



THE SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF AUSTRALIA

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# 27th General Chapter

## of the Sisters of Charity

On Sunday evening, 21 September, 82 Delegates to the 27th General Chapter of the Sisters of Charity of Australia gathered at St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living at Baulkham Hills. In addition to the Delegates Sr Mairead Ni Chuirsc, one of the general Councillors of our Founding Congregation, the Religious Sisters of Charity, had travelled from Dublin to represent them at our Chapter. Our two facilitators, Srs Lauretta Baker and June Flynn were also present as we commenced the formalities of the Chapter.

A Chapter is a special meeting of a group of Religious to discern the future direction and to elect the leaders who will carry forward the plans agreed at the Chapter.

On Monday morning a symbolic and moving liturgy was held in the Chapel and was webcast to Sisters who were unable to be delegates.

The Chapter included discussion, prayerful reflection and a discernment process leading to the election of Sr Clare Nolan as Congregational Leader and Sisters Margaret Beirne, Suzette Clark and Catherine (Cate) O'Brien as Councillors for a six-year term that will commence on 8 December and continue for six years.

*Top to bottom:* Celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Manning; Group work; Morning Tea break; Time out for Fun Olympics; New 2015-2020 Leader and Council: Srs Cate O'Brien, Suzette Clark, Clare Nolan (Congregational Leader) and Margaret Beirne; Facilitators: Srs June Flynn and Lauretta Baker rsj.

The Chapter continued until Monday afternoon, 29 September when we concluded with another simple but moving liturgy, including an anointing of the incoming Leader and Council by the current group and a proclamation by all Delegates of the Chapter Statement:

*We are Sisters of Charity,  
women of Mary Aikenhead,  
contemplatives in action  
impelled by the love of Christ.  
We live the joy of the Gospel.  
We respond courageously  
to the call to mission,  
going out to the margins,  
walking in partnership  
with others.*



# Our Jubilarians

## Sr Dorothy Barden



Platinum Jubilarian Sr Dorothy (right) with Sr Jennifer.

### Platinum Jubilee – Celebrating 70 Years of Religious Profession

Sr Dorothy Barden celebrated her 70th Anniversary of Religious profession in the Chapel of St Joseph's Village, Auburn, on 4 September. Fr Bill Challenor, with whom Dorothy had worked at Emu Plains Correctional Centre was the main celebrant at the Eucharist, accompanied by Fr Ray Farrell, PP of St John of God Parish, Auburn.

Dorothy's, sister, Joyce and nephew Paul and friends joined Dorothy's community from Concord and Concord West, residents and other invited Sisters for the celebration.

Fr Bill spoke of Dorothy's gentle presence and respect for others and her positive influence on those in the Correctional Centre as well as her educational and Outreach ministries.

He also spoke of the continual cycle of growth that occurs in one's spiritual life as long as one remains open to God's action. Sr Annette Cunliffe, the Congregational Leader, presented Dorothy with a Papal Blessing during Mass, at which all Sisters present joined Dorothy in the renewal of Vows.

After Mass, guests shared refreshments, arranged by Dorothy's community, in the Buchanan Room. Sr Jennifer Fahey spoke of Dorothy's influence on her from her entrance into Religious life. Sr Dorothy then cut the Jubilee cake, made and decorated by Sr Judith Clarke and then shared by all.

## Sisters Nola Riley, Margaret Mary O'Rourke, Mathilde Harnischfeger, Margaret Mines, Helen Dearn and Margaret Scully

### Diamond Jubilees – Celebrating 60 Years of Religious Profession

5<sup>th</sup> August 2014 marked the Diamond Jubilees of Sisters Nola Riley, Margaret Mary O'Rourke, Mathilde Harnischfeger, Margaret Mines, Helen Dearn and Margaret Scully.

This occasion was celebrated in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. Sisters Helen Dearn celebrated at St Joseph's Village Auburn, with Margaret Scully, members of Helen's family and friends together with residents from the Village, other Sisters of Charity, including Srs Annette Cunliffe and Laureen Dixon from the Congregational Council and Helen's community. Fr Isaac Koi MSC presided over the Eucharist and all shared morning tea that included a beautiful Jubilee cake. During Eucharist Helen was presented with a blessing from Pope Francis.

