. O'Sullivan was held at St. George's Carlton. All were unanimous in favour of a church. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Doold 19th Feb. The church will be used as a school for 4 years.

Style - Decorated Gothic, finely treated, nave 80' long, with octagonal chancel and vestry.

A CIRCULAR TOWER OCCUPIES THE S.W. CORNER, GIVING ACCESS TO THE ORGAN GALLERY, SEATING FOR 400 AND THE COST £1200. VERY CHEAP - MATERIAL-NATIVE SILVESTON.

In 1872, the chapel, partially completed, had been used as a school from 1870. Miss Brown (now Bunting) was for many years teacher. She opened a school of her own in 1870, died in 1877.



ST. BRIGID'S R.C. CHURCH, FITZROY.—G. SMITH, ARCHT.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, FITZROY.

One of our reporters represents the magnificent exterior of the new Roman Catholic Church, which is now rising in the centre of the corner of Melbourne-street and Holly-street, Fitzroy. The foundation stone was laid by the Right Rev. Dr. Smith with the customary ceremony. The church, which is dedicated to St. Brigid, is to be erected in the handsome Gothic style of architecture, and will consist of a single nave, 20 feet wide by 100 feet long, with an octagonal chancel. It is intended to afford accommodation for 1000 persons, and will cost about £2000. The material will be limestone, which, it is supposed, will be transported to the workmen's hands. Dr. J. A. Kelly is the architect.

St. Brigid's Mission.

In the sixties and early seventies Mass was celebrated by priests from St. Patrick's.

Faith
 Filled
 Pioneers

Text enlarged from
opposite page.

Dean Donaghy.

From 1876, Dean Donaghy served the Catholic people of North Fitzroy for seven years.

He contributed to such progress at North Fitzroy by extending the nave of St. Brigid's and organizing a parish school in a private home in Kerr St. Classes later moved to a building adjacent to the church.

Dean Donaghy may be rightly called the Founder of St. Brigid's Mission.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH. 1869.

In Jan. 1869 it was proposed to build a church at Nth. Fitzroy; and the land for it was a two-acre grant.

A church and school were much needed in the district as the dwelling known as St Vincent's was unfit for use. A meeting, convened by Fr. O'Sullivan, was held at St. George's Carlton. All were unanimous in favour of a church.

The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Gould 14th. Feb. The church will be used as a school for a time.

Style- Decorated Gothic, freely treated. Nave 60' long, with octagonal chancel and vestries.

A CIRCULAR TURRET OCCUPIES THE S.W. CORNER, GIVING ACCESS TO THE ORGAN GALLERY. SEATING FOR 400 AND THE COST £1200. VERY CHEAP- MATERIAL-NATIVE BLUESTONE.

In 1872, the chapel, partially completed, had been used as a school from 1870. Miss Brennan (nee Keating) was for many years teacher. She opened a school of her own in 1870. Died in 1872.

St. Brigid's Mission.

In the sixties and early seventies Mass was celebrated by priests from St. Patrick's.

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, FITZROY.

One of our engravings represents the completed structure of the new Roman Catholic Church, which is now rising in the reserve at the corner of Nicholson-street and Reilly-street, Fitzroy. The foundation stone was laid by the Right Rev. Dr. Gould with the customary ceremonies. The church, which is dedicated to St. Bridget, is to be erected in the decorative Gothic style of architecture, and will consist of a single nave, 28 feet wide by 60 feet long, with an octagonal chancel. It is intended to afford accommodation for 450 persons, and will cost about £1200. The material will be bluestone rubble, with pressed cement dressings to the windows and doors. Mr T. A. Kelly is the architect.

Dear McKenna
 The first resident priest was Fr. McKenna who took charge of the mission on 10th Jan 1888. He held this position until 1892.
 He built the Presbytery, enlarged the church by the addition of aisles, and re-constructed the existing schools.



During the 1890's Father McKenna had the church enlarged.

St. Brigid's becomes a parish. 1883.
 Dean M. McKenna, P.P.



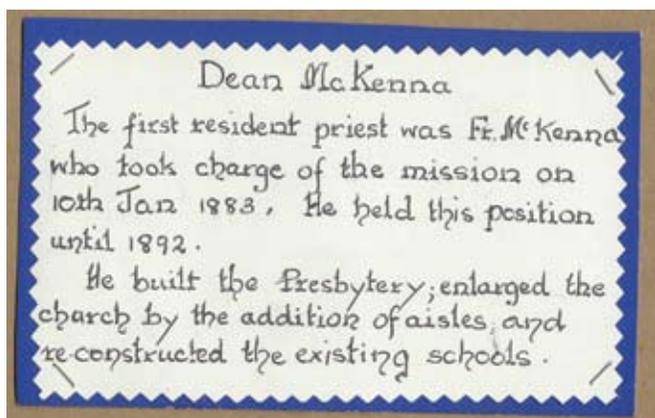
This beautiful white bagged towel is still kept in the Presbytery.



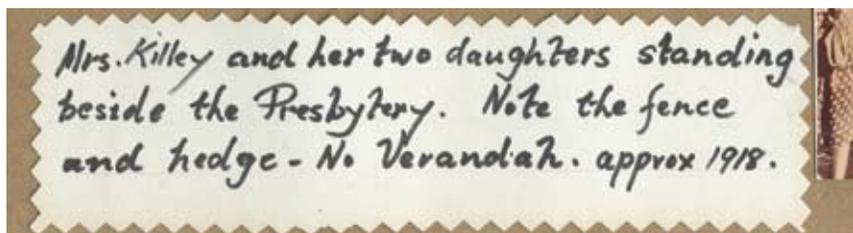
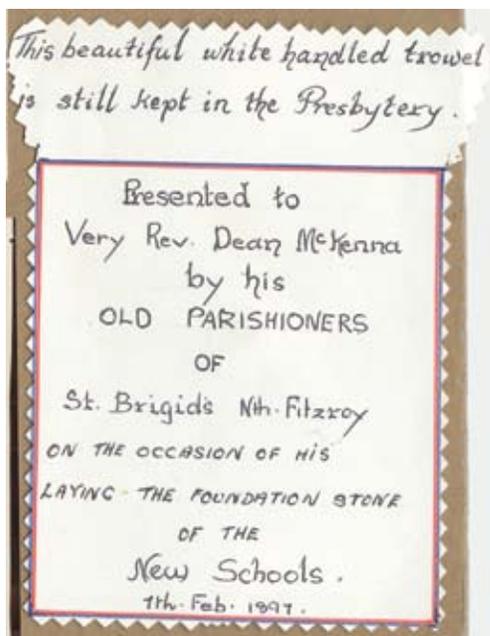
Mrs. Kelly and her two daughters standing beside the Presbytery. Note the fence and hedge - N. Verandah. approx 1918.



Presented to
 Very Rev. Dean McKenna
 by his
 OLD PARISHIONERS
 OF
 St. Brigid's N. Flurry
 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
 LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE
 OF THE
 New Schools.
 14th Feb. 1883.



Text enlarged from opposite page.



8

First Baptismal Register

St. Bridget's North Sydney

February 1893

M. McKeown

These two front pages of
the registers and all candidates
for Baptism and Confirmation
are in Fr. McKeown's own writing
1893 - 1894.



St. Bridget's Cross

First Confirmation
at
St. Bridget's Church
North Sydney

December 27/1893

M. McKeown, Pastor

1895

Near Carlton Football Grounds
"The Pillars"

SAINT BRIDGET was famous throughout Ireland in the fifth century for her holiness. Her chief settlement was in County Kildare a convent renowned for its hospitality. At that time in Ireland the country was mostly inhabited by the Christian Faith, and, in one evening a pagan chieftain, whose children were Christians, was on his deathbed. The mother of his household did not want him to die without baptism, so they sent for SAINT BRIDGET who told the sick man about Christ's sacrifice - a Cross. Taking a handful of rushes she began weaving a Cross and explained how her lord died on a Cross - the sign of our salvation. The chieftain was converted to Christianity, was baptized, and died a happy death. SAINT BRIDGET'S Feast day is on the 1st February, and on the eve of this day Irish women in many parts of Ireland commemorate the sainted conversion of the chieftain.

Saint Bridget's Cross is the symbol of Saint's Dream (The Irish Tricolour Symbol).



Text and cross
enlarged from
opposite page.

These two front pages of
the registers and all candidates
for Baptism and Confirmation
are in Fr. M'Kennic's own writing.
1883-1892.

1885.
Near Carlton Football Grounds
"The Pillars"



SAINT BRIDGID was famous throughout Ireland in the fifth century for her holiness. Her chief settlement was in County Kildare a convent renowned for its hospitality. At that time in Ireland the country was not wholly converted to the Christian Faith, and, on one occasion a pagan chieftain, whose children were Christians, was on his deathbed. The members of his household did not want him to die without baptism, so they sent for Saint Bridgid who told the sick man about Christ's Sacrifice on a Cross. Taking a handful of rushes she began weaving a Cross and explained how Our Lord died on a Cross - the sign of our salvation. The chieftain was converted to Christianity, was baptised, and died a happy death. Saint Bridgid's feast day is on the 1st February, and on the eve of this day rush crosses are woven in many parts of Ireland to commemorate the deathbed conversion of the chieftain.

Saint Bridgid's Cross is the symbol of Telefis Eireann (The Irish Television Service).

