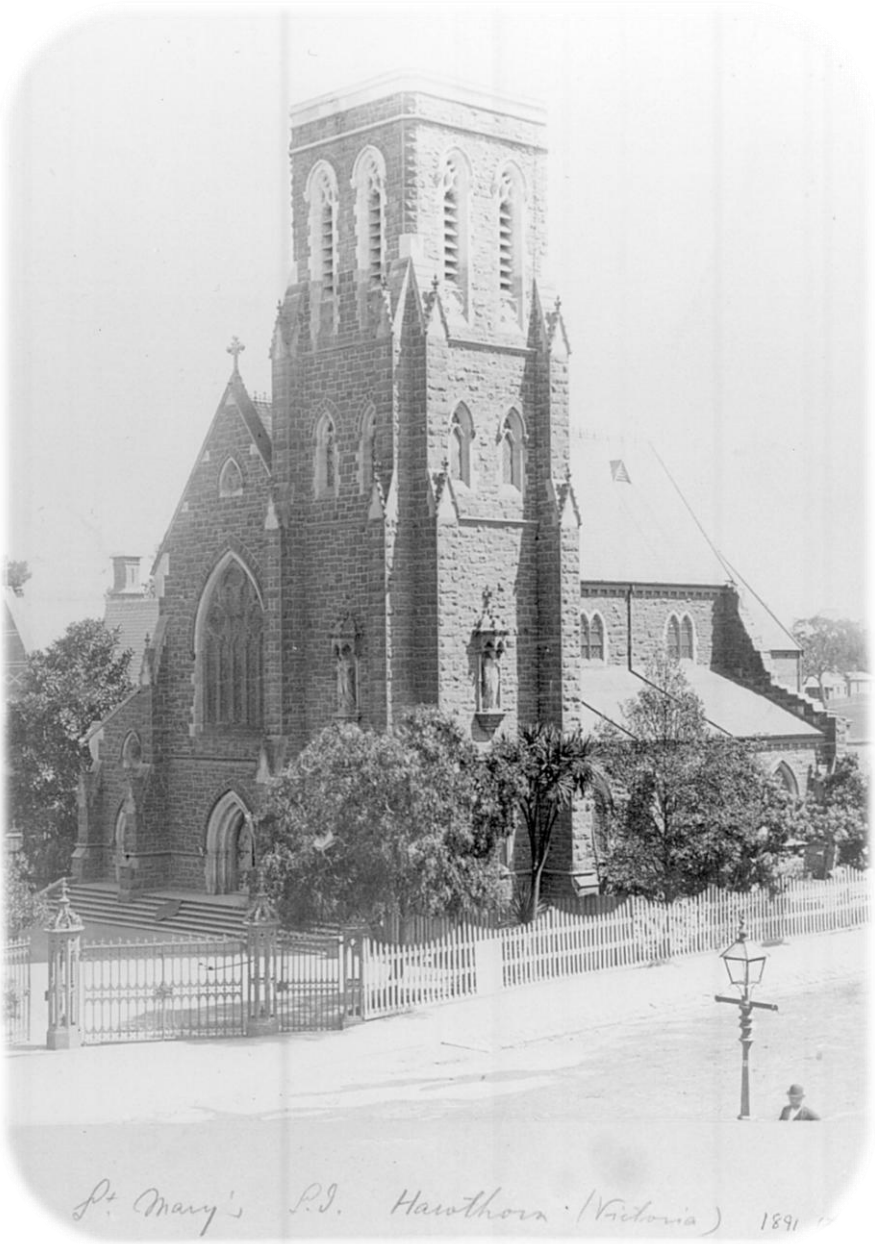
Immaculate Conception Church Hawthorn
1869 - 2019



A collection of Historical Insights

Published October 2019
Appreciation to Fr Michael Head, from whose history much of the material comes, his assistant Liz Parker who has supplied many of the photos and Fr Des Dwyer SJ, Parish Priest, Hawthorn Catholic Parish for his support.

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150th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Church

In 1867 when the Hawthorn Catholic parish consisted of an estimated 60 families, Fr Edward Nolan SJ and parishioners (notably Mr. Michael Lynch) envisioned an iconic and beautiful centre of worship for Catholics of the area on the corner of Burwood Road and Glenferrie Road.

Previously, pioneer priest Fr James Madden and then visiting Jesuits from St Ignatius Parish in Richmond and St Patrick's College in East Melbourne, had been coming each week to say Mass for Hawthorn Catholics at St Josephs in Power St after it opened in the 1850s.

On 10th October 1869 the parish celebrated the consecration and opening of the wonderful Immaculate Conception Church at a Mass celebrated by Dr Alipius Goold, Melbourne's first Bishop.

150 years later we are able to remember with gratitude our predecessors for their foresight and vision in creating the church which is today still providing a focal point for the Hawthorn Catholic Parish.

1869 - 2019

Fr Edward Nolan, SJ: Pioneer priest of Hawthorn

Edward Nolan was born in Dublin on 10th May, 1826. When he arrived in Melbourne in 1866, he was assigned to teach at St Patrick's College, East Melbourne. On weekends he ministered to the people of Hawthorn. Here he came in contact with the redoubtable Michael Lynch who was determined to have a proper church built in Hawthorn, and he had friends with wealth. In Fr Nolan he found someone who would extract it from them. With the land already donated by Mr. Lynch, fundraising plans to build a church were swung into action. Subscriptions flowed in, not only from the enthusiastic and generous Hawthorn Catholics, estimated at only 60 households at the time, but from non-Catholics and from those outside the area. On this basis, the farsighted Fr Nolan planned a church to seat 1200.

Fr Nolan had little taste for set sermons in big churches, but had the quiet knack of addressing small groups in any situation. He had considerable knowledge of botany and some ability at medicine. Of engaging address, he had the knack of accommodating himself to all classes, and was equally at home in the mia-mia of the fossicker and the mansion of the squatter. He rode a horse called "Tobin", which carried him everywhere. "Tobin" had a peculiar amble, which was a well-known warning to Catholics who were not what they ought to be. Father Nolan was a good religious man but it was his zeal, gentle piety and simplicity that won over the people of Hawthorn.

In 1871-72, Fr Nolan was sent on a begging mission to raise money for the new Xavier College to be built in Kew. He toured eastern Australia and even New Zealand, raising substantial funds and persuading many families to commit their sons to the new college.

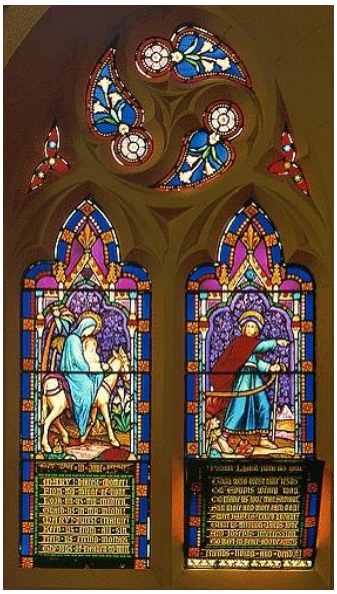
Even in his declining years, he collected enough money to purchase a peal of bells to ring out across Hawthorn. When he died on January 11th 1893, the bluestone church of the Immaculate Conception was as fitting a memorial as anyone could wish. Fr Nolan is recognized as the founder of the church with an inscription on the front of the altar.

Michael Lynch: Donor of the land

It was Michael Lynch's generous gift of the land on which the church now stands – a gift made early in 1867 – that enabled Father Nolan to feel that his dream for a new and splendid church could come true. Mr Lynch's liberality – the land was then worth about 800 pounds – encouraged other Catholic residents of Hawthorn and 1500 pounds was subscribed.

Lynch's paddock circa 1861

Irishman Lynch emigrated to Melbourne around 1840. He had made money in a number of ways, principally by running hotels e.g. The Rising Sun Hotel in Bourke Lane in the city, and transporting supplies to the miners in Ballarat during the height of the Gold Rushes. He was able to buy up blocks 38-48 in Hawthorn, 41 hectares or 104 acres, land bounded by Power St, Burwood Road, Glenferrie Road up to Kinkora Rd. Through the 1850s he built and extended Grace Park House (named after wife Julia nee Grace), still standing at 19 Chrystobel Crescent. Around 1854, Lynch was responsible for building the first Catholic school in the district, near the north eastern corner of Power and Burwood Rds. The schoolroom had a tin chapel attached in which he, his family and servants attended Mass. This school ceased after a year or two when St Joseph's opened on the land reserved on the opposite side of Power St. Some chroniclers of the time called Michael Lynch eccentric, perhaps because of the lavish hospitality at his mansion and estate in Grace Park, perhaps because of his assiduity in marshalling all his family and servants for Sunday Mass at St Joseph's and his watchfulness over them during Mass.



Flight into Egypt

A grandson of Michael Lynch, who was the last member of the Lynch family to own Grace Park House, is commemorated in the church by the sanctuary lamp. He died from tuberculosis soon after, at 21, he had entered a seminary to study for the priesthood. The young man's mother presented the sanctuary lamp in his memory in 1908. Michael Lynch provided the funds to acquire one of the eight stained glass windows when the church was opened, the beautiful 'Flight into Egypt'.

Michael Lynch is listed as one of the dignitaries present at that first Mass in 1869. How proud he must have felt as the one whose drive and generosity had led to the building of this wonderful church. He died not long after in 1871. Lynch St in Hawthorn and Lynch Place in the CBD are named after him.