Srs Nola, Mathilde and Margaret Mines who all live in Brisbane shared a celebration in the Chapel of St Vincent's Brisbane, with Bishop John Gerry as principal celebrant at the Eucharist and Fr John Adili, the chaplain, concelebrating. Srs Margaret Mary O'Rourke and Margaret Scully were able to attend, with the families of the three Jubilarians, Sisters resident in Queensland and Srs Annette Cunliffe and Libbey Byrne from the Congregational Council. Students and staff of Mt St Michael's College led the singing. During the Eucharist the three Sisters were presented with their Papal blessings. Light refreshments followed.

Sisters Margaret Scully and Margaret Mary O'Rourke chose quiet celebration with their communities in Sydney and Melbourne, though the Congregational Leader and Council were able to share the celebration of Eucharist in the Chapel of Monte Oliveto Convent, Edgecliff where the Eucharist was concelebrated by Fr Mel Cotter OFM, with Fr Phillip Miscamble OFM concelebrating and the Papal Blessing presented during the Eucharist. This was followed by dinner and conversation.



Srs Margaret Mary, Mathilde, Nola, Margaret Mines, Margaret Scully, with Bishop John Gerry.



*Above left: Diamond Jubilarians in Brisbane renew their Vows.*

*Above middle and right: Sr Margaret Scully (left) and Sr Helen Dearn (above) receive the Papal Blessings from Sr Annette at their celebrations.*

## Sisters Anthea Groves, Margaret Fitzgerald and Colleen McDonald

### Golden Jubilee – Celebrating 50 Years of Religious Profession

Three Sisters celebrated their Golden Jubilees in late August. Sisters Anthea Groves and Margaret Fitzgerald shared a celebration in Sydney on Sunday, 24 August and Sr Colleen McDonald was able to join them.

Bishop Terry Brady was the chief celebrant at the Eucharist in Sacred Heart Church, Darlinghurst where a large group of Sisters, family and friends of the two Sisters gathered. Concelebrants included Fr Darryl Mackie, a Chaplain at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and four Franciscan Friars from the parish of Paddington where both Anthea and Margaret are living.

Papal blessings were presented during the Eucharist and all Sisters of Charity present renewed their Vows together with the Jubilarians. Following the Mass all were able to share refreshments in the Function Room of St Vincent's Clinic.

Sr Colleen's Melbourne celebration was held in the Church of St Thomas the Apostle at Blackburn on Saturday, 30th August. Eucharist was celebrated for a small group of Colleen's family, community and several friends of many years' standing. Fr Frank Dineen MSC, the celebrant has also known Colleen for many years. Colleen was joined by Srs Anthea and Margaret from Sydney,

her community and a small number of Sisters who had been specially invited. Colleen renewed her Vows and was presented with a Papal Blessing during the Mass. Refreshments were enjoyed by all in a Parish meeting room adjacent to the Church.

At both celebrations a selection of photographs was displayed while refreshments were enjoyed, reminding us of many important times during each Sister's life and also of the changes that have occurred over the past 50 golden years. Gratitude and the ongoing call to be Christ's presence and to recognise it in others were important themes at these wonderful celebrations.