THE TAKEN FROM ANNALS OF MOUNT FITZROY BY ST. BRIGID'S GIRLS' WITH FITZROY

1886 - SEPT. TOOK CHARGE OF ST. BRIGID'S GIRLS' SCHOOL, MOUNT FITZROY. SISTERS PHILomena, CECILIA AND PALMARI IN UNION SCHOOL. OLIVER CLAYTON IN THE INFANT SCHOOL.

1888 - DEC. 23 DEDICATION OF PRIZES IN ST. BRIGID'S.

1891 - APRIL 1 ALL THE SCHOOLS RESUMED SAVE ST. BRIGID'S WHICH WILL BE CLOSED FOR THREE WEEKS LONGER ON ACCOUNT OF THE ANNUAL FAIR IN AID OF THE CHURCH SECT.

JUNE 10 DR. CHASER VISITS EXAMINATIONS IN ST. BRIGID'S.

DEC. 13 PUPILS OF SACRAMENT SCHOOL, ST. BRIGID'S, ST. ANNE'S AND OUR LADY'S STN. MELBOURNE WENT UP FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

DEC. 22 PRIZES AND PARTY AT ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL AT 11 O.C. VISIT REV. DEAN MARIANA PUGHING AND DISTRIBUTING THE PRIZES. THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT FATHERS VANDER HERTON AND MURPHY, ALSO THE CHILDREN'S PARENTS. AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES, THE PUPILS PRESENTED DEAN MARIANA WITH A SILVER POUCEL CASE AND AN ADDRESS EXPRESSIVE OF THEIR JOY AND AT THE LEAVING ST. BRIGID'S YARLON.

1892 - APRIL 13 ST. ANNE'S AND ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS.

MAY 4 ST. ANNE'S AND ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR VACATION.

DEC. 23 REV. F. LEON MARRIAGES THE PRIZES TO THE PUPILS OF ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL.

1893 - APRIL 5 ALL THE SCHOOLS RE-OPENED EXCEPT ST. BRIGID'S.

JUNE 7 EXAMINATION IN ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL BY THE REV. FRANK GARLEY.

JULY 4 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF HOLIDAYS.

JULY 28 ST. ANNE'S AND ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOLS CLOSED.

DEC. 8 30 GIRLS OF ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL MAKE THEIR 1st COMMUNION AND 12 PUPILS FROM ST. ANNE'S. TWO SISTERS WERE WITH EACH SET OF CHILDREN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CHURCHES. 21 CHILDREN OF OUR LADY'S SCHOOL STN. MELBOURNE MADE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION.

DEC. 21 DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT ST. BRIGID'S STN. FITZROY BY REV. T. LENCH. THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT REV. FREDERICK JORDITT, THOMAS AND ROBERT AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THE PUPILS' FRIENDS AND PARENTS. SCHOOL CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 22, 1894.

1894 - JAN. 22 OUR LADY OF MOUNT'S SCHOOL, SA-QUERRE, ALSO ST. BRIGID'S AND OUR LADY'S STN. MELBOURNE.

MARCH 28 ALL THE SCHOOLS RE-OPENED EXCEPT ST. BRIGID'S AND STN. MELBOURNE WHICH ARE TO RE-OPEN ON THE 2ND APRIL.

DEC. 1 CATHEDRAL FAIR - ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL B. FITZROY RECEIVED 16 CERTIFICATES OF MERIT FOR GIRLS, EXCISES AND EXHIBITIONS AND COOKIES, ALSO A SILVER MEDAL FOR DRAWING. THE CHILDREN FORWARDED A PUZZLE CARDS CALLED THE HEAD AND TAIL.

DEC. 21 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL PUPILS RECEIVED THEIR PRIZES.



ST. REV. F. LYNCH.
(1880-1894)
Planned new school at Fitzroy transferred to St. Francis before he could carry out his plans. He pushed the case so that his successor could proceed with the planned building.

In 1886 the Sisters of Mercy from The Academy are in charge of St. Brigid's (Girls and Infants) only. Lay Teachers have the Boys.

1894 - JAN. 23 REV. E. KELLY, ST. BRIGID'S CALLED TO RE-OPENED SCHOOL GAVE HOLIGATE TILL FEBRUARY 4.

JAN. 31 DR. SAGLE WANTS TO SAY THAT THE SCHOOL AT ST. BRIGID'S WAS TO BE KEPT UP AT FIDELITY BE NEGLIGENT.

FEB. 2 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL RE-OPENED. MR. G. SALES IN CHARGE. MRS. STANTON AND ALSO WITH FIVE SECULAR TEACHERS. REV. MOTHER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM REV. E. KELLY D.D. PROMISING AID FOR QUARTER TO PAY THE SECULAR TEACHERS.

FEB. 6 REV. MOTHER ENGAGED MISS LEONARD OF GLOUCESTER AS TEACHER FOR ST. BRIGID'S. SHE IS OBLIGED TO TEACH ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARITHMETIC, ALGEBRA, GEOM.

FEB. 9 MISS MURPHY ENGAGED AS TEACHER FOR ST. BRIGID'S AND MISS S. MURPHY FOR THE INFANT SCHOOL, MELBOURNE ST.

FEB. 11 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL RE-OPENED. MR. G. SALES IN CHARGE.

APRIL 28 MISS MURPHY CALLED TO SAY SHE WAS LEAVING ST. BRIGID'S.

MAY 29 FATHER CARLTON EXAMINED ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL. HE PRAISED THE INFANTS VERY HIGH.

MAY 30 EXAMINATION IN ST. BRIGID'S FINISHED.

JUNE 3 RECEIVED THE 2ND ST. BRIGID'S - GOOD REPORT BY 3 PER CENT.

MAY - JUNE 2 THE EXAMINATIONS COMPLETED AT ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL.

JUNE 4 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL EXAMINATION FINISHED TO EVERY ONE'S SATISFACTION. THE PERCENTAGE IS 95.



REV. E. J. KELLY.

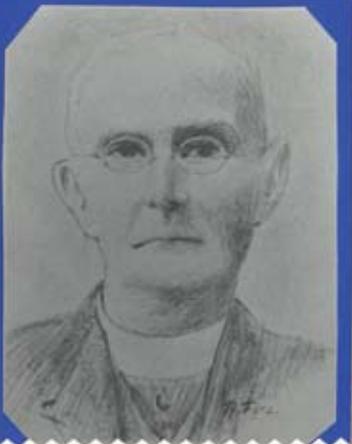
Rev. E. Kelly (1894-1918).
During his postmortem 1894-1918 he rebuilt the hall after it had been burnt in 1917. He also purchased land at Princes Hill where St. Marks now stands. He died at 57 St. B. 28 Jan 1918.

1886 - 1905.

Text enlarged from opposite page over next two pages.

NOTES TAKEN FROM ANNALS OF CONVENT OF MERCY FITZROY RE ST. BRIGID'S GIRLS' NTH FITZROY	
1886 - SEPT.	TOOK CHARGE OF ST. BRIGID'S GIRLS' SCHOOL, NORTH FITZROY. SISTERS HILONENA, CYPRIAN AND MALACHI IN SENIOR SCHOOL. SISTER CLAYER IN THE INFANT SCHOOL.
1888 - DEC. 23	DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES IN ST. BRIGID'S.
1891 - APRIL 1	ALL THE SCHOOLS REOPENED SAVE ST. BRIGID'S WHICH WILL BE CLOSED FOR THREE WEEKS LONGER ON ACCOUNT OF THE ANNUAL FAIR IN AID OF THE CHURCH DEBT.
JUNE 10	DR. GRABER BEGAN EXAMINATIONS IN ST. BRIGID'S.
DEC. 15	PUPILS OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL, ST. BRIGID'S, ST. ANNE'S AND OUR LADY'S STH. MELBOURNE WENT UP FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.
DEC. 22	PRIZES AND FEAST AT ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL AT 11 O.C. VERY REV. DEAN McKENNA PRESIDED AND DISTRIBUTED THE PRIZES. THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT FATHERS VANDER HEYDEN AND MURPHY, ALSO THE CHILDREN'S PARENTS. AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES, THE PUPILS PRESENTED DEAN McKENNA WITH A SILVER PENCIL CASE AND AN ADDRESS EXPRESSIVE OF THEIR SORROW AT HIS LEAVING ST. BRIGID'S PARISH.
1892 - APRIL 13	ST. ANNE'S AND ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS.
AUG. 4	ST. ANNE'S AND ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR VACATION.
DEC. 23	REV. T. LYNCH DISTRIBUTED THE PRIZES TO THE PUPILS OF ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL.
1893 - APRIL 5	ALL THE SCHOOLS RE-OPENED EXCEPT ST. BRIGID'S.
JUNE 7	EXAMINATION IN ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL BY THE REV. FATHER GANLEY.
JULY 4	ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF MEASLES.
JULY 28	ST. ANNE'S AND ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOLS CLOSED.
DEC. 8	30 GIRLS OF ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL MAKE THEIR 1st COMMUNION AND 12 PUPILS FROM ST. ANNE'S. TWO SISTERS WENT WITH EACH SET OF CHILDREN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CHURCHES. 21 CHILDREN OF OUR LADY'S SCHOOL STH. MELBOURNE MADE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION.
DEC. 21	DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT ST. BRIGID'S NTH. FITZROY BY REV. T. LYNCH. THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT REV. FATHERS DOBERTY, FHELAN AND HENNESSY AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THE PUPILS' FRIENDS AND PARENTS. SCHOOL CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 22, 1894.
1894 JAN. 22	OUR LADY OF MERCY'S SCHOOL RE-OPENED, ALSO ST. BRIGID'S AND OUR LADY'S STH. MELBOURNE.
MARCH 28	ALL THE SCHOOLS RE-OPENED EXCEPT ST. BRIGID'S AND STH. MELBOURNE WHICH ARE TO RE-OPEN ON THE 2ND APRIL.
DEC. 1	CATHEDRAL FAIR - ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL N. FITZROY RECEIVED 16 CERTIFICATES OF MERIT FOR DRAWING, EXERCISES AND KINDERGARTEN AND COOKING, ALSO A SILVER MEDAL FOR DRAWING. THE CHILDREN PERFORMED A PRETTY CANTATA CALLED THE GLAD NEW YEAR.
DEC. 21	ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL PUPILS RECEIVED THEIR PRIZES.