Influential Pioneers

The men who knelt side by side at Mass in the little school-church of St Joseph's in the early 1860s included men who would have been unusual anywhere. Some of them were part of that influx of talent and originality which was perhaps the greatest benefit the gold rush left to Victoria; all possessed in greater or lesser degree that adventurous ambition which had lured men from the security of the old world to become pioneers in a new country.

Three of the men were members of the colony's first parliament; of these, two John O'Shanassy and Charles Gavan Duffy, were to become premiers, and to be knighted. Both were Irishmen, and so was the third M.P., Michael O'Grady, M.L.C. the member for Booroondarra in the colony's first parliament. O'Grady was also the first chairman (now Mayor) of the City of Hawthorn when it was proclaimed a municipality in 1871.
Another was W.H.Archer, an English convert: he was a writer, a pioneer in collecting statistics and he became the colony's Registrar- General.

William Henry Archer

Sir John O'Shanassy

O'Shanassy, in his prosperity, built a fine mansion, 'Tara', near the corner of Burke and Burwood Roads; when the land was subdivided. After his death in 1883, the gates of 'Tara' were given to the Immaculate Conception Church and adorn the intersection in front of the church today.

Charles Gavan Duffy

Charles Gavan Duffy's fame as an Irish patriot preceded his arrival to Melbourne. He had been gaoled in the 1848 rebellion, finally freed, then elected to the House of Commons in 1852. Following disagreements with fellow Irish patriots, he was encouraged to migrate to Melbourne in 1856, winning a seat in the colony's first Legislative Assembly elections in the same year. He became the 8th premier of Victoria in 1871. His was an extraordinary life, well worth checking via the web.
All four were key figures on the committee assisting Fr Nolan to plan and raise funds for the church following the laying of the foundation stone on December 8th 1867.

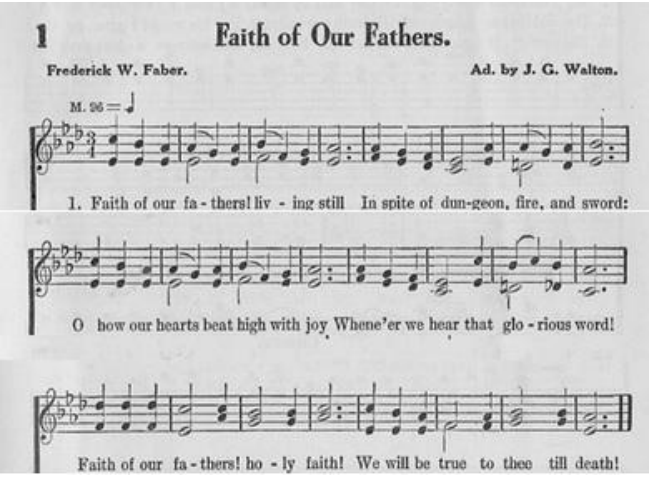
Michael O'Grady

Two weeks before his death, Fr Nolan was able to attend the wedding of Grace, only daughter of William Henry Archer to Philip, son of Charles Gavan Duffy, on December 27th, 1892.

Laying the Foundation Stone

The solemn ceremony of blessing and laying the foundation stone of the new Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Grace Park, Hawthorn, was performed on Sunday, 8th December, feast of the Immaculate Conception, by the Very Rev. Dr. Fitzpatrick, Vicar-General of the diocese of Melbourne, in the presence of about 4000 persons

A spacious canvas awning was erected, as a temporary church, and at the farthest end an altar was prepared for the occasion. The altar was decorated in a very artistic manner with flowers, ornaments, and numerous waxen lights, which presented a very brilliant appearance. A number of large paintings, of great value as works of art, and representing chiefly eminent saints who have been members of the Jesuit order, were hung over and. around the altar, and attracted much attention. There were paintings of the crucifixion, St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Francis Xavier, St. John Francis Regis, St. Francis Borgia, St. Aloysius, St. Stanislaus, Blessed John De Britto, Blessed Peter Canicius, Martyrs of Japan and Blessed John Berchmans. Solemn Mass was celebrated at eleven o'clock by the Rev. Fr Mulhall, S.J. ; the Rev. William Kelly, S.J. officiating as master of the ceremonies.
Amongst those present were the Rev. Fathers Dalton, S.J., McIniery, S.J., Nolan, S.J., the hon. John O'Shanassy, Dr. McCarthy, Messrs P. O'Brien, M. Lynch, and M. O'Grady, M.L.A. After the communion, the Rev. Isaac Moore, S.J., ascended the steps of the altar and preached a most eloquent sermon.



At the conclusion of the sermon, a procession, formed by the acolytes and clergy, headed by a cross-bearer, and wound up by the Vicar-General attired in cape, moved between an open column of the members of the Richmond Young Men's Society and St. Francis Benefit Society, wearing green or blue sashes, to the spot where the stone was suspended in readiness to be placed in its final position. The Vicar-General, attended by the Rev. Fr Kelly, then descended the place dug for the foundation of the church, and solemnly blessed the stone, after which he returned above, and the choir chanted the Litany of the Saints. The Vicar-General, when this had concluded, again descended, and the first stone was laid. The choir then sung a hymn, 'Faith of our Fathers,' and the ceremonies of the day concluded.
A collection was made after mass in aid of the new church, and about £250 was subscribed. This included a donation of £50 from the Rev. Father Dalton, and £50 on behalf of the late Right. Rev. Dr. Geoghegan, Bishop of Adelaide, per the hon. John O'Shanassy. Exclusive of the sum collected yesterday, £2000 for the same object was previously contributed by the inhabitants of Hawthorn. Many persons of other religious persuasions were present at the ceremonies on Sunday, and are amongst the contributors to the erection of the church.
Adapted from The Age' (Melbourne) 9th December, 1867 p. 5

Women to the Fore

In February 1869, erection of the Immaculate Church had been underway for 12 months but work had slowed due to a lack of funds. 1200 pounds was still required to finish the first stage of the building, scheduled for opening the following October. It was a similar predicament for the St Ignatius Church, Richmond, also in the course of erection.

To help raise the necessary funds, a big bazaar was held at St George's Hall, Bourke St, in the city, organised by the ladies, over 4 days, from Wednesday to Saturday, February 6th to 9th. The women had been working for months to create goods of the highest quality.

Lady sodalists of Immaculate Conception church, Hawthorn (1880)

The fancy articles comprised almost every variety of work, including chairs, cushions, &c., in Berlin wool and velvet, anti-macassars, crochet work, bead work, etc. The beautifully decorated stalls of Mrs O'Shanassy, Mrs Archer and Mrs Martin lined up on one side of the hall, on the other, 3 stalls of beautifully created goods by Mrs Quirk, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Harris, Mrs Hepburn etc. In addition there were fruit and flower stalls, presided over by Mrs. Tarrant and Miss Walker; refreshment stalls, (Miss Eccles) ; and even a post-office, (Misses Lynch and Burke).

Musical entertainment was provided regularly during the week, both vocal and instrumental, volunteer bands from both Carlton and Collingwood adding to the entertainment. Launched by both Dr Goold, Melbourne's bishop, and the Archbishop of Sydney, the bazaar was heavily patronised by Melbourne's Catholics.

As a follow up to this event, a fundraising ball was held in April at the same hall for the same cause, at one guinea admission per couple. Familiar names were patronesses of the ball – Mrs O'Shanassy, Mrs Duffy, Mrs N. Fitzgerald, Mrs McDonnell, Mrs Archer, Mrs Martin and Mrs Loughnan.
Proceeds from the bazaar and ball ensured that work on both churches was able to continue. In the case of the Immaculate Conception Church, to meet the October opening date.

We have been blessed that women have been a powerful force from the earliest moments of our parish history. This continues to the present day.

Extraordinary Progress in the Construction of the Church

Seven weeks after the donation of the land by Michael Lynch, the foundation stone for the church was laid, on December 8th, 1867, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Crouch and Wilson's design for the church was accepted at a cost far greater than the originally intended 3000 pounds but its beauty and fitness so won Fr Nolan and his committee that work was soon commenced, on March 23rd, 1868. It continued almost without cessation so that the nave and aisles and part of the tower were roofed in by August 1869.

The winning design for Immaculate Conception church Hawthorn, submitted by Crouch and Wilson Architects

The 'exquisite' altar was expected daily from Belgium, tessellated tiles were on the way, commodious benches of carved wood in the process of completion and eight stained glass windows had been personally guaranteed by members of the building committee. Total expenditure on the completion of the present portion of the building would be in the gross somewhat under 6000 pounds of which 4,688 pounds had been paid.

At a meeting after Mass at St Josephs in early August, Mr O'Shanassy congratulated the congregation of Hawthorn on having so rapidly achieved such a large portion of their task. Never, he said, had there been such rapid progress of church erection in Victoria on such a scale without lawsuit, waste of money or slackening of zeal. A tribute was then paid to the untiring exertions of Fr Nolan without whom the people of Hawthorn could never have had such wonderful success.

Fr Nolan said that he only wanted 400 pounds from them now, for that would enable the church to be opened on October 10th next, for the accommodation of 500 to 600 worshippers; and he was in a position to hope that at no distant date the whole would be completed for the use of one thousand souls, in a style of beauty which would be a joy and comfort to all.

