



Keep in Touch

Sisters of Charity Newsletter - Partners in Mission

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SISTER M. HONORATA SCANLON RSC

farewelled from St Vincent's Launceston

A Tasmanian, Sister Honorata was educated at St Joseph's College, Hobart and entered the Sisters of Charity in 1936 and took her first vows in January 1939. In her early years as a religious Honorata had responsibility for making and distributing Altar breads to American Forces, a task she always considered a privilege.

After the War she commenced her nursing training at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. On completion of her training Honorata was involved in clinical nursing and administration at St Vincent's Hospitals Sydney and Lismore before moving into Pastoral Care Services. For a number of years she was in charge of St Brigid's Infirmary, Potts Point, caring for the sick and elderly members of the Congregation.

Honorata returned to Tasmania in 1978 as Pastoral Care Sister at St Vincent's Hospital Launceston where she remained till February this year when she moved to retirement with the community of Sisters of Charity living in the recently purchased villas at Mary's Grange in Taroom.



Sister M. Honorata Scanlon rsc

As a matter of interest these villas built for Mary's Grange are on property purchased by them from the Sisters of Charity when St Joseph's Emergency Centre closed.

The property originally housed St Joseph's Group Homes, which replaced St Joseph's Orphanage in Harrington Street.

Honorata was given a wonderful farewell and a generous presentation made to her on behalf of the Administration and staff of the Hospital. Her presence in the Convent and Hospital in Launceston where she was renowned for hospitality, her kindness, thoughtfulness and smiling face will be greatly missed.

Thank you for being there for so many of us over the years Honorata. We wish you well as you enter another phase in your life's journey.

Birthday Celebrations at Marycrest

Each month there is a special morning tea held at Marycrest for those residents whose birthday it is in that month.

In April *Sister Bernadette Shand* was one of the guests at the morning tea as she celebrated her Birthday and Feast Day during April.

Belated Birthday Greetings to Sister Bernadette and friends



Sister Bernadette is photographed with Lily on her left and Tessa on her right at the celebrations

Vale - SISTER M. GRATA KELLY RSC

Sister Grata Kelly died on 23rd March 2002 and her Requiem was celebrated by Father Bob McGuckin in St John's Church Auburn on 27th March, in the presence of a large number of Sisters, relatives and friends.

Mavis Kelly, one of five children, three girls and two boys, was born to Edward and Madeleine Kelly in Bega. She was the youngest of the girls and followed her two older sisters into religious life in 1939.

Sister Carmena had earlier entered the Sisters of Charity and Margery Cecilia became a Good Samaritan Sister.

*"Behold the
handmaid of the Lord"*



Following her profession in 1941 Grata taught music for the next twenty-five years at Darlinghurst, Katoomba and Paddington. She was an accomplished pianist, organist and loved singing. Her love of music continued as she combined it with classroom teaching in subsequent appointments to Cabramatta, Hurstville and Ashfield.

Her last two appointments prior to her retirement were to the community at Potts Point and then parish work at Hurstville. For the past fourteen years Grata suffered from poor health and prior to moving to Marian Nursing Home five years ago she lived for a time at Concord West, then at St Joseph's Village at Auburn.

Grata will be remembered as a woman of prayer, faithful to her motto "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord*". Her quick sense of humour often defused situations and her infectious laugh came from deep within, her whole body laughed. Many an amusing story is told of incidents on the 'Kelly Gang' holidays to their beloved Bega or to their brother's holiday house at Bateman's Bay. Grata is enjoying the rewards of her labours in the vineyard of her Lord.

To Sister Carmena, the last surviving member of the Kelly family our sincere sympathy and prayers.

Val embarks on a new ministry

For some years **Sr Val Green** has been holidaying at Vincentia on the south coast. It is part of the Nowra parish but is located 24 miles south of Nowra. The parish population is made up of retired couples, widows, single parents and an increasing number of young families with 360 catholic children most of whom do not travel to the nearest catholic schools located in Nowra.

The area was badly affected by the bushfires last January while Val was holidaying there. During a Sunday Mass Father talked about the many things he wanted to introduce into the Parish but these would need lots of volunteers. At the time Val thought that such a call was not to her as she was involved in her ministry of teaching swimming. However, within a month of her return to Sydney, she was informed that the Ruth Everess Swim School would be under new management and she had no desire to work for a large corporation. Val was free to find a new ministry.

Val sought permission to go to a place where she saw a great need. Val is now Parish Sister in the Vincentia Parish, which takes in Sanctuary Point and the bay and basin area in Jervis Bay. She is involved in parish visitation, catechetical classes, and communion services when Father is away and in setting up a seniors "Friendship Group".