- 895 - JAN. 23 REV. E. KELLY, ST. BRIGID'S CALLED TO RE-ORGANIZE SCHOOL GAVE HOLIDAYS TILL FEBRUARY 4.
- JAN. 31 DR. KELLY WROTE TO SAY THAT THE SCHOOL AT ST. BRIGID'S WAS TO BE KEPT UP BY PAYMENT BY RESULTS.
- FEB. 2 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL RE-OPENED. SR. de SALES IN CHARGE. SRS. STANISLAUS AND AIDAN WITH FIVE SECULAR TEACHERS. REV. MOTHER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM REV. E. KELLY D.D. PROMISING £25 PER QUARTER TO PAY THE SECULAR TEACHERS
- FEB. 6 REV. MOTHER ENGAGED MISS LEONARD OF GLENFERRIE AS TEACHER FOR ST. BRIGID'S. SHE IS COMPETENT TO TEACH ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARITHMETIC, ALGEBRA, EUCLID.
- FEB. 9 MISS BROPHY ENGAGED AS TEACHER FOR ST. BRIGID'S AND MISS S. MURPHY FOR THE INFANT SCHOOL, NICHOLSON ST.
- FEB. 11 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL RE-OPENED. SR. de SALES IN CHARGE.
- APRIL 26 MISS BROPHY CALLED TO SAY SHE WAS LEAVING ST. BRIGID'S.
- MAY 29 FATHER GANLEY EXAMINED ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL. HE PRAISED THE INFANTS VERY MUCH.
- MAY 30 EXAMINATION IN ST. BRIGID'S FINISHED.
- JUNE 3 RECEIVED LOG BOOK ST. BRIGID'S - GOOD REPORT 87.3 PER CENT.
- 897 - JUNE 2 THE EXAMINATIONS COMMENCED AT ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL.
- JUNE 4 ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL EXAMINATION FINISHED TO EVERY ONE'S SATISFACTION. THE PERCENTAGE IS 95.



RT. REV. T. LYNCH.
(1892-1894)

Planned new schools; but transferred to St. Francis before he could carry out his plans. He reduced the debt so that his successor could proceed with the planned buildings.

Rev. E. Kelly (1894-1918.)

During his pastorate 1894-1918 he rebuilt the hall after it had been burnt in 1917. He also purchased land at Princes Hill where St. Marks now stands. He died at St. B. 7th Jan 1918

St. Bridget's Convent School
North Fitzroy
26 May 1896

My dear Miss McManara,
I have to express my great regret at your determination to leave your connection with this school at the end of the month, after having worked so harmoniously & so long with me (since March 1895). Your methods of teaching are well adapted to the new Testament, and your discipline has been firm & effective, and I have pleasure in saying you would

please during the Quarterly Exam at the cleanliness & neatness of the boys & girls in the hall of your class.

I think you may succeed in your own sphere of life, but should you again think of returning to the occupation of teaching I will be only too glad to forward your name in that direction as far as I am able. I am, my dear Miss McManara, your every faithful friend,
White & Albury
Head Teacher

An account of considerable importance, to the congregation at St. Bridget's, North Fitzroy, will take place today (Saturday), when the annual fair will open in their new hall. The hall is to be completed with the new school, and it will be remembered that the foundation stone was laid on the 15th February of this year. A very handsome school has arisen on the site, and the hall, which is a large hall for the district, is now up. It is in the hall that the fair is to be held. The fair will open at 2 p.m. The lady staff-holders have been very active for some weeks past preparing for the fair, and so doubt their efforts will result in a successful reduction of the debt incurred. The architect, Messrs. Keppoon and Conolly (Christ Church), have furnished the following description of the building, which is one of the finest modern improvements in religious architecture in the colony, and forms an imposing landmark of Fitzroy North—the walls are 100 ft. by 400 ft. It is finished with the latest modern improvements in religious health, etc. The ceiling is unique, as far as this colony is concerned, being constructed of copper, and is of a unique design. There are five rows of seats of wood, the walls are plastered and are finished with columns capped with marble, and the floor is of the latest pattern. The walls have received five coats of paint. The columns have marble caps, and the ceiling has been erected at the junction of the walls and the roof. The flooring of this hall is of narrow-board pine, with dark oak paneling Gothic panels to the stage front. The hall is furnished with all the requirements for the production of dramatic performances, etc. On either side of the corridor there is a separate classroom, 20 ft. by 20 ft. and 10 ft. by 10 ft. respectively. A specially constructed box stage occupies with the large class-room attached, which is 10 ft. by 10 ft., and has a saw-cut paneled ceiling, with plastered walls and steps throughout. On the ground floor there are two rooms north and south, and a corridor, left wide, leading to the choir classroom. A feature in the building is the fine height of the several rooms, 10 ft. 6 in. high. The choir and porch are finished with marble and polished tiles, and the several classrooms are fitted with marble mantelpieces. The building is finished with tiled cement dressing, in reds on a concrete base-course. The roof is of the best slate, and the dormer windows with metal work between rails, with carved finials on each side of the dormer windows. The main front slope roof is of similar wood-work. The building is well lighted throughout, the great hall having double windows, with bright, capable of being opened, and are glassed with roller glass; the fanlights are of wrought-iron glass. The requirements of the Board of Health have been observed in the construction of the entire edifice. There are six large doors, large ceiling vents in the main hall in each bay, with pipes leading out to the outside houses on the ridge. The total height of the building from ground to apex is 60 ft. at the front portion. The foundation for the most part is in the domestic Gothic style adopted in most substantial requirements. Waterbury's independent returns have been fitted up in each room, and when lighted in the evening give the edifice a very brilliant appearance. The hall has been placed in readiness in different parts of the building. The cost of the hall was £10,000. The check of works was £10,000.



St. Bridget's New Hall,
North Fitzroy.
Donee of the Council
FRIDAY, SEPT. 25.
ADMISSION 6d.

Miss Mary McManara.
Later became Mrs Gerald Brennan.
Photo given by her daughter Mrs Kathleen Hildonway.

The above letter is of historical importance, since it refers to the lady on the left, Miss McManara taught at St. Bridget's when boys and girls were taught separately. The Head Master was Mr. White & Alburyville. He had been a teacher with Miss McManara previously, and as Head Master he regrets that she is leaving.

M. V. Duff, and the remarkably fine work was carried out by Messrs.

Above text enlarged.

The above letter is of historical importance, since it refers to the lady on the left, Miss McManara taught at St. Bridget's when boys and girls were taught separately. The Head Master was Mr. White & Alburyville. He had been a teacher with Miss McManara previously, and as Head Master he regrets that she is leaving.

Text enlarged from
previous page.



ST. BRIGID'S, NORTH FITZROY.
An event of considerable importance to the congregation at St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy, will take place to-day (Saturday), when the annual fair will open in their new hall. The hall is in connection with the new schools. It will be remembered that the foundation-stone was laid on 7th February this year. A very handsome school has arisen on the spot, at the rear of which is a large hall for concerts, lectures etc. It is in this hall that the fair is to open to-day. The opening of the school, the hall, and the fair is joined in one ceremony and will be performed by his Grace the Archbishop at 3 p.m. The lady stall-holders have been very active for some months past preparing for the fair, and no doubt their efforts will result in a substantial reduction of the debt incurred. The architects, Messrs. Kempson and Connolly (Oxford Chambers), have furnished the following description of the building, which is one of the finest scholastic institutions in the colony, and forms an imposing landmark of Fitzroy North:—The main hall is 90ft by 40ft. It is furnished with the latest modern improvements as regards health, etc. The ceiling is unique, as far as this colony is concerned, being constructed of embossed, stamped zinc. There are five coves formed of mouldings, trabeas, and ornamental work. The walls are plastered and are furnished with columns capped with arched ribs, to receive the zinc ceiling,

arched ribs, to receive the zinc ceiling, the latter having received two tints of paint. The columns have foliage caps, moulded bases, corbels, etc. An enriched cornice has been erected at the junction of the walls and zinc coves. The flooring of this hall is of narrow kauri pine, with dado all round, and Gothic panels to the stage front. The latter is furnished with all the requirements for the production of dramatic performances, etc. On either side of the corridor there is a splendidly composed class-room, 30ft by 26ft and 18ft by 14ft respectively. A specially-constructed iron flight of steps connects with the large class-room overhead, which is 63ft 6in by 30ft, and has a kauri panelled ceiling, with plastered walls and dado throughout. On the ground floor there are porches north and south, and a corridor, 10ft wide, leading to the chief class-room. A feature in the building is the fine height of the several rooms, which range from 12ft to 35ft 6in to apex (internally). The corridor and porches are floored with encaustic variegated tiling, and the several class-rooms are fitted with marble mantelpieces. The building is constructed of brick, tuck-pointed and finished with tinted cement dressing. It rests on a massive blue-stone base. The roof is of the best slate, and the design over the main portion is of mansard form, covered with metal work between rolls, with eaves fascias on each side of embossed zinc work. The main front ridge roof is of similar workmanship. The building is well lighted throughout, the great hall having double windows, with fanlights, each capable of being opened, and are glazed with ruffle glass; the fanlights are of variously-tinted glass. The regulations of the Board of Health have been observed in the construction of the entire edifice. There are escape doors, large ceiling vents in the main hall in each bay, with pipes leading out to the Gothic louvres on the ridge. The total height of the building from ground to apex is 45ft at the front portion. The treatment for the most part is in the domestic Gothic style adapted to meet scholastic requirements. Wellsbach's incandescent burners have been fitted up in each room, and when lighted in the evening give the edifice a very brilliant appearance. Fire hose has been placed in readiness in different parts of the building. The total cost was £3900. The clerk of works was Mr.