(Extracted and adapted from the Advocate 14th August, 1869, p.5

Blessing and Opening of the Church

On Sunday, October 10th, 1869, the opening of the first stage of the church was conducted by the Bishop of Melbourne, James Alipius Goold. This first stage comprised the nave and the side aisles, unfinished tower to a height of 66 ft.(approx. 20 metres) with a temporary sanctuary and vestry at the rear, with accommodation for 400 people. Against the temporary blank wall at the end of the church stood the magnificent carved oak altar created by the Belgian artist Vermeylen from Louvain. It was ordered, carved, shipped and assembled in the church in time for the consecration for a cost of 170 pounds.

Bishop James Alipius Goold

A blessing took place at 8.30am and by the time the bishop commenced Pontifical High Mass at 11 o'clock every portion of the church available, even standing room, was occupied, and many were obliged to take up their position under a marquee, which had been erected immediately in front of the main entrance. Two special steam trains had left Flinders St at 10am and 10.30 am to bring crowds from the city. (As Hawthorn Station was then end of the line, horse drawn cabs would have been busy bringing them up to the church.)

Interior of Immaculate Conception church at the Opening (1869)

The congregation was led by Councillor Moubray, Lord Mayor of Melbourne and Mrs Moubray and included 'six significant lay women and 34 laymen'. Fr Isaac Moore, Prefect of Studies at St Pat's College, East Melbourne, preached the sermon and wished the bishop well on his imminent journey to Rome for the 1st Vatican Council. Mozart's 2nd Mass was sung by the choir, Mr. Gerlach presiding at the harmonium, and Mrs.Testar and Mr. Rainford being the principal vocalists.

Most of the windows were only temporarily glazed, but the clerestory windows had been fitted in permanently, by Messrs. Ferguson and Urie and contained emblems of the Blessed Virgin, St Joseph, and the Apostles. According to the report in the Advocate, they threw 'a subdued and holy light over the interior of the structure.'

The collection wiped 230 pounds off the building debt with more raised with the sale of admission tickets! To quote Fr Michael Head from his wonderful history of the parish 'Walking in Faith', "Parishioners attending mass on the weekend now might be forgiven for growing used to the wonder of the massive bluestone walls, the Malmsbury stone in the pillars which is usually so difficult to carve and topped Kangaroo Point sandstone carvings, and in its day, fascinating gas light fittings."

Hawthorn becomes a Parish, New Presbytery Built

Fr Oliver Daly

Until 1882, Hawthorn was part of the Richmond Mission which extended as far as Mitcham. In that year it became an independent parish but still ministered in the areas of Camberwell, Kew and Mitcham until 1889. The first parish priest was Fr Oliver Daly, helped by Fr Peter O'Flinn, a seasoned missoner and horseman, who had spent the two previous years riding around priestless parts of Victoria, ministering to Catholics in remote country settlements. He would later serve two terms as parish priest.

At this time the railway line extended to Glenferrie (the station then called Glenferrie Road) and the population of the area grew rapidly. When the church opened, the population was around 2,500. By 1882 it was over 6,000. Fr Daly set about building a presbytery next to the church. In this he was aided by the generosity again of parishioners, in particular Sir John O'Shanassy and Patrick O'Brien, who each donated 100 pounds. Many members of other religious denominations had also generously contributed.

The presbytery, a fine, gothic style building of Hawthorn bricks, designed by William Ellis and architecturally in sympathy with the bank building next door, was opened a year later, in 1883, for the cost of 2000 pounds. A significant fund raising event in the Hawthorn Town Hall, called a Novetaten (Novelty) Bazaar, was held in late 1883, over 5 days, to help defray costs in the building of the presbytery. Involved were stalls, musical entertainment with concerts in the afternoon and evening. Three months of planning by the ladies of the parish and the organising committee, led by Patrick O'Brien, ensured its success. Total receipts exceeded 200 pounds. The church grounds had also been recently laid out by Mr Scott, 'at the expense of Mr Power, of Toorak.'

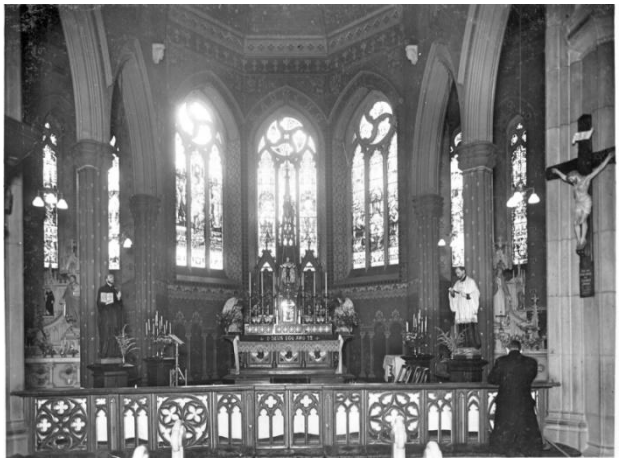
Hawthorn Catholic Parish Presbytery

Furnishing the new building was a different matter: a good deal of material had to be borrowed. Occasionally Fr Daly resorted to cunning. It is said he invited several prominent Catholics to dinner offering them no better seats at table than tin packing cases. The dining-room chairs arrived soon afterwards and apparently are still in use.

Fr Kevin Carroll, when first appointed PP in 1967, was asked how he might improve the presbytery. He evidently said, 'Immediately purchase electric blankets for all the beds.'

1890s Extensions

The 1880's were a time of optimism. With an economy still buoyant from the effects of the gold rush, Melbourne had recently been called 'Marvellous Melbourne', and the beautiful Exhibition Building was opened in 1880. Hawthorn was declared a city by the Governor in September 1890 at a ceremony with much fanfare in the recently finished Town Hall.



Extended Sanctuary 1892

By 1890, accommodation at the new church had now become inadequate and it was decided that the time was right for necessary extensions. In 1891, the final stage was added to the tower and a bell weighing over half a ton was installed. The bell was a presentation by the congregation to church founder, Fr Nolan, on attaining his jubilee.

The following year a large chancel (sanctuary) was completed, allowing the magnificent high altar to be moved back to a new position, with two chapels on either side of it. The nave was lengthened. The organ was moved from the rear of the church to its present position to the right of the sanctuary. The blessing of the extensions was performed by Archbishop Carr in December, 1892, and, to celebrate this grand occasion, a Missa Cantata was sung, Weber's Grand Mass in E Flat, with orchestral accompaniment and full choir under T. J. Lambie, the organist being Miss M'Givern.

Choir loft and organ (pre 1900)

A witness to these solemn celebrations was the seriously ill Fr Nolan who died in the presbytery a month later, on 11 January 1893, but he had lived long enough to see his dream truly take shape.

The final cost of the extensions was 10,000 pounds. Unforeseen at the time was the depression which struck fiercely in the 1890s, leading the parish into severe financial difficulty for several years. Regular fundraisers continued to be held. A big one in 1893 over 5 days at the Town Hall was called a Village Festival. A novel and interesting programme of amusements was presented, including games, concerts, plays, shooting gallery, museum of curiosities, ventriloquism, a magic well and other forms of entertainment. The interior of the Town Hall was fitted up to represent, as far as practicable, a number of rustic cottages, and the host of young ladies and gentlemen who volunteered their services were attired in the picturesque garb of villagers.

In opening the Festival, Archbishop Carr expressed the opinion that the existing depression was due to imaginary causes and that the gloomy clouds around would soon pass away and the colony would speedily regain its normal prosperity. In this, his optimism was misplaced. Banks collapsed, houses fell to half or third of their value, in every suburb there were hundreds of empty shops and tenements. But, again with the support of a wonderful community, the debt was gradually brought under control. So much so, that by 1898 the glorious stained glass windows behind the high altar, with the Immaculate Conception as the centrepiece, began to be installed.

A very special Wedding

Daily and society newspapers were full of reports of the wedding of Miss Grace Archer, only daughter of Mr William Henry Archer, of 'Alverno', Mary St, Grace Park, Hawthorn, and Mr Phillip Gavan Duffy, fourth son of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, then resident in Nice, France, at the Immaculate Conception Church in late December, 1892. Parishioners will recall that both fathers were influential pioneers in supporting Fr Nolan in the building of the church.

The church looked spectacular, (the sanctuary extensions had been blessed just a few weeks before), with garlands of white flowers and decorated pot plants. According to all reports, the bride looked lovely in a court trained gown of ivory faille francaise. On her hair was a tiny coronet of myrtle, with a long tuile veil. She also wore a gold bangle presented by the bridegroom and a diamond and sapphire brooch from the Misses Gavan Duffy of Nice and carried a beautiful bouquet of exotics tied with ivory ribbons. Apart from the many guests, the church was crowded with spectators.

The ceremony was performed by Fr O'Flinn, assisted by Fr Buckeridge and Frs O'Dougherty and O'Malley. Father Nolan, who had christened Miss Archer, insisted on being present to see her marriage, despite his feeble health. He died a few weeks later. After the ceremony the guests retired to 'Alverno' for an afternoon reception. The couple afterwards departed for the 'pretty little seaside village of Sorrento' for a 2 week honeymoon.

Interestingly, papers listed the names of guests and wedding presents they gave (fewer privacy laws then!!!). For example, the father of the bride, a cheque, father of the groom, a diamond and opal ring, cheque and Irish poplin gown, whereas nuns from the Presentation Convent gave four pictures and a collection of religious books.