Val sums up her new ministry: "*I just thank God for leading me to this little bit of Heaven!*"

Bethany Holistic Centre

On Saturday 27th April, Bishop David Cremin blessed and Opened the Bethany Holistic Centre at Burwood.

This is an intercongregational venture currently involving nine congregations and is housed in a dwelling rented from the St Mary's Concord Parish. The centre will provide a range of services at the premises as well as outreach services to women's detention centres. Those involved are all trained in disciplines which include psychology, social work, spiritual direction, remedial massage, aromatherapy.

Sunday 28th April was Open Day at the centre and around three hundred friends visited the centre.



Sister Helen Clarke, Director of the Centre, showing Bishop David Cremin the premises.



The Sisters who will provide services at the Centre

Excursion with a Difference

Recently *Sister Eileen Browne* and *Sister Jean Marie Brennan* took a group of twenty migrant and refugee students from their adult English classes and their children on a tour of the northern beaches. This 'Budget tour' was made possible through the generosity of Cabramatta High School who allowed the use of their bus at minimal cost and the driver (Head language teacher), a Liverpool parishioner, whose knowledge of places and scenic viewing spots makes trips so much more enjoyable.

Jean writes, "it is amazing how excited our migrant and refugee friends become when they see parts of Sydney we take for granted. A highlight was driving over Anzac Bridge - most did not know of its existence.

Then it was over the Harbour Bridge to Mosman Bay, Balmoral, and the Spit and on to Manly Beach for lunch. After lunch the group went to Shelly Beach Lookout and for a walk in the Sydney Harbour National Park at North Head.

A 'Cook's Tour' around Queenscliff, Curl Curl and Dee Why beaches was next on the agenda. Such contrasting scenery to that of Liverpool and the Western Sydney brought a chorus of "oohs and ahs" from our migrants who were also impressed with the homes and gardens.

The homeward journey took the group over Roseville Bridge and through Lane Cove National Park and on to Liverpool via Carlingford from where the Olympic site at Homebush was visible in the distance."

Sisters of Charity Foundation – Patron



Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC with the Chairman of the Foundation, Mr Peter Ferris AM and Mrs Barbara Ferris

Her Excellency,

Professor Marie Bashir AC,

Governor of New South Wales, is the Patron of the Sisters of Charity Foundation Limited. Recently she attended a small function at the offices to meet the Directors and Friends of the Foundation.

Her Excellency spoke very warmly of her associations with the Sisters of Charity going back to her days as a young resident at St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst. Her concern for the poor and under-served in the community came through strongly in her address to those gathered.

Leaders Visit Ireland. . .

On 3rd May a group of thirteen men and women who hold positions of leadership in Sisters of Charity educational, health and aged care ministries left for Ireland. They will visit the sacred sites associated with the Sisters of Charity in Ireland. Because of our ministry links with the Sisters of Mercy, some of their holy places will also be visited. Sister Helen Clarke is leading the group and Sister Annette Cunliffe is involved in part of the tour.

The prime aim of the pilgrimage is to provide a deeper immersion into the 'founding story' through reading, prayer and visits to important places that are part of that story in Dublin, Cork and Foxford. There will also be the opportunity to visit places of interest that relate to the specific ministry involvement of the participants.

During a Mass at St Vincent's College to celebrate Founding Day, a candle was presented to Sister Annette by the College head Prefect, Lucy, to take to Ireland to leave in the Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre in Dublin as a reminder of our links.

An account of the tour will appear in the next edition of K.I.T.

Editorial

Thank you to those Sisters and Colleagues who have forwarded material for inclusion in this edition of K.I.T.

The diversity of ministries that the Sisters are involved in is reflected in the number of significant events recorded.

We also congratulate those who have celebrated special events or who have received special recognition.

Maria Wheeler rsc

An extract from Sr Christine Jorgensen's

Reflection ...East Timor

East Timor officially becomes a new nation and things are happening at a frenetic pace. The ceremonies for Sunday evening will be very long commencing with a Mass at handover time, 12.00 midnight when Te Deum will be sung.



There is fear that as the UN leaves, East Timor will start to decline especially with regard to security and economic viability.

Recently I had the privilege of preparing an article for Caritas with four senior East Timorese staff. The focus was the forthcoming independence and the feelings this evokes; all said it was a happy/sad time.

Life is harsh here for so many people and today is bringing this reality home. Last week I spent time with a very young mother [18] who tried to kill her new born by choking the little one. The baby survived through to this morning and the mother had worked through her feelings and had grown to love the baby and desperately wanted it to survive. This morning the baby died and now the mother is scared to return as the people said they would kill her if the baby died.

Another couple are sitting by the cot of their baby waiting for baby to die, it so sad to see them struggling with their grief.