M. V. Duffy, and the remarkably fine
work was carried out by Messrs.

HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH GIVEN IN "SOME OF THE FRUITS OF FIFTY YEARS"

"THE HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S, LIKE THAT OF MANY OTHER MISSIONS, BEGINS WITH A CHAPEL OF EASE IN THE DISTRICT. IN THE SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES MASS WAS CELEBRATED BY PRIESTS ATTACHED TO ST. PATRICK'S. AMONGST THESE THE NAMES OF FR. O'SULLIVAN AND DR. BLEASDALE ARE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED BY OLD RESIDENTS. THE FIRST PORTION OF THE PRESENT CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN FR. O'SULLIVAN'S TIME. THE FOUNDATION STONE WAS LAID ON THE 14TH FEBRUARY, 1863, AND THE OPENING CEREMONY TOOK PLACE A FEW MONTHS LATER.

THE ARRIVAL OF DEAN DONAGHY IN 1876, MARKED THE COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW ERA IN THE HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S. THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL HAD ITS COMMENCEMENT IN A PRIVATE HOUSE IN KERN ST. IT WAS AFTERWARDS TRANSFERRED TO THE CHURCH SPONGES. AS THE CONGREGATION RAPIDLY INCREASED, DEAN DONAGHY FOUND IT NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE WAVE OF THE CHURCH TO ITS PRESENT LENGTH. FOR SEVEN YEARS THIS ZEALOUS PRIEST LABOURED WITH UNFAYING ZEAL AMONGST THE PEOPLE. HE MAY RIGHTLY BE REGARDED AS THE FOUNDER OF ST. BRIGID'S MISSION.

THE FIRST RESIDENT PRIEST WAS FATHER MC BERNIS - NOW DEAN OF ST. PATRICK'S - WHO TOOK CHARGE OF THE MISSION ON TUESDAY JANUARY 1883, AND CONTINUED IN THAT POSITION TILL HIS APPOINTMENT TO ST. PATRICK'S JAN. 1892.

DURING HIS PASTORATE THE SOLID AND SPACIOUS PRESBYTERY WAS BUILT, THE CHURCH WAS CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED BY THE ADDITION OF AISLES AND VESTRY, AND THE THEN EXISTING SCHOOLS WERE RECONSTRUCTED SO AS TO AFFORD ACCOMMODATION TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF CHILDREN. THESE WORKS, SO SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED, INVOLVED AN OUTLAY OF £25,000. AT THE DATE OF THE DEAN'S TRANSFER TO ST. PATRICK'S THE PAROCHIAL DEBT HAD BEEN REDUCED TO £4000.

FATHER LYNCH WHO SUCCEEDED TO THE CHARGE OF THE MISSION, NOT WITHSTANDING THE BRAVE FINANCIAL STRESS OF THE TIME, REDUCED THE DEBT TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE PROJECT, LONG ENTERTAINED, OF BUILDING NEW SCHOOLS NOW BECAME FEASIBLE. OWING, HOWEVER, TO HIS PROMOTION TO THE CHARGE OF ST. FRANCIS, IT WAS NOT GIVEN TO FR. LYNCH TO CARRY OUT THIS IMPORTANT TASK.

THE DUTY DEVELOPED ON HIS SUCCESSION THE REV. E. J. KELLY, B.S., WHO SOON AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT, SET ABOUT BUILDING THE SPLENDID SCHOOLS RECENTLY OPENED. THEY HAVE COST CLOSE ON £80,000 AND WITH THE CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY, AS THE ILLUSTRATION SHOWS, A VERY IMPRESSIVE GROUP OF ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS. NO ONE COULD DESIRE A STRONGER PROOF OF FAITH AND SELF SACRIFICE ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE THAN IS AFFORDED BY WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE LAST THIRTY YEARS IN ST. BRIGID'S.



ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, GENERAL VIEW FROM WESTERN SIDE.



Silver Jubilee

25 years

1883 - 1908

St. Brigid's Parish
Nth. Fitzroy.

Jubilee Gift.

This bell was erected on the ridge of the main roof, behind the cross. It was the gift of Miss Fords Rathdowne St. "1908"

"1903" the inscription was seen by the painters preparing for St. Brigid's Centenary.

Pray for the souls of Michael Shannan and Patrick and Susan Fords whose children gave this bell on the Silver Jubilee of St. Brigid's Church R.I.P. A.D. 1908.

Text enlarged from previous page.

• ST. BRIGID'S
PARISH + GAZETTE
JUBILEE EDITION,
NORTH FITZROY, JANUARY 12th 1908.

HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH GIVEN IN "SOME OF THE FRUITS OF FIFTY YEARS"

" THE HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S, LIKE THAT OF MANY OTHER MISSIONS, BEGINS WITH A CHAPEL OF EASE IN THE DISTRICT. IN THE SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES MASS WAS CELEBRATED BY PRIESTS ATTACHED TO ST. PATRICK'S. AMONGST THESE THE NAMES OF FR. O'SULLIVAN AND DR. BLEASDALE ARE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED BY OLD RESIDENTS.

THE FIRST PORTION OF THE PRESENT CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN FR. O'SULLIVAN'S TIME. THE FOUNDATION STONE WAS LAID ON THE 14TH FEBRUARY, 1869, AND THE OPENING CEREMONY TOOK PLACE A FEW MONTHS LATER.

THE ARRIVAL OF DEAN DONAGHY IN 1876, MARKED THE COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW ERA IN THE HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S. THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL HAD ITS COMMENCEMENT IN A PRIVATE HOUSE IN KERR ST. IT WAS AFTERWARDS TRANSFERRED TO THE CHURCH GROUNDS. AS THE CONGREGATION RAPIDLY INCREASED, DEAN DONAGHY FOUND IT NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE NAVE OF THE CHURCH TO ITS PRESENT LENGTH. FOR SEVEN YEARS THIS ZEALOUS PRIEST LABOURED WITH UNTIRING ZEAL AMONGST THE PEOPLE. HE MAY RIGHTLY BE REGARDED AS THE FOUNDER OF ST. BRIGID'S MISSION.

THE FIRST RESIDENT PRIEST WAS FATHER MC KENNA - NOW DEAN OF ST. PATRICK'S - WHO TOOK CHARGE OF THE MISSION ON 10th JANUARY 1883, AND CONTINUED IN THAT POSITION TILL HIS APPOINTMENT TO ST. PATRICK'S JAN. 1892.

DURING HIS PASTORATE THE SOLID AND SPACIOUS PRESBYTERY WAS BUILT, THE CHURCH WAS CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED BY THE ADDITION OF AISLES AND VESTRY, AND THE THEN EXISTING SCHOOLS WERE RECONSTRUCTED SO AS TO AFFORD ACCOMMODATION TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF CHILDREN. THESE WORKS, SO SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED, INVOLVED AN OUTLAY OF £25,000. AT THE DATE OF THE DEAN'S TRANSFER TO ST. PATRICK'S THE PAROCHIAL DEBT HAD BEEN REDUCED TO £4000.

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Jubilee Gift.

This bell was erected on the ridge of the main roof, behind the cross.

It was the gift of Miss Forde Rathdowne St. "1908"

"1993. The inscription was seen by the painters preparing for St. Brigid's Centenary."

Pray for the souls of Michael Shannon and Patrick and Susan Forde, whose children gave this bell on the Silver Jubilee of St. Brigid's Church R.I.P. A.D. 1908.

Lay & Religious Teachers
1914.



Left: May Killey, Vera Carter, Ivy Archer.
Front: Miss Maher, Miss Harvey, Vera Brady.



Community 1914.

Back: Srs. Lucius (Spaeth) Stanislaus (Mullavey)
Victor (Cifara) Celestine, Scholastica
Front: Srs. Rebecca (Hilly) Francis (Tomara)
Cecilia (Eustace) De Chantal (Kelfe)



Community 1924.