Vale Fr Nolan

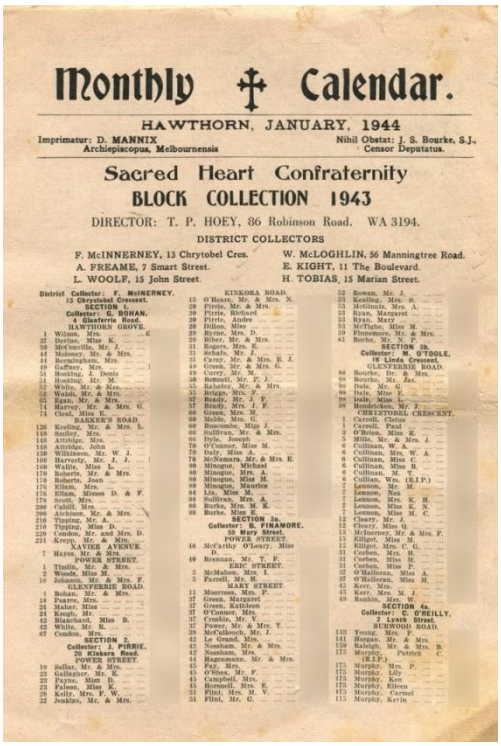
The Reverend Edward Nolan, S.J., who officiated in connection with the Catholic Church of Hawthorn for 20 years, died from disease of the heart on Wednesday, January 11.

Father Nolan was born at Dublin on May 10, 1826. At an early age he attended college in Dublin with the intention of studying for the priesthood. He made his novitiate at Angers (France), took his degrees of theology at Louvain (Belgium), and entered the Society of Jesus on September 20, 1850. After long and active service in teaching at different colleges in Ireland, Father Nolan came to Australia in 1865. Shortly after his arrival in Melbourne he was appointed to the parish of Hawthorn, where the schoolroom which still stands in Power Street served for a church.

With the energy and indomitable courage which characterises the Jesuit, he set to work, and, having been made a present of a fine block of land by the late Mr. Michael Lynch (father-in-law of ex Judge Quinlan), of Hawthorn, he raised a sufficient sum to enable him to commence building a new church. On December 8, 1867, the foundation stone of the present Church of the Immaculate Conception was laid.

Even while age was enfeebling his form and racking his constitution, he collected enough money to obtain the peal of bells which the Glenferrie church now owns. Nine months ago Father Nolan, was found to be too weak to officiate at church service. Later on he was even debarred from celebrating mass in private. It was with great difficulty Father Nolan was present on the occasion of Miss Grace Archer's marriage with Mr. Philip Gavan Duffy, on Tuesday, December 27.
Table Talk - 20 Jan 1893 p.3

Financing Parish operations



Monthly ✝ Calendar.

HAWTHORN, JANUARY, 1944

Imprimatur: D. MANNIX
Archiepiscopus, Melbournensis

Nihil Obstat: J. S. Bourke, S.J.,
Censor Deputatus.

Sacred Heart Confraternity
BLOCK COLLECTION 1943

DIRECTOR: T. P. HOEY, 86 Robinson Road. WA 3194.

DISTRICT COLLECTORS

F. McINNERNEY, 13 Chrytobel Cres.
A. FREAME, 7 Smart Street.
L. WOOLF, 15 John Street.
W. McLOGHLIN, 56 Manningtree Road.
E. KIGHT, 11 The Boulevard.
H. TOBIAS, 15 Marian Street.

District Collector: F. McINNERNEY.
13 Chrystobel Crescent.
SECTION 1.
Collector: G. ROHAN.
4 Glenferrie Road.
HAWTHORN GROVE.
1 Wilson, Mrs. ... £
37 Devine, Miss K. ...
39 McCourtie, Mr. J. ...
44 Mahoney, Mr. & Mrs. ...
44 Bermingham, Mrs. ...
49 Gaffney, Mr. ...
51 Hocking, Mr. Denis ...
51 Hocking, Mr. M. ...
52 White, Mr. & Mrs. ...
52 Walsh, Mr. & Mrs. ...
65 Egan, Mr. & Mrs. ...
74 Harvey, Mr. & Mrs. G. ...
74 Cleal, Miss E. ...
BARKER'S ROAD.
126 Keeling, Mr. & Mrs. L. ...
148 Smiley, Mrs. ...
148 Attridge, Mrs. ...
148 Attridge, John ...
150 Wilkinson, Mr. W. J. ...
160 Harvey, Mr. J. J. ...
160 Wallis, Miss L. ...
170 Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. ...
170 Roberts, Joan ...
176 Elliam, Mrs. ...
176 Elliam, Misses D. & F. ...
178 Scott, Mrs. ...
200 Cahill, Mrs. ...
210 Tipping, Mr. & Mrs. ...
210 Tipping, Miss D. ...
220 Condon, Mr. and Mrs. D. ...
224 Kropp, Mr. & Mrs. ...
XAVIER AVENUE.
7 Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. ...
POWER STREET.
1 Tinslin, Mr. & Mrs. ...
2 Woods, Miss M. ...
10 Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. F. ...
GLENFERRIE ROAD.
8 Bohan, Mr. & Mrs. ...
18 Pearce, Mrs. ...
24 Maher, Miss ...
24 Keogh, Mr. ...
42 Blanchard, Miss B. ...
42 White, Mr. R. ...
67 Condon, ...
SECTION 2.
Collector: J. PIRRIE.
20 Kinkora Road.
POWER STREET.
10 Sellar, Mr. & Mrs. ...
23 Gallagher, Mr. K. ...
23 Payne, Miss D. ...
23 Falson, Miss K. ...
28 Kelly, Mrs. F. W. ...
32 Jenkins, Mr. & Mrs. ...

KINKORA ROAD.
15 O'Hoare, Mr. & Mrs. N. ...
29 Pirrie, Mr. & Mrs. ...
29 Pirrie, Richard ...
29 Pirrie, Andrew ...
29 Dillon, Miss ...
29 Byrne, Mrs. D. ...
29 Riber, Mr. & Mrs. ...
31 Rogers, Mrs. E. ...
31 Schafe, Mr. E. ...
31 Green, Mr. & Mrs. E. J. ...
49 Green, Mr. & Mrs. G. ...
49 Curry, Mr. M. ...
50 Somerset, Mr. F. J. ...
55 Salmiler, Mr. & Mrs. ...
55 Briggs, Mrs. F. ...
57 Beady, Mr. J. F. ...
57 Beady, Mrs. J. F. ...
60 Green, Mrs. M. ...
60 Mulde, Mrs. G. ...
60 Buscombe, Miss J. ...
66 Sullivan, Mr. & Mrs. ...
66 Dyle, Joseph ...
70 O'Connor, Miss M. ...
70 Daly, Miss A. ...
70 McNamara, Mr. & Mrs. E. ...
80 Minogue, Michael ...
80 Minogue, Mrs. A. ...
80 Minogue, Miss M. ...
80 Minogue, Maurice ...
84 Lin, Mrs. ...
84 Sullivan, Mrs. A. ...
88 Burke, Mrs. M. E. ...
88 Burke, Miss E. ...
SECTION 3a.
Collector: S. FINAMORE.
59 Mary Street.
POWER STREET.
10 McCarthy O'Leary, Miss D. ...
10 Brennan, Mr. T. F. ...
ERIC STREET.
5 McMahon, Mrs. I. ...
5 Farrell, Mr. H. ...
MARY STREET.
11 Moerrson, Mrs. P. ...
37 Green, Margaret ...
37 Green, Kathleen ...
37 O'Connor, Mrs. ...
37 Crombie, Mr. ...
37 Crombie, Mr. & Mrs. T. ...
37 McCullinard, Mr. J. ...
42 Le Grand, Mrs. ...
42 Nonham, Mr. & Mrs. ...
42 Nonham, Mrs. ...
44 Rapenmann, Mr. & Mrs. ...
45 Fay, Mrs. ...
45 O'Hara, Mr. F. ...
45 Campbell, Mrs. ...
45 Hornell, Mrs. E. ...
51 Flint, Mrs. M. V. ...
51 Flint, Mr. C. ...

52 Rowan, Mr. J. ...
53 Keating, Mrs. S. ...
53 McGinnis, Mrs. ...
53 Ryan, Margaret ...
53 Ryan, Mary ...
53 McTighe, Miss M. ...
59 Plimmmore, Mr. & Mrs. ...
61 Roche, Mr. T. ...
SECTION 3b.
Collector: M. O'TOOLE.
6 Linda Crescent.
GLENFERRIE ROAD.
88 Bourke, Mr. & Mrs. ...
88 Bourke, Mr. Jas. ...
98 Dale, Mr. G. ...
98 Dale, Miss E. ...
98 Dale, Miss L. ...
98 Hendricks, Mr. J. ...
CHRYSTOBEL CRESCENT.
1 Carroll, Clifton ...
1 Carroll, Paul ...
3 O'Brien, Miss E. ...
3 Mills, Mr. & Mrs. J. ...
6 Cullinan, W. A. ...
6 Cullinan, Mrs. W. A. ...
6 Cullinan, Miss C. ...
6 Cullinan, Miss B. ...
6 Cullinan, M. T. ...
6 Cullinan, Wm. (R.I.P.) ...
7 Lennon, Mr. M. ...
7 Lennon, Nea ...
7 Lennon, Miss K. H. ...
7 Lennon, Miss E. B. ...
7 Lennon, Miss M. C. ...
12 Cleary, Mr. J. ...
12 Cleary, Miss G. ...
13 McInerney, Mr & Mrs. F. ...
13 Kilgel, Miss M. ...
13 Kilgel, Mrs. C. G. ...
31 Corben, Mrs. H. ...
31 Corben, Miss M. ...
31 Corben, Miss P. ...
37 O'Halloran, Miss A. ...
37 O'Halloran, Miss M. ...
43 Kerr, Mrs. ...
45 Kerr, Mrs. M. J. ...
49 Rankin, Mrs. W. ...
SECTION 4a.
Collector: C. O'REILLY.
7 Lynch Street.
BURWOOD ROAD.
133 Young, Mrs. F. ...
141 Horgan, Mr. & Mrs. ...
159 Raleigh, Mr. & Mrs. B. ...
175 Murphy, Patrick C. (R.I.P.) ...
175 Murphy, Mrs. P. ...
175 Murphy, Lily ...
175 Murphy, Ken ...
175 Murphy, Eileen ...
175 Murphy, Carmel ...
175 Murphy, Kevin ...