*Srs Anthea Groves and Margaret Fitzgerald with Sr Annette.*



*Sr Colleen McDonald (right) with Sr Annette.*

# Through the looking glass

## A pilgrimage to Ireland

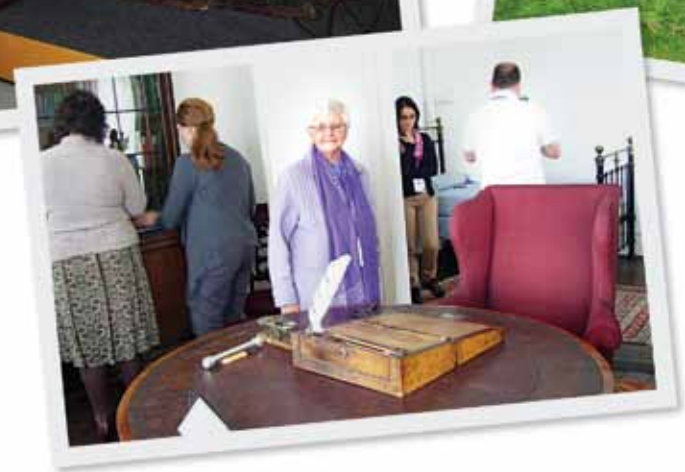
by Elizabeth Costigan rsc

When one goes on a pilgrimage, I believe one takes the 'looking glass' as part of the luggage so that through the 'mirror' of life's experiences, one can grow in a new capacity to read the "signs of the times" through attention to the signs for people of the past and people of today.

So when I set out on 8 May to take part in a ten day pilgrimage with 15 other pilgrims from Mary Aikenhead Ministries, to the Sacred Sites in Ireland connected with the Mary Aikenhead story, I made sure that I had packed my 'looking glass' in the form of my journal which I used in my reflection at the end of each day. Each evening I spent time asking myself the following questions. 'Today, what did I learn about Mary Aikenhead and our history? Did anything please me, disturb me, challenge me or excite me? For what was I most grateful? For what was I least grateful?'

My fellow pilgrims came from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria – men and women ministering in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and Colleges under the Mary Aikenhead Ministries banner. The aim of the pilgrimage was to discover more about our story and of God's action in the organisations and the history that has led to this moment in time in 2014. The pilgrimage offered many opportunities to deepen any insight into our own and others' humanity. It also provided and enhanced an ability to return home with confidence to lead others in Gospel-based service and a greater capacity to walk the pilgrimage of life.

What did I, as a daughter of Mary Aikenhead, who has lived as a Sister of Charity for over 50 years, learn anew about Mary Aikenhead, her charism and our history? There were many highlights for me during those ten days. The visit to the Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre in Dublin and to Mary Aikenhead's grave in Donnybrook, were certainly two of those highlights.



As I entered the room where Mary Aikenhead worked at her round table writing her many letters, seeing the wheelchair she used for many years and the room where she slept and died, I was overcome by the silence and respect my fellow pilgrims showed as they entered this sacred place. Here we were standing on the floorboards upon which Mary Aikenhead stood and walked. Here we remembered that despite her constant pain, she communicated with all her sisters through letters written with 'her poor lame pen'.

In my journal (looking glass) that evening, I wrote a prayer to thank God for this vital, graceful and courageous woman whose life inspired so many in her time and now continues to inspire myself and others as we strive to live out her charism in our varied ministries in Australia! What a gift to be grateful for!

The visit to Mary Aikenhead's grave at Donnybrook overwhelmed me! Amazingly for Dublin, that day the sun was shining and we placed flowers at her grave and at the grave of Sister Baptist De Lacy, one of the five sisters who came to Australia in 1838! How moving was that for me as I recalled the events this year marking the

175th anniversary of the arrival of those first five sisters in Australia. As I stood at the graveside I remembered the story of how a deputation from a body of Dublin workmen came and begged, as a favour, that they might be allowed to carry Mary Aikenhead's coffin to the grave. This was a touching expression of their love and appreciation for Mary who had always been their friend. Their request was granted. The inscription on the grave from both the Old and New Testaments reads 'the blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me and I comforted the heart of the widow. I was an eye to the blind and a foot to the lame. To the poor I was a mother' (Job 29:13-16) and 'thy prayers and thy alms are ascended for a memorial in the sight of God' (Acts 10:4) A beautiful summary of Mary's life!

Mary Aikenhead was born on 19 January 1787 in Cork. So when our pilgrimage brought us to spend three days walking through the streets of Cork, visiting St Anne's Church in Shandon where Mary was baptised, seeing the house in Rutland Street where she lived in her early years as well as Mammy Rorke's house at Eason's Hill, in my journal that evening I reflected on this incredible woman who lived in an age when women had little scope.