Back: Srs. Ludovic (MC) Cecilia (M) Dominic (O)
De Chantal (R) Celestine (S)
Front: Srs. Lucy (B) Patrick Joseph (E)
Isabel (MA) Catherine Tava (A) Dominic (K)

*AC. N.S. indolegens in Africa missus, Ego, Petrus Archiepiscopus Melloniensis
Cathedralis altaris hoc in honorem Reale Anglorum et Reliquis Sanctarum Marry
... on the anniversary of the translation of the body of St. Patrick to the
... in the year 1820.*

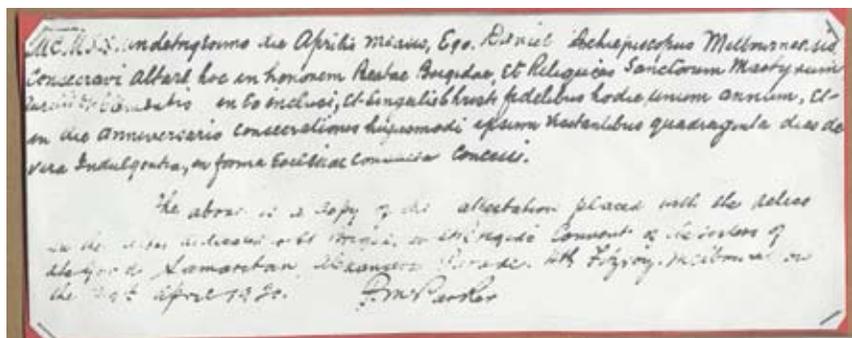
*This above is a copy of the sketch plan with the details
... of the new marble altar was consecrated. He also noted
that it had inscribed on the table thereof two crosses
one on the right, one on the left side.
He next asked to see the document to say it was
consecrated. It couldn't be found, St. Patrick
... family found it.
It was dutifully sent to the Cathedral and
returned with the request that it be framed and kept
as a permanent record.
Dr. Simonds said it was most unusual for a Convent
altar to be consecrated. The early sisters knew
the care and work that went into the building of
what was one of the most secure convents of the time.
Fr. Parker remarked to Fr. Maloney S.J. when he
showed him through the Convent that if every brick
were to be made of gold, it wouldn't be too good
for the sisters.*

1924.



When Archbishop Simonds paid his first visit to
St. Bridget's Convent, he was quick to notice that
the new marble altar was consecrated. He also noted
that it had inscribed on the table thereof two crosses
one on the right, one on the left side.
He next asked to see the document to say it was
consecrated. It couldn't be found, St. Patrick
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showed him through the Convent that if every brick
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for the sisters.

Text enlarged from previous page.



When Archbishop Simonds paid his first visit to St. Brigid's Convent, he was quick to notice that the new marble Altar was consecrated- He also noted that it had inlaid on the table thereof two crosses- one on the right, one on the left side.

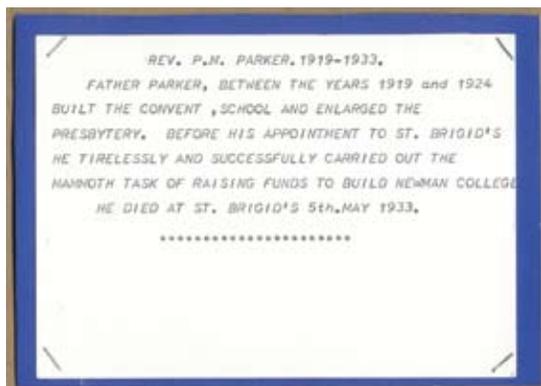
He next asked to see the document to say it was consecrated. It couldn't be found, M. Patrick O'Brien finally found it.

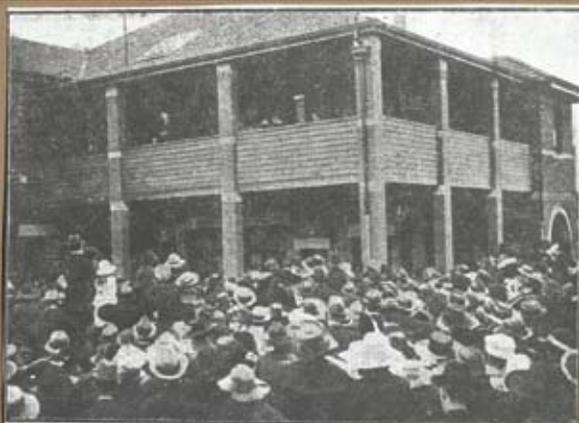
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Text enlarged from opposite page.



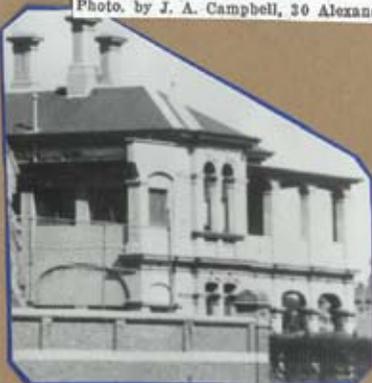


New Convent at North Fitzroy: The Archbishop speaking from the balcony.
Photo. by J. A. Campbell, 30 Alexander Parade, Fitzroy.

Faith
Filled
Pioneers



Rev. P.M. Parker 1919 - 1933.



REV. P.M. PARKER, 1919-1933.
FATHER PARKER, BETWEEN THE YEARS 1919 AND 1924
BUILT THE CONVENT, SCHOOLS AND ENLARGED THE
PRESBYTERY. BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT TO ST. BRIGID'S
HE FEARLESSLY AND SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT THE
HARDER TASK OF RAISING FUNDS TO BUILD NEWBORN COLLEGE.
HE DIED AT ST. BRIGID'S SEPTEMBER 1933.



SOUVENIR
ST BRIGID'S NEW SCHOOLS
June 8th 1924

1919
to
1933.



High Altar - Side Altars.
 Mr James Curtin built the
 altars in 1884.
 Signor Razzi, an Italian
 artist decorated and carved
 the panels.
 Marble Altar Rails: W.B. Memorial



The statues of St. Therese (as in
 the sanctuary) and St. Vincent
 de Paul (at the back of church)
 were gifts of Mr. R. de Freitas

MEMORIAL TO LATE PARISH PRIEST

About eight months ago the parishioners decided that a marble altar rail and plaques be erected in the memory of the late Very Rev. David Gleason and other deceased pastors. Thanks to the zeal and efficiency of Messrs. Frank Hallett & Son, Milwaukee, a beautiful altar rail now adorns St. Brigid's Church. The parishioners are highly pleased with the work and satisfaction has been expressed by very many. It is hoped if there is in any parish church in the Archdiocese a more ornate and solid structure. A most-needed improvement was effected in the sanctuary likewise as arranged.

The memorial altar was solemnly blessed by the Right Rev. Monsignor Fox, V.G., at

the 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday, December 12. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Fr. Tolson. The number was rendered by the parish school choir. Miss Kerin presided at the organ. About a dozen altar boys attended Monsignor Fox at the blessing of the altar rail and the unveiling of the plaques. After the blessing Monsignor Fox addressed the congregation.

Total cost of the altar rail was \$2200. Carpets, plaques, painting, alterations in baptismal font, sacristies, sanctifier, etc. are expected to cost in addition about \$200.

The total amount received from the appeal was \$400. Further donations, if received, will be acknowledged in next issue of the "Brighton."



1887-1888 Well-worn steps to Worship.



The Sacristy.
Mrs Marie (Sheeham) Noble
attends to the sacristy
and church duties.

St. Mark's

Nb. Caxton.

'The Little Church
 on the Hill'
 Built 1905.



'The Conventual Piece'
 In the sacristy is this small stove
 It was used by the sisters in
 the 1920s. It is still in use.



Called 'the Conventual
 Piece' because when
 a new priest came
 to celebrate Mass
 this piece of
 kitchen ware always
 needed a convenient
 top. Hence the
 name given by
 the Sacristan.

Fr. Gleeson

The people of St. Brigid's parish are fortunate in having the late Fr. Gleeson as successor to the late Fr. Parker. Fr. Gleeson is no stranger to the parishioners of St. Brigid's, as many of the older people remember him when he was associated with the late Fr. O'Connell at Carlow. Prior to coming to North Fitzroy, Fr. Gleeson was parish priest of Surrey Hills—indeed, he was the first pastor in that diocese when the parish was far more extensive than it is at present. During his twenty-two years' pastorate there he saw the suburb of Surrey Hills grow from a somewhat scattered district to its present splendid state, and in that growth, from a Catholic viewpoint, Fr. Gleeson played an small part.

We wish his many pleasant years as pastor of St. Brigid's, and assure him of the wholehearted support of the parishioners.

The School Hall (man)



Fr. Gleeson spent 14 yrs at St. Brigid's (1934-1947). During his pastorate St. Mark's Caxton was built. He died at St. Brigid's - 1947.



Fr. Anthony Lopez succeeded Fr. Gleeson, but died after 5 yrs, at St. Brigid's in 1950.

75th Anniversary of Parish
Centenary of Fitzroy - 1958.



Float (top left) commemorates
both events.

St. Brigid's 1958 Community
in front of the grotto, which
was built by parishioners to
commemorate the occasion.

75 YRS.

A.M.D.G.
THIS ALTAR IS
The Golden Jubilee Gift to
Rev. T. Little P.P.
From the School Children,
Sisters, Parishioners
and all his Friends
30th. May 1865.



These three plaques
can be seen on the
pillars of the Sanctuary.



IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE
OF
MOTHER M. DOMINIC (COOK)
R.I.P.
MR. SPENCE - ST. BRIGID'S
NORTH FITZROY
Excel her past pupils
to commemorate centenary
foundation - Sisters of the
Good Samaritan, 1891-1958
AND
75th Anniversary
ST. BRIGID'S PARISH
1883 - 1958.

OF YOUR CHARITY
PRAY FOR THE SOUL
OF THE
Rev. F.M. Parker
P.P.
St. Brigid's 1898-33
died
May 8th. 1933.
He built the adjoining
School and Convent.
R.I.P.