As the current Stewardship programme draws to a close, it is interesting to recall earlier ways in which the parish financed its operations. In 1904, under Fr Colgan, the key to fundraising was the Church Union where members of the parish undertook to donate a certain amount each month and members of the parish called round to homes to collect it. The names of the more than three hundred and fifty donors were published in the Monthly Calendar (commenced in 1904, it which continued monthly to provide up to date news on Parish activities until 1974), by street listings. Over 100 years later it provides a wonderful list of the parish's principal donors from that era. The efforts of the Church Union accounted for nearly half of the parish's new income each year.

When Fr Thomas Claffey became parish priest in 1915, he immediately began to consider the next stage of the building programme. With the war intervening, he waited until 1919 before, with the help of key parishioners, in particular J.C Westhoven and Joseph Sheedy, it was decided that a direct appeal would be made to each parishioner in the form of a brochure and a stamped addressed envelope so that every part of the parish would have the opportunity to contribute. The donors could either give a lump sum or donate once a month over ten months, and to assist, the Church Union collectors would call as usual on the first Sunday of each month. The idea was to have money in hand, something novel at the time, before building started, so that large interest payments would be avoided.

The appeal was designed to coincide with the golden jubilee of the opening of the church (1919) and asked for about 5,500 pounds. The only project mentioned in the appeal was the completion of the eastern transept. How much money was finally obtained by the appeal is unknown but when the building work began in 1921, it not only included the eastern transept but the spire was completed as well, for a total cost of 16,000 pounds.

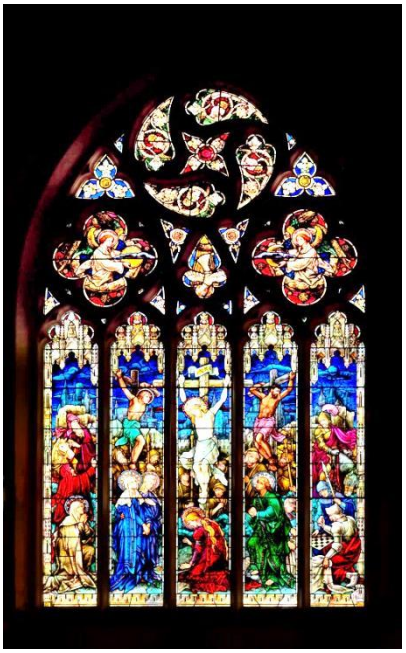
Church Union collections continued but dwindled during the Great Depression years of the 1930s. From the 1940s, the more senior of us might remember the Block Collection when parishioners in all corners of the parish were called on for a monthly contribution. It was very well organised by Fr Fitzgerald and the men's Sacred Heart confraternity. The Monthly Calendars of 1944 listed over 1500 families by name and street, and their contribution.

Block Collections virtually lasted until the system known as the Sacrificial Giving Programme, similar to what we have today, was instituted in 1967.

1920s Developments, Eastern Transept and Spires

Construction of the Spires 1921, Completed 1922

As recorded last week, Fr Claffey's direct appeal to parishioners in the Golden Jubilee year of 1919 for funds to build the eastern transept was so successful he was also able to complete not only the transept but also the great spire, a choir loft and a sodality room (now the Lady Chapel), for a total cost of 16,000 pounds. The spire, more than three times the height of the church roof, now rose 180 feet (55m.) above the base of the church, moving a reporter from the Advocate lyrically describing it as a landmark of a striking and imposing character 'pointing its untired finger heavenwards'. The second tower, the belfry, was nearly 30 metres in height.



The Crucifixion (Hardman and Co, Birmingham, 1921). Given by Mrs Goll and Mrs T. Hogan: 'In memory of our parents Thomas and Margaret Walsh. R.I.P.'

Included in the extensions were 17 magnificent stained glass windows, in the transept, choir loft and sodality room, gifts from generous donors, including some in memory of sons fallen in Gallipoli and France. In the transept the large end window of the crucifixion measured 29 feet from apex to base, considered, with one or two exceptions, the tallest stained glass window in any church in Melbourne. A gift of Mrs Goll and Mrs Hogan, in memory of their parents, it cost 887 pounds.

With the new building, a series of 8 gargoyles or stone head faces appeared on the Glenferrie Road side, including that of the Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, while a number of other faces were added to the wall facing Lynch Street. These included prominent parishioner J.J. Castles of Lynch St and Fr George Kelly S.J., former parish priest.

The construction of the eastern transept gave the building a unifying effect. The additions, extensive as they were, did not as yet complete the original plan. It was hoped that 'in the not too distant future', the western transept would be added. Then, said the Advocate, the noble design (of the church) would receive its crowning touch. Architect for the extensions was Augustus Fritsch, well known for many buildings in Hawthorn, including the Dixon Building of shops in Glenferrie Road.

St Vincent de Paul Society, Hawthorn Conference

The Society was founded by 20 year old Frederic Ozanam and 6 companions in Paris in 1833. It spread rapidly through the world. The first conference (branch) was founded in Australia in Melbourne in 1854.

The Hawthorn Conference was established on **March 1st, 1900** and is the third longest continuous conference in Victoria, having been active for all its 119 years. Founding President was V.E. (Eddie) Henderson, Tax Commissioner for Victoria at the time, who presided for 22 years. Other outstanding members have been John Connell, president for 33 years, (1930-1963), Charlie Murphy (1978-1986), who had served as the Member for Hawthorn in the Victorian Parliament, 1952-1955, and Peter Murphy who was responsible for opening the Vinnies Store in Auburn Road in 1972, and for building the VincenPaul Hostel and St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home, in Box Hill. Amazing service over the years has been provided by 50 year members, Leo Blood and the recently retired, but still inspirational, Bill Pierse.

V.E. (Eddie) Henderson

The Conference's prime focus has always been to provide relief to the needy of Hawthorn, whatever form that might take. In the earlier years of last century, conference members often visited prisoners at Pentridge, cared for foreign seamen on ships passing through Port Melbourne and served meals to the homeless at Ozanam House in North Melbourne. Outstanding work was done by members during the harsh years of the Depression. Clothes, blankets, boots, firewood and meals were supplied where needed. Many were helped with medical aid, rent payments and funeral expenses. Nursing accommodation was found for pensioners, and scarce jobs for the unemployed. Activities were financed for the most part by a 'charity sermon' preached once a year by a distinguished Melbourne priest.

Today the Conference continues to support the needy of Hawthorn, 'wherever there is a need', and attends to calls from the inner city areas of Prahran and South Yarra at the weekend. A special interest is the care of refugees and asylum seekers. A home for refugee families in East Hawthorn has been managed by members since 1990.

As well, Hawthorn parishioners volunteer on one of the Society's soup vans which nightly provide meals to the needy and homeless in Collingwood and Fitzroy. Quarterly, Christmas and Easter grants are provided to eight overseas conferences in India, Myanmar, the Philippines and Pakistan. Nowadays, activities are financed through the generous donations of Hawthorn parishioners at the annual Winter Appeal in June.

St Vincent de Paul Appeal 1913

At the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday 13th July at the Church of Immaculate Conception, Hawthorn, the Very Rev. J. O'Dwyer, S.J. made an appeal on behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Weber's Mass in G was rendered by a choir of 50 voices, with orchestral accompaniment.
The soloists were Misses Maggie Mossop and Mollie Tyrrell, Messrs. K. Brennan and L. Daniels. At the Offertory, Elgar's "Ave Verum" was sung by the choir. Under the leadership of Mr. J. B. North, special music was rendered by the orchestra. Mr. H. Gleeson acted as musical director, and Mrs. Jenkinson presided at the organ. A generous response was made on behalf of this most deserving charity.
Advocate 19 July 1913 p.21

Social Life in the 1920/30s, Manresa Hall, Apollo Theatre

The social life of the parish got a boost in 1923 when the E.S. and A. Bank premises, adjoining the presbytery, together with a plot of land were bought for 7,000 pounds. This building provided clubrooms for parish societies, especially the C.Y.M.S., as well as a gymnasium and kindergarten accommodation. In 1924, Manresa Hall was built on the vacant land at a cost of 13,000 pounds, the architect was G.W. Vanheems. It was built to accommodate 900 people and its excellent dance floor made it one of the most popular halls in Melbourne. It was built on the newest lines. The handsome vestibule had a Buchan marble dado and ornamental Terrazzo floor. Spacious cloak rooms opened off either side, while marble stairways led to the galleries overhead. On the rest of the land around these clubrooms, and behind the hall, two tennis courts were made and the Manresa Tennis Club came into existence.

The hall was opened with some fanfare on 12th March, 1924. 400 parishioners, young and old, gathered for a most enjoyable evening. The programme contained selections by Miss Heely's orchestra and vocal numbers by Miss Lloyd. Items by wireless were given by the Crystal Clear Radio Society. In opening the hall, Fr Hearn commended all those responsible for the building. He paid tribute to the generous parishioners who had either donated or lent money towards its construction.