Above left: (at the Heritage Centre in Ireland) Sr Elizabeth near Mary Aikenhead's wheelchair.  
 Middle: Mary Aikenhead's writing table.  
 Above right: Pioneer Sister Baptist De Lacy's grave at Donnybrook.

She did not allow this to deter her from founding a Religious Congregation without enclosure and her convents were open to the world. Her sisters then and now were free to take the Gospel message to the poor, the ignorant, the imprisoned, the sick, and the deprived. My 'looking glass' reminded me that my fellow pilgrims as well as my colleagues back at Catholic Ladies College are continuing her mission by using their talents, gifts and possessions in reaching out to the needy inspired by 'Caritas Christi Urget Nos' – the love of Christ impels us.

The overwhelming hospitality shown by the Irish Sisters we met, both here in Cork and in Dublin, were another highlight for me. They exemplified the values of hospitality, kindness, warmth and respect for others especially those who were suffering and marginalised through poverty. We visited both St Vincent's Primary and Secondary Schools in Cork. I was struck by the obvious joy in the students and a passion for the school's mission and belief which showed when we talked to the Principals. They were continuing Mary Aikenhead's mission despite the financial difficulties brought about by cuts in government funding.

Our final leg of the pilgrimage was a visit to the Foxford Woollen Mills. I can remember as a young novice I was given a book to read about Mother Arsenius of Foxford. I remember being inspired by her story so the visit to Foxford was special for me. Mother Arsenius was instrumental in establishing a woollen mill in an area that was considered to be one of the poorest districts in the west of Ireland. The Mill was named 'Providence Woollen Mills' because Sister Arsenius believed that God's provident love for the people of Foxford would provide all that was needed for the success of the project. Her trust in Divine Providence caught from Mary Aikenhead's

own words "we must rely on Almighty providence and go on in his holy name", was rewarded with the success of the Mill and the evidence of this is present today.

At the final liturgy on the last day of our pilgrimage we shared with each other a reflection on our days together. Some of the above was in my sharing but it is the words of the hymn 'Standing on the Shoulders' by Joyce Johnson Rouse that somehow sums up my 'through the looking glass' experience of my pilgrimage so I finish this reflection with these words:

*'I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me.*

*I am stronger for their courage; I am wiser for their words.*

*I am lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future.*

*I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this Earth.*

*We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us.*

*They are saints and they are humans, they are angels, they are friends.*

*We can see beyond the struggles and the troubles and the challenge.*

*When we know that by our efforts, things will be better in the end.*

*I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me.*

*I am honoured by their passion for our liberty.*

*I will stand a little taller, I will work a little longer.*

*And my shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow me.'*

# 175 Year Celebrations conclude

## at St Mary's Cathedral (14th August)

It was in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney that High Mass was celebrated in thanksgiving for the first five Sisters of Charity from Ireland, on New Year's Day, 1839, the day after they arrived on 31 December 1838, on the *Francis Spaight*. So it was fitting that St Mary's Cathedral was chosen for the Sisters of Charity national celebration at the conclusion of our celebrations of our 175 years in Australia with a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Our national Eucharistic celebration at St Mary's Cathedral on 14 August (the eve of our Congregational Feast day, the Assumption of Mary) was presided over by Bishop Terry Brady. Concelebrating were Bishop Bernard O'Grady, Bishop Peter Connors. and many priests. About 900 people gathered, including approximately 80 Sisters of Charity, Priests, Sisters and Brothers from other Religious Congregations, family, colleagues and friends, many of whom are co-workers and to all of whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

We began with the acknowledgement of the land and the first peoples, with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, a dance with clap sticks and a smoking ceremony, with the prayer: "Holy Spirit, we invoke your blessing on this country and on us as we gather..."

After the welcome by Sr Annette Cunliffe, our Congregational Leader, and some words of Mary Aikenhead about sisters going to Australia, there followed a procession of flags: the Irish, the Vatican and that of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (the body committed to carrying on the ministries of the Sisters of Charity).