Pray for the repose of
THE SOUL OF
Very Rev. David Gleason
PP. St. Brigid's 1923-27.
died 10th. May 1947.
This altar rail
erected by parishioners
to his memory
and former deceased
pastors.

Text enlarged from previous three pages.

MEMORIAL TO LATE PARISH PRIEST

About eight months ago the parishioners decided that a marble altar rail and plaque be erected to the memory of the late Very Rev. David Gleeson and other deceased pastors. Thanks to the zeal and efficiency of Messrs. Frank Hallett & Son, Richmond, a beautiful altar rail now adorns St. Brigid's Church. The parishioners are highly pleased with the work and satisfaction has been expressed by very many. It is doubtful if there is in any parish church in the Archdiocese a more ornate and solid structure. A much-needed enlargement was effected in the sanctuary hitherto so cramped.

The memorial altar was solemnly blessed by the Right Rev. Monsignor Fox, V.G., at the 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday, December 12. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Fr. Rohan. The music was rendered by the parish school choir. Miss Kerin presided at the organ. About a dozen altar boys attended Monsignor Fox at the blessing of the altar rail and the unveiling of the plaque. After the blessing Monsignor Fox addressed the congregation.

Total cost of the altar rail was £2200. Carpets, plaque, painting, alterations to baptismal font, sacrum, amplifier, etc., are expected to cost in addition about £200.

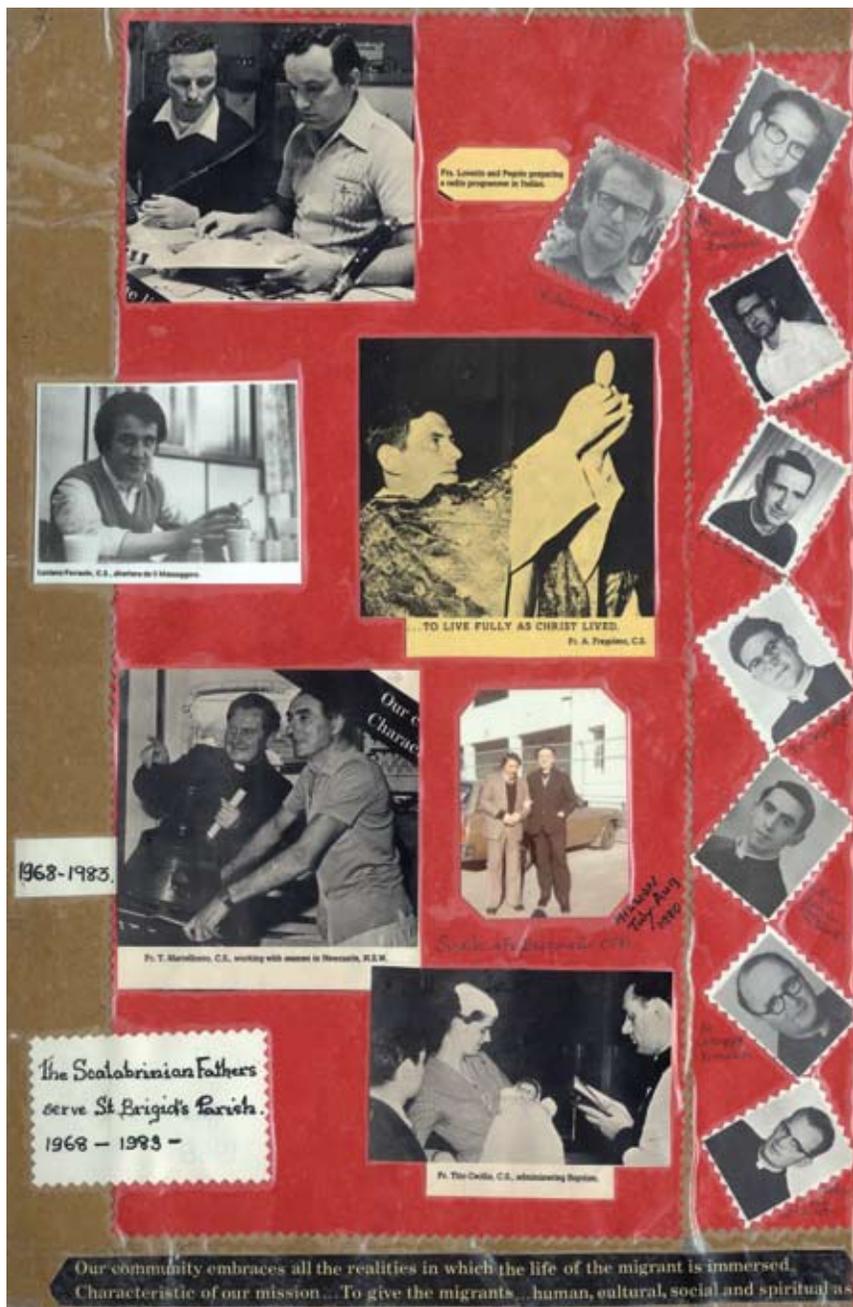
The total amount received from the appeal was £407. Further donations, if received, will be acknowledged in next issue of the "Brigidine."

Fr. Gleeson

The people of St. Brigid's parish are fortunate in having the Rev. D. Gleeson as successor to the late Fr. Parker. Fr. Gleeson is no stranger to the parishioners of St. Brigid's, as many of the olden people remember him when he was associated with the late Fr. O'Connell at Carlton. Prior to coming to North Fitzroy, Fr. Gleeson was parish priest of Surrey Hills—indeed, he was the first pastor in that district; when the parish was far more extensive than it is at present. During his twenty-two years' pastorate there he saw the suburb of Surrey Hills grow from a somewhat scattered district to its present splendid size, and in that growth, from a Catholic standpoint, Fr. Gleeson played no small part.

We wish him many pleasant years as pastor of St. Brigid's, and assure him of the wholehearted support of the parishioners.

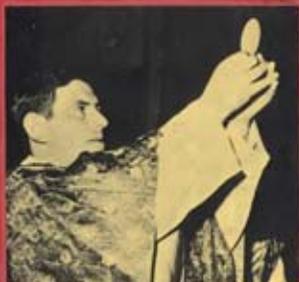
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE
OF
MOTHER M. DOMINIC (COOK)
R.I.P.
1ST. SUPERIOR - ST. BRIGID'S
NORTH FITZROY
From her past pupils
to commemorate centenary
foundation - Sisters of the
Good Samaritan 1883-1958
AND 75th Anniversary
ST. BRIGID'S PARISH
1883 - 1958



Frs. Lovatelli and Pagani preparing a radio program in Italy.



Antonio Formica, C.S., director of St. Margaret.



...TO LIVE FULLY AS CHRIST LIVED.

Fr. A. Fragomeni, C.S.



Fr. T. Marfiliotti, C.S., working with women in Brescia, R.I.R.



HEARSH
July-Aug
1980



Fr. Tito Celesia, C.S., administering Eucharist.

The Scalabrinian Fathers
serve St. Brigid's Parish.
1968 - 1983 -



Rev. John Raccanello, C.S.
1968-1971.

Fr. John Raccanello, C.S.C.,
Archbishop of Milwaukee,
St. Patrick's Cathedral,
New York City, New York.

Your Grace,
I have the honor of answering Rev. Father John Raccanello, C.S.C., for the office of Pastor of the Parish of St. Basil in North Shore, kindly asking Your Grace to accept some good fruit from the facilities project in that office.

Rev. Fr. Raccanello was born in Italy in 1908, graduated in 1934 and was ordained in 1935 to U.S.A. where he completed his theological studies (Theological Faculty, St. Thomas and New York) and worked for five years as a parish administrator, etc. He served as Parish Priest for six years in Milwaukee, U.S.A. and for three years in North Shore.

In our religious Province Fr. Raccanello holds the office of Major-procurator and Rector.
Rev. Fr. Raccanello will be assigned to the parish of St. Basil by Rev. Fr. Leo Elliott, C.S., who has been working at St. Basil's for the past three years; and by Rev. Fr. Andrew Pirovano, C.S., who has been a member of St. Basil's Ministry for the past four months.

Rev. Fr. Bruce Elliott, C.S. will continue his work for his Institute in Milwaukee from St. Basil's and Rev. Fr. John St. Will, C.S. will continue in Parish Priest of St. Basil's.

Respect your blessing and with all regards,
Your University in Christ,
F. S. Briggs, C.S.
Procurator.

Fr. John Raccanello confirmed Fr. Raccanello's task of implementing the changes in the library following Vatican II including adopting the Sacrosanctary to be used in the library.

Years to Remember.
1967 - St. Ita's closed.
1968-69 - Fr. Little's Jubilee.
New Altar. First Mass said facing people.
1970 - St. Mark's Closed. (as a school).
Commercial Sch. also.
1974 - High School Closes. Numbers down to 200.
Watch for Mass at St. Basil's. Further Changes.



Ceiling of Sanctuary. Altar Rails Removed. New Altar.





Father John Mello, C.S., has been appointed as the new Parish Priest of St. Brigid's. The appointments will become effective on Saturday, 23rd January.

Father Mello - Home Masses - Closing of Sanctuary - returned to its original state.



St Brigid's School - Palm Sunday.
Fr. John Mello; Benny Jubie II, Nancy Soab 7.
1977. April.

Photos - courtesy of Herald & Weekly Times Limited



*Fr. Francis Lovatin. 1973-1981.
Father's Pastorate began when the
sisters vacated the Convent. It
also was the time two rooms
were gutted by fire.*



16th March 1979.
Farewell Evening was
attended by the Sisters
the Fathers and Ladies.