Two weeks later, a fortnight bazaar was held in the hall to reduce the debt on the building. It was opened by the Mayor of Hawthorn, Cr. Rigby, who said he was delighted to see the splendid hall which was 'an ornament to the city'. The following years saw the hall used for a myriad of events, to support all kinds of charities from within Hawthorn and beyond, social and school functions, and dramatic and musical productions.

The Manresa Free Kindergarten, which opened in the clubrooms in 1929, staged a performance in the hall in December 1930. The Advocate reported that the 35 little ones presented various items 'with an ease and precision which would have done credit to children twice their age. The band caused much merriment, the ages of the diminutive players ranging from 3 to 5 years.'

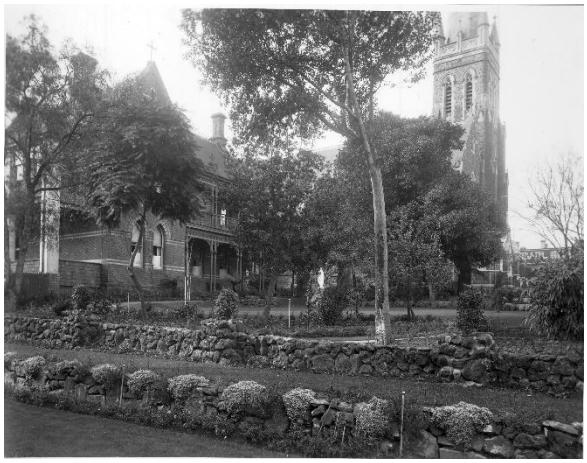
When the Glen Theatre in Glenferrie Rd closed about 1933, Manresa Hall was rebadged as the Apollo Theatre, an independent cinema, until the Glen reopened in 1939, when Manresa reverted to its earlier role. The list of events was endless, weekly dances, dramatic productions, Manresa Musical Society, speech nights, card parties, communion breakfasts etc. etc. From the 1970s, the hall has been used in other ways, even as a basketball stadium, the Manresa Function Centre, Swinburne Uni exam centre, Hawthorn Library during renovations, social and fundraising events for Manresa Kindergarten and St. Joseph's school etc. and now the Billy Lids Indoor Play Centre.

1930s and 40s. A new St Joseph's Church?

Fr John Samuel 'Sammy' Bourke was appointed Parish Priest in 1934 and retained that position until 1947. Until our current PP Fr Des (2004-), Fr Bourke was the longest PP in our history. Fr Bourke's fine ideas about improving the church, including adding the western transept, were not matched by the availability of finance needed for such work, during the years of the Great Depression and 2nd World War.

Fr Bourke with Dr Mannix in the 1930s

However, much was still achieved during his period of stewardship. In August 1937, 800 parishioners, friends and family, gathered at the Hawthorn Town Hall to pay tribute to Fr Bourke on attaining his silver jubilee as a priest. Following several musical items by the church choir and soloists, eulogies were presented, one by the former Prime Minister, J.H. (Jimmy) Scullin. Mention was made of Fr Bourke's achievements as PP. The erection of an 'artistic entrance of bluestone' (the front porch of the church), the landscaping of the presbytery gardens and church grounds, the creation, in the clubrooms, of the new Manresa library, in conjunction with Fr Kirwan, the purchase of a new residence for the Marist Brothers in Lisson Grove and the development of a new oval for the St John's School.



During 1943, parishioners at St Joseph's church started a mini campaign to do something about the inadequacy of the space in the small church. Fr Bourke was dissuaded from extending the building by the parish architect, Mr. A. Fritsch, and Mr Robert Harper, who had built Loyola Watsonia. They advised it would be cheaper to build a new church. A modern Gothic style design was prepared to accommodate over 400 people. However, with shortages of material and labour in the post-war era, and lack of money, the idea was deferred and then cancelled.

During this period, the parish invested heavily in the choir which had become a very professional organisation, under musical director and conductor, Mr. Hurtle Wigg. The director, organist and some lead singers were paid and special soloists were contracted for major feasts.

The most active devotional life of the parish in these times revolved around the various sodalities and especially the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Men's Sodality met on Monday nights, the Women on Wednesday nights and the Children of Mary on Tuesdays. Fr Joseph Healey even started a Boy's Sodality, aimed at the 15-19 age group. At the end of 1935, its membership totalled about 150, remarkable when we think of it today. This Sodality met at 7.30 on Friday evening, just before the weekly Stations of the Cross which commenced at 8pm.

In 1940, Fr Joe Fitzgerald introduced the Men's Sacred Heart Confraternity, the only real obligation on members was to attend the 8 o'clock mass on the first Sunday of the month, with an annual communion breakfast in Manresa Hall. Items in future weeks will expand on the activities of the Sodalities and the Men's Confraternity.

Fr Johannes (John) Peifer, a very special priest

Fr Peifer was born in Germany in 1860 and entered the Austrian Province of the Jesuits in 1880. Ordained in 1894, he came to Australia shortly afterwards. After various ministries around the country, he spent 20 years at St Aloysius College in Sydney, then the last 24 years of his life in Hawthorn, where he actively engaged in sodality work and in sick calls. In the confessional his advice was sought by many in difficulties, and he was a well-known figure throughout Hawthorn. By young and old he was held in affectionate regard, and his death in November 1948, aged 88, deprived the Order of one of its oldest and most beloved priests.

Fr Johannes (John) Peifer in 1937

Preaching the panegyric at his funeral, Archbishop Mannix said that his life would scarcely ever be written.
'He was reticent and self-effacing to an extraordinary degree. Nobody ever thought of celebrating his birthday, because nobody knew it, and he did not tell. Jubilees were celebrated by members of his own Order and by others, but there was no jubilee for Fr. Peifer, who told nobody the date of his ordination. He lived a comparatively unknown and unostentatious, but very full life, content to do God's work as it fell to his lot. Amongst his colleagues he was always genial and alert, and bubbled over with humour. In Hawthorn, continued the Archbishop, many homes will be desolate and many hearts will grieve because Fr. Piefer will be no longer amongst them to advise and console and sympathize. He spent most of his time in Sydney and Hawthorn. But I think it was in Hawthorn he found his real home and his most congenial work. He came to be regarded as almost a legend in Hawthorn. Everybody knew, respected and loved him, and it was a great sorrow to all when recently he had to retire from active work, when he could do no more than continue to pray for the work that he himself had done so much to promote.

Fr. Peifer was a great believer in the power of the written word. In going about his Hawthorn district he was in the habit of distributing Catholic Truth pamphlets in an unostentatious way. I am sure that many people owed their conversion to this gentle, hidden apostolate of Fr. Peifer. In his last days at Caritas Christi Hospice he was able to get up occasionally and go round amongst the patients in that great institution. With each one who was capable of reading he left a Catholic pamphlet.'

By a remarkable coincidence, while the Jesuits and their friends were celebrating the centenary of the coming of Austrian Jesuits to Australia in 1848, the last link with those heroic Jesuit pioneers should go to his reward in Hawthorn.
Although Fr Peifer's life will never be written, it is timely to remember this humble priest who served our church and the wider Hawthorn community so faithfully, during our 150th year.

The Final Stage: Adding the Western Transept

MONTHLY + CALENDAR

HAWTHORN JULY 1961

Imprimatur: D. MANNIX, Archiepiscopus, Melbournensis. Nihil Obstat: P.F. KURTS, S.J. Censor Deputatus.

Opening of the War Memorial Shrine

On Sunday afternoon, June 4th, His Grace, Archbishop Simonds, Coadjutor Archbishop of Melbourne, blessed and officially opened the Holy Family War Memorial Shrine in the Parish Church Hawthorn. After consecrating the Shrine through a grand of honour of the men of the parish, His Grace vested and immediately went long trained the Shrine, sprinkling it with holy water, incense and oil.

Visitors:

Present in the church during the ceremony were some hundreds of Hawthorn parishioners as well as many visitors from outside the parish. The necessary were Very Rev. Fr. J. McMahon, S.J. (New York), Very Rev. Fr. J. Hogan, S.J. (Provincial), and Very Rev. Fr. Claude Moncault, O.S.B.

Other priests present included Very Rev. Fr. L. Harper, S.J., P.P. Richmond, Very Rev. Fr. F. Gordon, S.J., Rector of St. Patrick's College, Very Rev. Fr. J. Ryan, S.J., Very Rev. Fr. W. O'Collins, S.J., J. Dynes, S.J., G. O'Connor, S.J., G. Schmitz, S.J., A. J. Martin, P.P. R. Payne, P.P. Caulfield, and Very Rev. Fr. Charles de Guillebon, Provincial of Sacred Heart Province, F. Lyons (Navy), K. Broderick, F.P. (Adam), and R. McCormack, O.S.B. (Ad Fines) — was a special reminder that the new Shrine is a War Memorial.

Father Thomas Bourke, S.J.

It was a delight for all to have present in the church on this historic occasion, the Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Bourke, S.J., P.P. Hawthorn, Australia, who as Parish Priest of Hawthorn had not only conceived the idea of building the Shrine but on completing the church of the Immaculate Conception, had had seen the new building the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for the first time, and rate as Rector of the Saint Ignatius College at Norwood, our Parish Priest there.