The music, accompanied by the choir of girls from St Vincent's College, Potts Point, Bethany College, Hurstville, and Bethlehem College, Ashfield raised the prayerful spirit of the whole liturgy.



After the foundation story, we sang: "We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us." Symbols of all our ministries in Prisons, with Aboriginal people, in Education, Health Care, Outreach Services, Child and Family Welfare and Pastoral and Overseas Missions were carried in procession.

The rite of blessing and sprinkling of water reminded us all of our baptism and call "to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received." The Liturgy of the Word focused on Jesus' mission which is also our mission. All the scripture readings focused on commitment to the poor: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me ... to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken..." (Isaiah 61); "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (Psalm 33); "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 25).

*Above: Images of the celebration in the Cathedral. Groups at Morning Tea and cutting of the 175yr celebration cake.*

Bishop Terry Brady reflected, in his homily, on the Ignatian spirituality which is at the heart of the spirituality of the Sisters of Charity, simplifying it as the Gospel theme of seeing the love of Jesus in each person. The bishop made a link between our founder and the builder of the first St Mary's, Fr J.J. Therry, by informing us that Mary Aikenhead was at Fr Therry's ordination in Ireland. Bishop Brady also spoke of his own early connections with the Sisters of Charity through his aunt, Sister Roberta Brady. In thanking the Sisters of Charity, he praised us for fulfilling our fourth vow of service of the poor by going out to find people where they are in need, as Mary Aikenhead wanted.

The Eucharistic prayer, "Jesus who went about doing good", also invited us to open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters, to comfort those who labour and are burdened. As the Body of Christ, gathered on this momentous occasion, we joined in song, "We come to share our story, we come to break the bread, we come to know our rising from the dead." Our motto, *The love of Christ impels us*, was also reflected in the hymn, *Ubi Caritas*, "Where there is charity and love, God is there."



# A Surprise Visitor

## to Bethlehem College, Ashfield

by Aileen Thomas rsc

As the preparations for our annual Bethlehem Day celebrations continued, the girls were told there would be a surprise guest this year. I was then given a secret mission to find an old habit, which I did with the help of the Archives.

One of our teachers, Mrs Jennifer Hopkins, was a prefect 'fit' for the role as she is Irish. When the day dawned my office was definitely out of bounds as I 'dressed' Jennifer. Towards the end of the liturgy 'Baptist De Lacy' entered the hall and in her Irish accent told her story of the journey on the *Francis Spaight* and her work at the Female Factory Parramatta, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and finally the events which led to her returning to Ireland. Both the girls and staff were engrossed with the whole atmosphere.

With formalities over, it was time for the girls to enjoy the day which included raising funds for the Sisters of Charity Outreach.

The Bishop's blessing and reminder to see Jesus in every other person in the cathedral was followed by the sisters' processing out with the celebrants to applause from all gathered.

The magnificent celebration continued with reunions of families and friends over a beautifully served morning tea in the Cathedral School Hall. Many people expressed gratitude to the Sisters and said they felt moved emotionally during such a powerful liturgy.

This anniversary of 175 years in Australia is an opportunity for the Sisters of Charity not only to give thanks to God but also to all the wonderful women and men who have encouraged and supported us over these years.



Ashleigh Hogan SRC President, Mrs Paula Bounds Principal, Mrs Jennifer Hopkins(Baptist De Lacy), Michelle Wilson Outreach, Fr Alan Gibson PP, Claudia Maroun Vic President SRC, Isabelle Bucher Vice President SRC.

# High Tea at All Saints, Liverpool

## Acknowledging the Sisters of Charity

by Jean Montgomery rsc

On Saturday afternoon, 9 August, we all gathered at All Saints Primary School Liverpool for an amazing 'High Tea'. The Principals of both the Primary School (Mrs Christine Scanlon) and Girls' College (Mrs Antoinette McGahan) had spent many weeks preparing for this occasion as they wanted to honour the Sisters of Charity by giving them 'the best celebration they could'!