Fr. Francis - Atour Service } 70 odd yrs. of service.

Text enlarged from
previous two pages.

Years to Remember.
1967 - St. Ita's closed.
1968-69 - Fr. Little's Jubilee -
New Altar - first Mass
said facing people.
1970 - St. Mark's Closed.
(as a school.)
Commercial Sch. also.
1974 - High School Closes
Numbers down to 200
Watch for ^{Mass at} ^{Prats} ^{Monthly?}
Further Changes.

31st January, 1968

P. No. AM-1.68
His Grace,
Most Reverend J. KNOX, D.D.,
Archbishop of Melbourne,
St. Patrick's Cathedral,
MELBOURNE, Vic. 3000
Your Grace,

I have the honour of presenting Rev. Father John Raccanello, C.S., for the office of Pastor of the Parish of St. Brigid in North Fitzroy, humbly asking Your Grace to accept him and grant him the faculties proper to such office.

Rev. Fr. Raccanello was born in Italy in 1928, professed in 1945 and was ordained in 1952 in U.S.A. where he completed his theological studies (Sacred Heart Seminary, Chicago and New York) and worked for five years as a curate (Milwaukee, Wis.). He served as Parish Priest for six years in Unanderra, N.S.W. and for three years in North Lismore.

In our religious Province Fr. Raccanello holds the office of Vicar-provincial and Bursar.

Rev. Fr. Raccanello will be assisted in the parish of St. Brigid by Rev. Fr. Leo Silvestri, C.S., who has been working at St. Brigid's for the past three years; and by Rev. Fr. Adriano Pittarello, C.S., who has been a curate at All Saints, Fitzroy for the past four months.

Rev. Fr. Bruno Morotti, C.S. will continue his work for the Italians in Melbourne from St. Brigid's; and Rev. Fr. John Di Vito, C.S. will continue as Parish Priest at All Saints', Fitzroy.

Begging your blessing and with all regards,
Your sincerely in Christ,
P.G. Baggio, C.S.
Provincial.

Father John Mello, C.S., has been appointed as the new Parish Priest of St. Brigid's. The appointments will become effective on Saturday, 23rd January.

Fr. Francis Lovatin. 1973-1981.
Father's Pastorate began when the sisters vacated the Convent. It also was the time two rooms were gutted by fire.

Father Mello -
Home Masses.
Ceiling of Sanctuary
returned to its
original state.

St Brigid's School - Palm Sunday.
Fr. John Mello; Benny Ljubic II, Nancy Soab 7.
1977. April.
Photos:- courtesy of Herald & Weekly Times Limited)



Bernal St. Rooms



York Place



The Fire.
Two classrooms were
destroyed by fire in July
1980.
Left - Principal Kevin Papworth
Right - Priest,
Fr. Francis Iovanna (C.S.C.)



Repair Work. (below) -
(The Principal's Mrs. Van Ruy
5th Year)



York Place: St. Brigid's gets
the final location.



Confirmation 1980.



Altar Boys - 1980
left to right: J. Malone;
J. Goodwin; M. Aspinall
J. Brady.



Rev. Tilmann Muehlhase,
was appointed Parish Priest
of St. Brigid's in 1981.
Restoration of school, church
and presbytery may be attributed
to him.



Part of the Sunday
Congregation -



Srs. Stephanie and
Lila (Duffy) arrive at school
1980.



Love and B.G. (Presbytery)
Furnishings.

Over the years much
maintenance to existing
buildings has been undertaken.



27 Alexandra Parade North Fitzroy Victoria Australia 3068 Tel 623 481 2144
 CAC is a non profit service sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
 to foster the language, culture and social welfare of migrants.

Centre for Italians opens

BY JOYCE WILLIAMS

A centre with two purposes and a dual purpose was opened and opened by Archbishop Little to North Street on Tuesday 10 April.

The Catholic Italian Renewal Centre (C.I.R.C.) is situated in the building formerly occupied by the Italian Consulate in North Street. The building was purchased by the Italian Consulate and the present building was designed by the architect of the Italian Consulate.

The building was built in 1954, in North Street, and was used as the Italian Consulate. The building was purchased by the Italian Consulate and the present building was designed by the architect of the Italian Consulate.

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ACLI

Booklets Sister Candidates
Preparing for English Speaking for Italian Groups



CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CENTRE
MELBOURNE

St Brigid's Convent Closed
 17th March 1979



The convent will also be closed on 17th March 1979. The convent will also be closed on 17th March 1979. The convent will also be closed on 17th March 1979.

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Sister Ingeborg Rayner M.A.



Mother and children



Engaged Couples

Family planning centre moves

The National Family Planning Centre, previously at 25 Wellington Park, East Melbourne, has moved to 27 Alexandra Park, North Fitzroy.

The centre of the central family planning centre has moved to 27 Alexandra Park, North Fitzroy. The centre of the central family planning centre has moved to 27 Alexandra Park, North Fitzroy.

27 Alexandra Parade North Fitzroy Victoria Australia 3068 Tel (03) 481 2144
 CIRC is a non-profit service sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to foster the religious, cultural and social welfare of migrants.

Centre for Italians opens

By JOYCE WILLIAMS

A centre with two names and a dual purpose was blessed and opened by Archbishop Little in North Fitzroy on Tuesday 29 April.

The Catholic Italian Renewal Centre (Centro Italiano Rinnovamento Missioni) in Alexandra Parade is also the Catholic Inter-cultural Resource Centre.

The dual purpose of its work is the Christian apostolate in the Italian language, and the presence of the Church in a multicultural society.

Situated in what was, until a year ago, St Brigid's convent, occupied by the Good Samaritan Sisters, the centre will help the 200,000 Italian- and Australian-Italian scattered throughout the Melbourne Archdiocese.

It will also provide a service of the gathering and giving of information on the various ethnic cultures now part of the Australian society.

Speaking after the blessing and opening of the centre, Archbishop Little told more than 50 invited guests that the Church in Australia had been enriched by migrants.

"They have brought color to the spectrum, beauty to the scene," he said.

"But," he added, "It's tough being a migrant."

He recalled his own experience when he arrived in Rome for the first time, his knowledge of the language almost nil, finding himself among 50 nationalities, most of whom he couldn't understand.

This, he said, gave him a felling feeling for the migrant facing the barriers of language, isolation, and loss that could eat into the soul.

"To go into the church and not understand the homily; not be able to join in the hymn; not be able to greet and be greeted by the community are some of the problems the migrant experiences."

To overcome all those barriers is to grow, the archbishop said.

"Fortunately, love speaks all languages."

Referring to the start of the centre, which is designed to help overcome some of the problems migrants face in the Catholic Church in Australia, the archbishop said thanks must go to the Scalabrinian Fathers.

"You can't do anything without quality personnel," he said.

"When the Scalabrinian Fathers were approached they gave their best man for this special work - Fr Joseph Vissella."

But, he said, "his work will achieve nothing unless it sparks a response in the souls of those he serves."

Fr Vissella, director of the centre, said that the program planned at the centre would strengthen the bond of ethnic groups with the Australian Catholic Church.

Sponsored, owned and supported by the archdiocese, the centre, which started in other premises in 1977 and moved to its present position a year ago, aids intercultural awareness and understanding in Australia's multicultural society, he said.

It does not function as an administrative bureau, with a definite authority over people, but as a resource place.

"Its main thrust is to promote, support, and co-ordinate the vast work of the human, educational and pastoral care of the Italian people."

"The centre will also help organize, on a diocesan level, the main religious functions of the whole Italian community scattered throughout the archdiocese: the annual ~~Mass~~ anniversary of the Italian Republic; national communities Mass; and the annual pilgrimage to Donauveit," Fr Vissella said.

Guests of the function included the Consul-General for Italy, Dr L. Vozzi; the Victorian Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr Alan Wood; priests; religious members of the Italian Catholic Federation and people from the Italian community.

The centre, known as CIRC, shares premises with two other groups - a family planning centre, conducted by Dr John Billings and his wife Dr Joelya Billings, and a welfare agency.

The hall consists of four full-time workers: Fr Vissella; deputy-director, Mr Lidio Bertelli; Pastorella Sr Edna; and a receptionist.

Helping to co-ordinate the centre are 29 people of various nationalities and professions on four sub-committees aided by volunteer workers.

Financial assistance has come from the archdiocese; the Italian Catholic Federation; the Italian Government; a Victorian Government grant and subsidy; and people in the community.

It has a reference library with documentation on Italian culture and ethnic issues, Australian and Italian religious newspapers, and a library of books and magazines donated by the Italian Government.

A book shop has literature in Italian useful in understanding the apostolate in Australia. A chapel provides a place of peace and prayer.

Its facilities are available to clergy and laity for training in parish leadership courses; socio-pastoral assistance; missions; consultancy services; translations and in many other areas where the migrant finds integration difficult.

It will organize seminars and workshops; educational courses for Italian-speaking people; and cultural courses.

The centre publishes monographs; CIRC papers; and the Fourth World, a bi-monthly review of the Church press and ethnic affairs.

Running on a steady budget, the centre, would welcome financial assistance.

St. Brigid's

Family planning centre moves

The Natural Family Planning Centre, previously at 88 Wellington Pde, East Melbourne, has moved to 27 Alexandra Parade, North Fitzroy.

Here it shares the building which was St Brigid's convent with the Catholic Italian Renewal Centre.