Another little one in the same room is so malnourished he will most likely die. This happens so often and in many cases it could be prevented if people sought treatment earlier.

Our new project – Social/Pastoral/Palliative Care Service for Dili National Hospital - has been through difficult times but is now being recognized as a service that is much needed in the hospital.

The East Timorese team working for Karidade Health has made this dream a reality and for me it is a joy to work with them.

The Carmelites and myself still continue to run clinics on Saturdays for the Tasi Tolu community. Tasi Tolu is the site for 20th May celebrations and one of the small communities living by the lake was forced to relocate so they have now joined the community we serve.

Karidade Health is a small NGO comprised of the East Timorese team and myself. We are reliant on funding from other sources to conduct our projects. We have three projects – Community Based Health Promotion for Dili District, Tasi Tolu and the new hospital project. The Health Promotion project is a large project that covers five Community Health Centres including the Island of Atauro.

For a while the situation looked pretty desperate but thankfully, with Sr Leone's support, a proposal was lodged to the Sisters of Charity Foundation and the request for funding was approved and now we are able to fulfill our commitment to improve health and local communities in Dili.

Life with the Carmelites is good, took a long time for me to realize they have similar problems to our congregation. I guess this is so for most communities in the world.

I have lived in this community for nearly two years now and it will be a very graced moment that I share with these sisters this coming Sunday, as I enter into their journey for freedom in this climactic event when East Timor becomes a nation.



K.I.T. – June 2002

Community Life at its Best

The following is a reflection by Sister Mary Gabrielle Clarke RSC, on her experiences of Community Nights shared with the residents, staff and volunteers from *The Way and Bethlehem*, residences for the homeless.



Sister Mary Gabrielle Clarke RSC

"So far I have been present at the first three of gatherings and I come home feeling a different person, my soul has been lifted, my heart energised and my way of life 'rattled'!. The simplicity, spontaneity and enthusiasm creates a very sacred space for me, which becomes more evident in the experience of each night.

To be able to sit, reflect, pray, sing, laugh and at times be quiet, for me has produced a tear or two. The first night I thought I could have the audacity to show 'them' a thing or two about community. What a mistake! It was me that came away having been shown community life at its best.

Since then I have reflected often on my experiences of these nights and as a result have a great deal to thank God for, the main thing being my introduction to the very special people who have homelessness very dear to their hearts and those men and women who experience homelessness in whatever way."

St Vincent's Toowoomba win a national Award

The valuable work done by the midwives at St Vincent's Hospital has received national recognition.

The hospital was recently presented with the state and national award for the hospital with the highest number of nominations for the recent "Midwife of the Year" awards.

Congratulations to SVHT Midwives



IN GOOD HANDS: St Vincent's Hospital nursing unit acting manager Lyn Barnes holds two-day-old Joseph Stark. Mrs Barnes and the midwifery team have been presented with the state and national award for the hospital with the highest number of nominations for the recent Midwife of the Year awards.

Picture by BEV LACEY

Contributors:

*Sr Jean Marie Brennan rsc
Sr Mary Gabrielle Clarke rsc
Mr Chris Dalton
Sr Tarcisius Donovan rsc
Sr Claudia Doyle rsc
Ms Melinda Gutierrez
Sr Denise Hannebery rsc
Ms Judy McWilliam
Sr Carol Pedersen rsc
Sr Margaret Scully rsc
Sr Bernadette Shand rsc
Sr Val Green rsc*

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Published by Sisters of Charity
Congregational Office
Level 1, 75 Grafton Street,
Bondi Junction NSW 2002
Phone: (02) 9367 1222
Fax: (02) 9367 1223
Text should be supplied on
disk or send email to
maria.wheeler@rscoffice.com

Providence Homoeopathic Service

This service was set up by Sister Carol Pedersen earlier this year. She credits the late Sister M. Dorothea Devine as her inspiration in commencing this work.

Providence is a service, not a fixed location. Its "head office" is in the premises of the Workers Health Clinic on the ground floor of the AMWU building at Granville. We are a non-profit affiliation of registered, self-insured professional homoeopaths auspiced to date by the Sisters of Charity, but not financially supported by any organisation or individual. All accredited workers offer pro bono consultations and follow-up, that is, no worker is paid for his/her time or travel. Hence the name "*Providence Homoeopathic Medical Service*".

The major client focus is those who would under ordinary circumstances not be able to afford private practice fees or market charges for homoeopathic pharmaceutical products, that is, the poor. Clients with a current Health Care Card or Pensioner Medical entitlement are offered consultations free of charge, and others pay what we consider an appropriate fee. All clients pay for the medicines prescribed specifically for them. For those with PBS entitlement, the charge is indexed to the Pharmaceutical Benefit subsidy price. For others the charge is set at a figure that will help us defray our overheads but not impose a financial impost.