Srs Elizabeth Dodds and Jan O'Grady, former Principals, cut the celebration cake (pictured below).

Important guests invited were – The Hon Craig Kelly, Federal Member for Hughes and Mr Paul Lynch State Member for Liverpool, as well as Bishop Terry Brady (who unfortunately at the last minute was unable to attend); Fr Phil Linder and our Liverpool Parish Priest Fr Remy Lam Son Bui, (Fr Julian Belich, Fr James McCarthy and Fr Pierluigi Passoni were unable to be present).



Our MC Mrs Caroline Ford, did a great job introducing our speakers: Mrs Antoinette McGahan, Mrs Christine Scanlon and Mr Craig Kelly. Mrs Antoinette McGahan very warmly welcomed us all and paid tribute to the Dharawal People on whose land we were standing.



Part of the 'banquet' All Saints provided for guests.

Mrs Patricia Lucchini, a loyal ex-student, led us in prayer – using a number of the sayings of Mary Aikenhead. Mrs Christine Scanlon (whose Address can be read on page 9) used the photo of Sr Maurus Tierney feeding homeless men, to illustrate the ministries of the Sisters of Charity in Australia since the first Sisters arrived 175 years ago. Mr Craig Kelly led us through the changes in society since the First Sisters arrived 175 years ago. Sr Margaret Beirne rsc gave us a wonderfully rich and very interesting report on the history of the Sisters of Charity in Liverpool.

On the completion of formalities, the students from All Saints Girls' College escorted us to the green area for afternoon tea (pictured below). The most beautiful china was used for the Afternoon Tea and each table was decorated with flower arrangements with a colour scheme of gold and white on white tablecloths.



Guests gathered for the speeches.

The Afternoon Tea itself was delicious – ribbon sandwiches and a magnificent assortment of cakes, slices, and pastries. We thank *My Tea Affair* Caterers who worked long and hard to present this beautiful display of food. Also during the afternoon, we listened to enjoyable music presented by the *Highly Strung* group.

We sincerely thank Antoinette and Christine for this wonderful day which everyone totally enjoyed and ask God's special blessings on each one.





## Mrs Christine Scanlon's Address

Welcome to our celebration this afternoon as we come together to thank and acknowledge the Sisters of Charity who have been a presence in our country for 175 years. A significant part of that time was spent here in Liverpool. Our school communities have been enriched by the presence of the sisters and today we say thank you.

We have chosen to have the opening speeches in this setting for a number of significant historical reasons. Behind me is what we fondly call the bell tower and there hanging in the centre is the bell. This cast iron bell was made in England in 1850 and brought to Australia. It was used as the school bell at St Mary's Catholic School from 1850 onwards. In 1958 the bell was moved to this site here in what we call *The Bell Garden*. This arch was recovered from the site where Westfields is today. The arch was on a pathway that led from the convent to the church via the presbytery. In front of the arch is the statue of Mary which was donated to the schools by the ex students in 2003 and placed in this garden.

The sisters arrived in Liverpool on 6th December, 1878 and had withdrawn from both schools by the end of 2005. During these years the sisters were active and worked tirelessly in the Liverpool community. With their motto: *The love of Christ urges us on*, they met the needs of the times and this meant great commitment, sacrifices and being prepared to make changes. During their time in Liverpool they've been leaders in education, cared for orphans, visited the sick and lonely and been active in many more ministries to support the people in the Liverpool community. There are still sisters actively engaged in ministries in Liverpool to this very day. The sisters have left behind them a magnificent legacy – not just in buildings but in the values they so freely shared and modelled – the values of determination, persistence, and awareness of the needs of others.

In your programs there is a photo which encapsulates all that the Sisters of Charity stand for and hold dear. This is a photo of Sister Maurus Tierney providing food to the needy during the Depression. This was her ministry for many years. If you look carefully at the photo you will notice that the table is covered with a spotless white cloth. You will also notice that the men are being served tea in china cups and saucers. Sister Maurus Tierney represents all of the sisters in her Order. She was honouring these men by giving them the best she had. In those days the china cups and saucers were reserved for very special guests. The sisters themselves drank from thick mugs. To be offered tea in a cup and saucer was a great honour.