The family planning centre will continue to provide a headquarters for the National Family Planning Council of Victoria and the Ovulation Method Research and Reference Centre of Australia.

The work of the Victorian Council has expanded greatly in recent years and the new accommodation provides more space for administrative, group lectures and private interviews.

The activities of the council include: instruction in natural family planning; consultative service in regard to marital problems associated with fertility regulation; training of prospective teachers of natural family planning; information regarding fertility regulation for engaged couples; Christian sexuality programs; information regarding fertility regulation for various ethnic groups; program of research.

These various activities have shown steady growth over several years, with strong demand from both Catholics and non-Catholics.

Fr Maurice Catalinich is the ecclesiastical consultant appointed by the Archbishop of Melbourne.

Appointments can be made by doctor or by phoning the secretary at 481-1722.

Shrook

Engaged Couples



ADDRESS BY THE PARISH PRIEST AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MASS



Your Grace, my Lord, fellow priests, religious, past and present parishioners and visitors.

A definition comes to my mind of what constitutes a Church, and it is that the People of God gathered around their Bishop are the Church in that time and place. So here, today, we are the Church, and for this, we have thanked God in our Centenary Mass this afternoon.

The St. Brigid's of 1983, however, must be attributed to the dedication, foresight and living faith of all those who have gone before us as part of this Church for the last 100 years. Some of you present are yourselves part of this history, and we are glad to have the opportunity of thanking you personally for what you have given us.

We are honoured and we rejoice that our Archbishop, Most Reverend Francis Little, is with us on this day.

Your Grace, may I welcome you on behalf of the parish of St. Brigid's, and thank you so all concertly for sharing our joy and celebrating with us on this unique occasion.

We also thank Bishop Fox and all this impressive array of commentators that you have seen before you - they are all present and past priests and friends of our parish, and some have had to travel a considerable distance to be here. We appreciate their willingness in accepting our invitation, and I'm sure they have played in making this day such a memorable one.

Special thanks is offered to the Veneto Choir and organist Mr. Rocco Sorace, under the direction of Mr. Nino Morandini, for the musical contribution to this memorable day.

The people who have given their time and their talents as generously towards making our Centenary celebration such a success are too numerous to mention, but our gratitude goes out to each and every one of them. They should be justifiably proud.

I must, however, pay a special tribute to our Centenary Committee, because without their tireless efforts, this day would not have been possible. I am not likely to forget the enthusiasm they have shown, or the support they have given me - this is the true spirit of St. Brigid's.

Finally, on behalf of our parish, I thank all of you present today. As friends and past parishioners, you have come here to pray, to celebrate, and to reminisce with us and with each other. You are cordially invited to the hot after Mass refreshments, and to view the photographic display which illustrates our 100 years as a parish, and which will, I am sure, produce quite a few nostalgic twinges. You are also invited to tour the school, which is open for inspection today.

Next Saturday, at 7.00 p.m. in this Church, Bishop J. O'Connell will celebrate a special Mass for deceased priests, religious, and parishioners of St. Brigid's parish.

Fathers, if it is possible for you to be here again, Bishop O'Connell would like you to celebrate with him. We hope that many of you here today, visitors and parishioners, will also be present for this Mass.

And now, stay with us a little longer, enjoy our Centenary Day, and WELCOME BACK to St. Brigid's.



Parishioners from St. Brigid's join with St. Mark's in a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Fr. Anthony Fragolent was appointed to St. Brigid's in the Centenary Year 1983

The Centenary Year has been the gateway to many wonderful undertakings within the Parish.

Faith Filled Pioneers



St. Brigid's, Nith, Fitzroy



St. Mark's Binnis Hill - Golden Jubilee 1986.



Santo puts the finishing touches on the Sanctuary 1980.

Special View of St. Brigid's 1983.



Text enlarged from opposite page.

ST. BRIGID'S PARISH CENTENARY MASS (1. 5. 1983)

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The Organ.

THE Electrification of the Church Organ is now complete and St. Brigid's was on fête on the 20th at the reopening. The old pump-handle system of blowing the organ had hitherto been used, but was most unsatisfactory, for reasons that would take too long to explain here, but which are sufficiently well-known to parishioners. A contract was let to Mr. Beardshall, electrician, for £62/10/-, who did his work most satisfactorily. A pit was dug under the floor of the porch, and in it was placed an electric motor and a Sirocco blower, with tube passages for the air. A special electric current wire connects it with the electric company's works. All that has now to be done is to switch it on and then press a button at the organ and the whole force is at command for playing. When the choir was rehearsing on the previous Friday night, Mr. Chas. Sykes, the celebrated organist, turned in to see how it was working. He sat at the instrument and played for half-an-hour all his best pieces and tried the instrument in every way. It responded to all the demands he made upon it, and he left delighted with it, saying as he went: "You have got a great addition to your church." Let us add that the members of the choir enjoyed immensely the unexpected organ recital they got from Mr. Sykes.

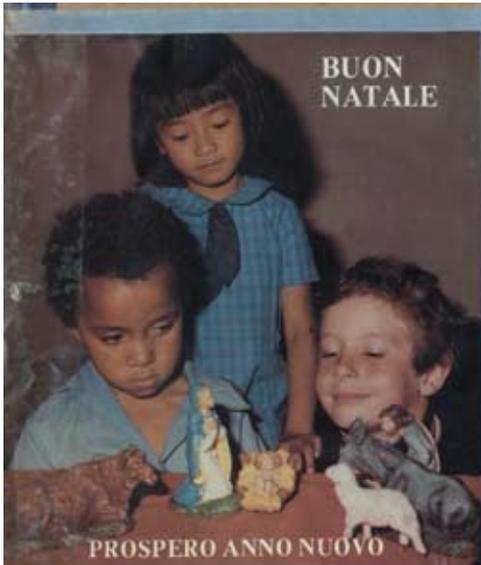
On Sunday, it was played at all the Masses. At the early Masses, Miss Weyman performed solos for the congregation to hear the instrument in its new condition. At the 9.30 Mass, the organ accompanied the children's rendering of Schweister's Mass, which the large assemblage enjoyed very much; Miss Vera Carew sang also a solo. At the 11 o'clock Mass, with Miss Gallagher playing, a new Mass was rendered for the first time in Victoria, Turner's Mass of the Good Shepherd. Signorina Coy sang an "Ave Maria" in her best style. Altogether the opening was a great success, and critics declare that, apart from the ease with which power is now obtained for playing, the organ has acquired by the electricity a clear crisp touch that was lacking before, so that the instrument itself is greatly improved thereby.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, NTH. FITZROY.

This organ, built by Alfred Fuller, was opened by David Lee on 24th July, 1886. It replaced an earlier organ which was originally in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melb., and sold to the Congregational Church, Castlemaine. Restoration work was carried out by Fincham & Sons in 1906, 1911 and 1970.

This instrument remains substantially in its original state apart from the Great Trumpet, which was originally a Bassoon & Clarinet, and the Twelfth, which replaces the original, for which a Gamba had been substituted at some stage.

Text enlarged
from opposite
page.



Anti-Racist Photo Wins Press Award



The cover photo of "Il Messaggero" showing two little children — one obviously of Asian origin — playing together, won the 1984 Best Picture in the Australian Catholic Press Association's Awards announced on the 12th April 1985.

The photo was published in the "church" article in the July edition, which was based at the height of the anti-racist debate, generated at the time by the comments made by Paul G. Skerrett. The article, in Italian titled "Sharing and Growing Together" sought to refute the racist views being propagated at the time by promoting a Christian message on Australia's immigration policies.

"The spirituality of the photo", the editor, Luciano Parron, stated in accepting the award, "conveys the very clear message it carries". "There is no room for racism in Australia and if people of all backgrounds are accepted and encouraged to grow together, sharing their own backgrounds and cultures with each other, then Australia's society will be strengthened and will be much richer for that".

"I am also particularly pleased that recognition has been given by the Australian Catholic Press Association in an Italian-language publication. I think that this recognizes the important role that the ethnic media has in informing and educating persons of a non-English speaking background", Luciano Parron added.

"Il Messaggero" is the first bilingual magazine published in Australia, with national circulation. The awards were announced at last year's Australian Catholic Press Association's Annual Meeting and were the result of deliberation by a panel of experts headed by Mr. Don Mahoney, production editor of "The Age" and "The Herald" in partnership with Mr. Frank Matrone, former Publications Manager of the Herald and the "Times" and lecturer in journalism at RMIT and its Technical Diploma (DIP) member of the Australian Catholic Press Association.

Reports from
St. Beigoli
spoke the
headlines



Condividere
crescendo insieme



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The photo was publicising the feature article in the July edition, which was issued at the height of the anti-Asian debate, generated at the time by the comment made by Prof. G. Blainey. The article, in Italian titled "Sharing and Growing Together" sought to rebut the racist views being circulated at the time by providing a Christian outlook on Australia's immigration policies.

"The simplicity of the photo", the editor, Luciano Ferracin stated in accepting the award, "belies the very clear message it carries". "There is no room for racism in Australia and if children of all backgrounds are permitted and encouraged to grow together, sharing their own backgrounds and cultures with each other, then Australian society will be strengthened and will be much richer for that".

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Text enlarged from opposite page.

Pupils from
St. Brigids
make the
headlines





Faith-filled Pioneers



(Above): Extending St Brigid's Church; Original Church 1873
(Below): St Brigid's Convent; St Brigid's School, Fitzroy North