Other Guests:

Present also were the Marist Brothers from St. Johns, Hawthorn, and the Brigidine Sisters from Kilmacud, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hawthorn, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ryan, Mr. Stanley J. Fritsch (architect), Mr. H. F. Yonchen (builder), and Mr. Yonchen, Mrs. Westhoven and the Misses K. and A. Coffey.

Welcome to Archbishop Simonds:

The Parish Priest, Fr. Kurts, welcomed His Grace and thanked him for being so kind as to make time free from further pastoral duties to visit the Parish. The Mayor and Mayoress were welcomed too and the official power and parishioners.

Fr. Kurts recalled that one hundred years ago, the Parish of Hawthorn was established. The new stands was part of Lynch's Paddock. In 1887 the erection of the first portion of the church was begun on the present site. In 1889 it was blessed and opened by the first Bishop of Melbourne, Dr. Goold. In 1911 it was consecrated for the Vatican Council. By a happy coincidence the last portion of the church has been blessed and the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for the first time with the forthcoming second Vatican Council.

Fr. J. J. Bourke:

All were amazed to see Fr. J. S. Bourke present in the church to witness the completion of the church he had conceived and carried to completion with. For Fr. Bourke had been very ill for some months and had been in hospital; he for left the hospital to be present on the big occasion.

Hawthorn Parishioners:

The Parish Priest took the occasion to bring to the notice of His Grace the enthusiasm with which the parishioners had responded to the call to plan to complete the church; he spoke also of the sound advice he had always received from his Grace, the generosity of donors, and of the big hearted and consistent generosity of the Hawthorn parishioners.

Archbishop Simonds:

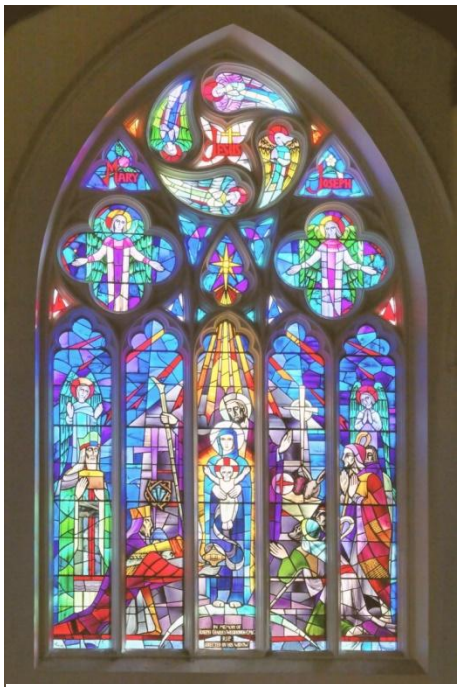
His Grace spoke in glowing terms of the beauty of the church of the Immaculate Conception and recalled the part played by the parish church in the life of Australian Catholicism. The church of the Immaculate Conception, His Grace said, was the glory of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the whole of the church in Australia.

Benediction:

Benediction Pontifical Benediction brought the ceremony to a close. His Grace was assisted by Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Bourke, S.J. P.P. (Deacon) and Very Rev. Fr. J. Ryan, S.J. (Sub-Deacon) — and Rev. Fr. P. Hunter (Master of Ceremonies). The congregational singing of the hymns was one of the features of the afternoon.

With the end of the war, post war shortages meant that little could be done apart from maintenance, until in 1958, Fr Tom Bourke called a public meeting which decided to run an appeal to finally finish the church. It was the centenary of the definition of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The appeal began with a bumper issue of the Monthly Calendar which outlined the fundraising strategy and the financial position of the church, a strategy very similar to that of Fr Claffey and his team in 1919, when raising funds for the building of the eastern transept. Donation pledge cards were to be issued and teams of collectors would visit donors on a monthly basis in the same way as they had in 1919.



The Holy Family, by Richard King, Western Transept(& inscription)

The parish was helped enormously by a large bequest from the estate of Miss Moriarty which paid for a classroom at St Joseph's as well as expensive repairs to the roof and spire of the church.

Then the elderly Mrs. Cis Westhoven offered to pay for the stained glass window in memory of her husband, Joseph Westhoven, who had chaired the appeal in 1919. The valuable gift of 3000 pounds ensured the addition of the stunning stained glass window, The Holy Family, by Dublin artist Richard King, which we enjoy today.

A member of the Children of Mary at the time recalls that at a sodality meeting in the early 1960's, Fr. Tom Bourke came into the 'shrine' as it was then showing the young ladies present a beautiful 'blue diamond' ring, which several of the girls enviously tried on and enjoyed the experience. Fr. Bourke then told them that this ring was likely to cover the cost of the Western Transept main window. He said that a lady had donated it towards the Western Transept appeal. Presumably this was Mrs. Westhoven.

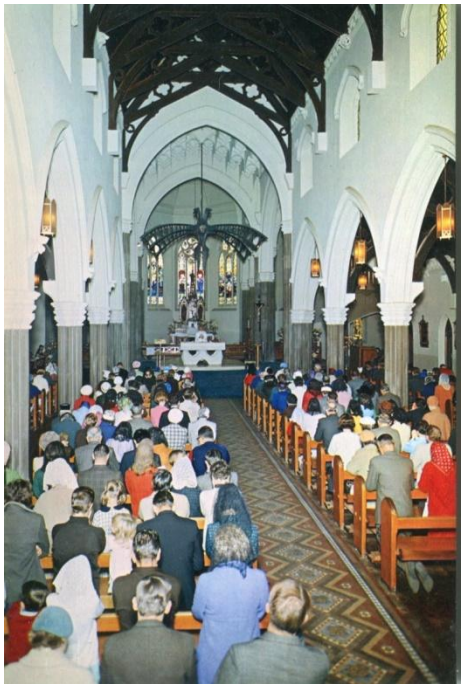
Following the successful appeal, the western transept was built during 1960 and was ready for opening and blessing by Archbishop Simonds on June 4th, 1961. It was named the Holy Family War Memorial Shrine, commemorating Hawthorn parishioners who gave their lives in wars.

The church of the Immaculate Conception, His Grace said, was the glory of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the whole of the church of Australia. Parish priest, Fr Phil Kurts welcomed the large congregation which included Fr Tom Bourke, recently transferred to South Australia, and Fr John Bourke, who had come out of hospital to witness the completion of the church, opened 92 years before.

The 1960s: Times of Change

Fr Henry Johnston

The 1960s brought large scale changes in both the society at large and in the church. Greater prosperity led to more mobility as more families had access to cars. Whereas previously, much of a person's social activity in Hawthorn, particularly that of the young, centred around the church, now they were able to move across the city for entertainment and for relationships. And then there was television, which was beginning to affect parishioners' allegiance to night time meetings. (Sodalities, YCW, CYMS etc.) As a result of this, there was a decline in attendance and membership of these groups, and they slowly disappeared.



The new Sanctuary and Altar with suspended canopy (1969)

Following Vatican Council 2 (1962-1965), within the church there were also many changes. English replaced Latin in the Mass. Under Fr Henry Johnston, a new, spacious semi-circular sanctuary was created which reached out well into the body of the nave, and in the middle was placed the present large altar, designed for Mass to be celebrated with the priest facing the people. The emphasis was now on encouraging the people to participate more fully in the Mass rather than being more like silent observers. The altar, weighing about 7 ton, was made of white Hornsby sandstone from N.S.W. It sits on an unusual stone called Walnut Travertine which was obtained from Italy.

Above the sanctuary there was a large suspended canopy, in the shape of a huge dove of the Holy Spirit. It was believed to be unique and the largest piece of suspended sculpture ever commissioned in Australia. It was to be the crowning piece of architect Peter Burrowes' design of the new sanctuary but unfortunately, people did not like it and it was removed some years later.

As a result of a Vatican Council edict, the choir's function changed. Previously separated from the congregation, in the choir loft, the place for the choir and organist were to be arranged so that it was clearly evident that the singers and organist formed part of the united community of the faithful. The organ console then took up its present position. The new sanctuary and altar was consecrated on December 8th, 1969, one hundred years after the opening of the church and the parish held a major celebratory dinner in the Hawthorn Town Hall.

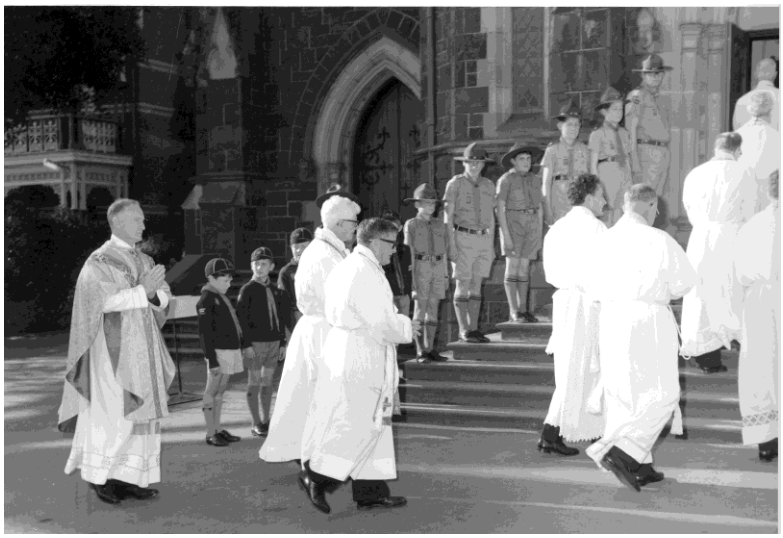
Fr Kevin Carroll

Many parishioners found the liturgical changes difficult to come to terms with. However Fr Kevin Carroll (P.P. 1967-1972) helped the congregation accept the changes with great compassion and understanding. Introducing lay readers, he often stood behind them giving advice and encouragement and helping to allay nerves. Communion in the hand and special ministers of the Eucharist followed. By the time Fr Carroll was transferred in 1972, the changes had been slowly accepted, welcomed by some, with resignation by others.