This afternoon we are honouring the sisters in the same way. Sisters, we are offering you the best we have not just in china and food but in the presence of each person here who has been touched in some way by you or another sister.

Thank you for all you have done for us and for all you have been.  
Enjoy the celebration you so richly deserve. You are always welcome here at All Saints.

# Expo All Saints Parish, Liverpool

by Margaret Guy rsc (for the Sisters of Charity as part of the Historical Group)

To celebrate 175 years of All Saints Parish, an Expo was held on Saturday 14 June. There were numerous stalls representing various groups in the Parish Community and also serving a range of national cuisines. Morning and afternoon teas, with delicious homemade cakes, were served by the St Mary's School Ex-Students, who on the day, called themselves "The Old Girls' Tea Room."

The Emergency Services, complete with fire engine, were a great attraction for adults and children alike but the latter were especially drawn to the pet farm where they enjoyed feeding the lambs, kids and calves.

Entertainment by adult and school singing and dancing groups was provided in the hall, along with an art competition for the school children.

The historical group included three displays: Parish, Schools and Orphanage, Catechists and Sisters of Charity. Our memorabilia showed the various ministries of the sisters in Liverpool since 1874, predominantly in education. This was researched through our Congregational Archives at the request of Jean Montgomery who also appreciated some photos and information from individual sisters.

As part of our 175 years celebration, our display included banners showing Mary Aikenhead and the first five sisters, pictures of the *Francis Spaight* and the Female Factory, and a pictorial life of Mary Aikenhead.

On the day, Jean led the team, assisted by Eileen Browne, Jean Marie Brennan, Frances Graham and myself. Our display attracted mostly the older parishioners and some RSC visitors.

*Top right: A young school boy studies the Sisters of Charity section.*

*Top left: Sr Frances Graham explains some highlights to Parishioners;*

*Bottom left and right: Sr Jean Montgomery (left) and Margaret Guy ready to discuss other sections of the Sisters of Charity placards.*



# Obituaries

We remember each deceased Sister with love and pray for her.



## Sr Annette Hall rsc

*Sr Annette died on 16 April 2014*

Patricia Emily Hall (lovingly known as Annie) was born on 22nd March 1928, daughter of Catherine and Edward Hall and sister to Johnny. The family lived at Concord and Annette attended St Mary's School. Although she was happy at school, Annie's preferences were for the social activities at school, rather than study. Following school, she had a happy social life in the CYO.

On 2nd July 1953, Annie entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at Wahroonga and after Religious studies, was professed on 23rd January 1956. She gained her Teacher Training Registration and began a teaching ministry mainly in NSW. She taught at Katoomba, Sth Hurstville, Darlinghurst, Lewisham, Concord and finally in 1975 at Katoomba, this time as Principal. In 1978, she had a time of Renewal at the Assumption Institute in Victoria.

In 1979, Annie became the Superior and Coordinator of Caritas Christi Conference Centre at Wahroonga. She loved the interaction with people and the hospitality that she was able to extend to visitors. Later, Annie spent some happy years in the school office at Marian School at Horsley Park, followed by ten years at St Francis' Paddington before she fully retired.

As Annie's health began to fail, she took up residence at St Joseph's Village at Auburn in December 2012. Her health continued to deteriorate and she was moved to Bethany, High Care at the Village where she died on 16th April 2014, surrounded by her friends. Annie will be remembered with deep fondness.



## Sr Honorata Scanlon rsc

*Sr Honorata died on 22 April 2014*

Kathleen Mary Scanlon born on 1st February 1917, was the fourth child of Denis and Mary Scanlon. Her seven siblings all predeceased her. The family resided in Hobart and Kathleen went to the local school, St Joseph's in Molle Street.