To date we have established a hub at Gladesville, a clinic at the Safe House at Casula, a clinic at the Parent Support Cottage at Casula and another at the old Lewisham Hospital involving clients of the Learning and Living Skills Centre and the Marian Centre.

A colleague is working up a network proposal to establish a clinic for former (and possibly existing) persons in mandatory detention centres in and around Sydney, and the Tree of Life has offered a site for a clinic focussed on persons living with HIV/AIDS. There are other possibilities, but expansion will depend on the availability of registered colleagues.

Recently a senior homoeopathic student has joined me at Granville one day a week, and another will commence at Lewisham in the near future. Negotiations are underway with the Sydney College of Homoeopathic Medicine to set up a student clinic within the Lewisham complex that will provide a supervised service on site several days per week.

Sister Carol says; "*I would particularly like to thank the Leadership Team for once more saying yes to a service for the poor, my homoeopathic colleagues, Sisters Liz Wall and Margaret Guy, the Outreach personnel associated with the Safe House, Parent Support Program and the Learning and Living Skills Centre, Sr Margaret Mines (Tree of Life), and Sr Annette O'Connor (who pilots her scooter every Wednesday from Auburn to Granville to provide a human voice on the phone while I am out and about). There are others (you'll know who you are) - thanks for your deposits into the Bank of Divine Providence*".

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If anyone would like to have his/her name removed from the list please let me know.

Sister Maria Wheeler RSC

02) 9367 1211

CATHOLIC LADIES' COLLEGE

Centenary 2002



The Centenary Eucharist was a very grand occasion and everyone connected to the College was delighted that more than 2,200 attended. It meant a great deal to be able to gather again as a community in St Patrick's Cathedral, the school's "parish church" from 1902 until 1971. Many Old Collegians have fond memories of First Friday Masses; of confessions at which first Archbishop Mannix and later Archbishop Knox were sometimes the "hearers"; of Novenas to Our Lady; and especially of singing on Holy Thursday morning.



Principal celebrant for the Eucharist was Fr Tom Doyle OA, almost on the eve of his retirement as Director of Catholic Education in our archdiocese. In addition to that obvious connection with the college, Fr Tom's three sisters were CLC girls, making him part of the college "family". Concelebrants were Fr Cyril Blake, ex-student of CLC 1937-1938; another ex-student Fr Laurie Leonard SJ 1949-1951; the two chaplains Fr Peter Matheson and Fr Barry Caldwell; Fr Bren Donohue, chaplain in the mid-late 1960's and Fr Paul Cahill, O'Carroll, Principal of Whitefriars College, Donvale.

There were three previous principals who took part, Sr Una McAllister RSC, 1962-1970, Sr Patricia Nunan RSC, 1979-1986 and Miss Patricia Ryan OAM, 1987-2000. It was also lovely to welcome Mrs Dianne Morrissey (Websdale), College Captain in 1970, the last year before the move to Eltham, and Sr Annette Cunliffe RSC, Congregational Leader, who travelled from Sydney.

The Gospel of the day was the Transfiguration of Christ. In his homily, Fr Matheson pointed out how perfect this was for a school whose history involved the huge move from East Melbourne to Eltham in 1971. He told the congregation: "A gentle yet powerful transfiguration has occurred in the lives of countless young ladies over 100 years.

"Knowledge and Virtue United" is the motto of Catholic Ladies' College and although the school has occupied two quite different sites, the threads of this ideal that have always characterized it were strongly evident on Sunday 24th February at the Eucharist to celebrate the College's Centenary.

And many of you have returned today to this enchanted ground close to where it all began". He also referred to two of the symbols carried in the Offertory Procession, Roses representing the East Melbourne site and the Copper Butterfly for Eltham.

The Old Collegians had a wonderful day renewing friendships and recalling stories at Afternoon Tea following the Eucharist. With great enthusiasm more than 550 women descended on the Park Hyatt, the original site of the school.

Another highlight for the students was a pilgrimage into East Melbourne on the train from Eltham on 20th March, the Foundation Day of the College. The school community gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral for a short liturgy and then into the Fitzroy Gardens for birthday celebrations. Here bubble pens and Centenary Badges were distributed. Birthday Cake, as well as lots of party fare, was consumed. Much energy was expended in the sports activities that followed in the afternoon, tug of war, sack races, egg and spoon races, tunnel ball and cross ball.

Over the course of 2002 a number of other Centenary celebrations will be held. These will include a Cocktail Party for present and former staff members on 24th May, the Centenary Ball on 26th July, a Reunion and Book Launch on 4th August and the Centenary Concert at Dallas Brooks Hall on 23rd August.