Having always felt called to the Religious life, she finally decided to enter the Novitiate at Bethania in June 1936. On 25th January 1937, Kathleen and her three companions received the habit and new names – she chose 'Honorata', meaning 'noble woman'. Honnie (as she was fondly called) was big in stature and of heart and a woman of great integrity. Her first thoughts were always for the welfare of others. After profession on 26th January 1939, Honorata was missioned as Portress at the Mother House.

After years of study, Honnie finally realised her dream of becoming a qualified nurse. Her first appointment was at St Vincent's in Launceston. Honnie's other nursing assignments were at St Vincent's Sydney and Lismore and as Matron at St Brigid's Infirmary at Potts Point. She returned to Launceston in 1979 and in 1980 began a ministry in Pastoral and Community Care until she retired in 2002.

Grange Village at Taroom became Honnie's new home and she soon endeared herself to the residents there. Sadly, with the onset of dementia, she needed further care and moved to Mary Potter House Mary's Grange Taroom in 2004. On 22nd April 2014, she died very peacefully. We give thanks for this much loved member of the congregation.



## Sr Natalie Pike rsc

*Sr Natalie died on 24 May 2014*

Natalie Dolores Pike was the elder of the two children of Harold and Eileen Pike and a sister to Harold. She was born on 7th April 1923. She grew up in Manly and attended St Mary's Primary school and then Stella Maria College.

After she completed her education, she worked for some years before deciding to enter the congregation on 16th July 1940 and was professed in 1943. In January 2013, Natalie celebrated the 70th Anniversary of her profession.

Although Natalie's first ministry was in teaching, it was with much relief that she was allowed to train as a nurse. When she gained her Nurse's Registration, she nursed at St Vincent's Fitzroy, Sacred Heart Hospice, Mt Olivet Community Services and St Joseph's Auburn. She later gained certificates in Geriatric Nursing and gained Psychiatric Registration. After Natalie retired from nursing, she used her skills as a valued member of the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care in Brisbane and at Casa Venegas with the St John of God Brothers at Ashfield over a number of years.

When Natalie retired, she moved to St Joseph's Village Auburn but gradually, her health deteriorated. Natalie had had great devotion to the Rosary and as some of the sisters were gathered in prayer with her in her final illness, she died peacefully. It was the feast of Mary Help of Christians, 24th May 2014. May she rest in peace.

# Badge ceremony

## for Melbourne companions

by Deirdre O'Donnell

The Melbourne Companions were thrilled earlier this year to be part of a very special badge ceremony, at which we were honoured to receive badges showing the Sisters of Charity crest and motto, in a ceremony of commitment to the mission of the Sisters of Charity.



These will be worn with pride at our meetings and our upcoming retreat day at Doreen, but those of us able to attend the 175th Anniversary Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 22 March were also extremely proud to wear this symbol of our connection with the Sisters at that wonderful event.



Deirdre receives her badge from Sr Margaret Costigan.



Companion leaders, the three Margarets – Srs Margaret Laffan, Margaret Costigan and Margaret Dwyer.

The badge ceremony was conducted by Margaret Dwyer, Margaret Laffan and Margaret Costigan. Unfortunately Liz Costigan was unable to be present. We were also missing some of our regular attendees, but they will receive their badges at subsequent meetings. Each Companion was presented with a badge by one of the Sisters, along with these beautiful words:

*“Receive this badge, which shows the Sisters of Charity Crest and Motto. From this time and place, may you continue to carry forward the Church’s mission, in a fresh and vital way, along with all who live out our motto ‘The love of Christ impels us.’”*

The ceremony was followed by a viewing of the *Five Sisters* DVD, allowing us to reflect on this extraordinary story, how it has continued to the present day, and how it can continue into the future, in a tradition to which we are all committed.

On behalf of the Companions, I would like to thank our much loved and appreciated three Margarets and Liz for this generous and beautiful gift, and for the inspiring symbolism of the presentation ceremony. In this special year of celebration for the Sisters of Charity, our ceremony has an even deeper significance. Inspired by their example, we look forward to the challenge and honour we have been given as RSC Companions.



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