Celebrating the Centenary 1869 - 1969

The centrepiece of the centenary celebrations was a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving in the Church on Sunday 12th October at 4.30pm. (The Church was blessed by Bishop Goold on Sunday October 10th, 1869). The Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin with the Prayer of Thanksgiving was said. Principal celebrant, Fr. P. Green, represented the Provincial, Fr Austin Kelly, assisted by several Jesuits and Diocesan priests.

A large number of Priests, Nuns and Brothers were present and the church was packed with parishioners and former parishioners. The whole congregation took part in the singing with choirs provided by the parish schools – St Joseph's and St John's – as well as those from St Joseph's Church and the Immaculate Conception.



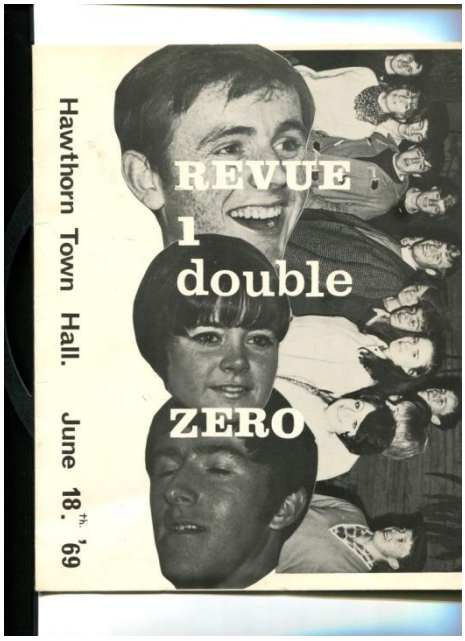
Mass opened with the processional hymn 'Praise to the Lord' and finished with rousing versions of 'Now Thank we all our God', and 'Faith of our Fathers'.
The beautiful silver chalice used at the Mass was the same one used when the Church opened in 1869. It was a gift in February 1866 to Fr Dalton, head of the Richmond Mission at the time, by the Presentation Sisters at Killina, Co. Offaly in Ireland. Fr Dalton presented it to the Hawthorn community in 1869. It will be used again for the 150th Mass on 6th October 2019.

After the Mass a social was held in the Hawthorn Town Hall and over 600 partook of the High Tea provided by Dennis Caterers. Mr Bill Box, the President of the Centenary Committee was introduced to the gathering by Mr Phil Perkins. The parish priest, Fr Kevin Carroll, also spoke. It was a wonderfully enjoyable evening.

Celebrating the Centenary at the Hawthorn Town Hall, 1969

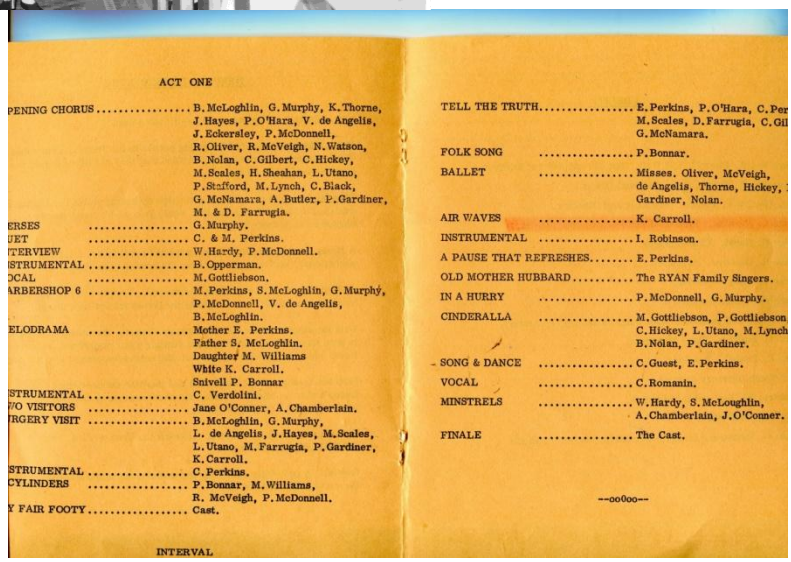
Early in 1969, some of the young people in the parish decided that the centenary of the

church should be celebrated in a suitable manner. Drawing on the many Youth activities operating at the time, it was decided to form a group that would give 40-50 young people a chance to show their talents. A Revue type production was planned and a producer, a former parishioner, the multi-talented Gerry Petrie, was smuggled over the border from Kew. Auditions were held and talent discovered. Scripts were prepared, borrowed or stolen, and slowly the Revue, aptly named 'Revue 1 Double Zero' took shape. The World Premiere (and Derniere) was held at the Town Hall on June 18th, 1969, to a packed and appreciative audience. Starring in several of the items was current prominent parishioner Peter McDonnell, whilst C. Romanin offered a vocal item (perhaps two!).



A brief centenary history was published at the time, written by local parishioner, Alf Phillips.

Recessional Procession at the Centenary Mass, October, 1969



ACT ONE

PENING CHORUS	B. McLoghlin, G. Murphy, K. Thorne, J. Hayes, P. O'Hara, V. de Angelis, J. Eckersley, P. McDonnell, R. Oliver, R. McVeigh, N. Watson, B. Nolan, C. Gilbert, C. Hickey, M. Scales, H. Sheahan, L. Utano, P. Stafford, M. Lynch, C. Black, G. McNamara, A. Butler, P. Gardiner, M. & D. Farrugia.
ERSES	G. Murphy.
JET	C. & M. Perkins.
TERVIEW	W. Hardy, P. McDonnell.
STRUMENTAL	B. Opperman.
OCAL	M. Gottliebson.
ARBERSHOP 6	M. Perkins, S. McLoghlin, G. Murphy, P. McDonnell, V. de Angelis, B. McLoghlin.
ELODRAMA	Mother E. Perkins. Father S. McLoghlin. Daughter M. Williams White K. Carroll. Snivell P. Bonnar
STRUMENTAL	C. Verdolini.
/O VISITORS	Jane O'Conner, A. Chamberlain.
RGERY VISIT	B. McLoghlin, G. Murphy, L. de Angelis, J. Hayes, M. Scales, L. Utano, M. Farrugia, P. Gardiner, K. Carroll.
STRUMENTAL	C. Perkins.
CYLINDERS	P. Bonnar, M. Williams, R. McVeigh, P. McDonnell.
Y FAIR FOOTY	Cast.

INTERVAL

TELL THE TRUTH	E. Perkins, P. O'Hara, C. Per M. Scales, D. Farrugia, C. Gil G. McNamara.
FOLK SONG	P. Bonnar.
BALLET	Misses. Oliver, McVeigh, de Angelis, Thorne, Hickey, Gardiner, Nolan.
AIR WAVES	K. Carroll.
INSTRUMENTAL	I. Robinson.
A PAUSE THAT REFRESHES	E. Perkins.
OLD MOTHER HUBBARD	The RYAN Family Singers.
IN A HURRY	P. McDonnell, G. Murphy.
CINDERALLA	M. Gottliebson, P. Gottliebson C. Hickey, L. Utano, M. Lynch B. Nolan, P. Gardiner.
SONG & DANCE	C. Guest, E. Perkins.
VOCAL	C. Romanin.
MINSTRELS	W. Hardy, S. McLoughlin, A. Chamberlain, J. O'Conner.
FINALE	The Cast.

--oo0oo--

Programme Items, Centenary Concert 1969

Fr Pat Harper: Kind, Generous and Devoted Priest

Patrick Harper in the seminary

Fr Harper was born in Dublin in 1907 and entered the Society in 1927. Most of his studies were pursued in Ireland but, in between, he was posted to Xavier College from 1933-1937. Arriving in Australia following ordination in 1942 he had only two postings during his priestly life, the parish of Richmond 1942-45 and for the remainder of his life in Hawthorn.

Apart from being a very practical parish worker, Fr Harper was known for two things in the parish. First was his devotion to his work as director of the Women's Sodality and Children of Mary which he directed carefully at their evening devotions. During the month of May the parish held a crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary and then for the entire month a "May Book" was left before the statue in the church, in which members of the Sodality would write their names when they made a visit during the week. It was said that some of the women attended these devotions less for the love of God and much more for their respect for Fr Harper.

Fr Harper with the Children of Mary, c. 1947

The second thing Fr Harper was famous for was his parish visitation. Scarcely a family of the fifties in Hawthorn does not have stories about Fr Harper's regular visitation, and even if he turned up at the most inconvenient times, he would be seated down at the kitchen table while the mother of the family rushed about preparing dinner or the young children were doing homework. However unlike some people who are enthusiastic, Fr Harper was very methodical and efficient in his methods. Visitations were to sustain the faith and sense of belonging of families in the parish and then to call back to the Faith those who had drifted away. No one ever turned him away. One family returned after summer vacation to find the house burgled and just underneath the door of the ransacked kitchen a note; 'Fr Harper called.'

A keen sportsman in his youth, Fr Harper also enthusiastically took on the roles as chaplain to the Scouts and to the Manresa Tennis Club.

With the coming of the changes after the Vatican Council Fr Harper felt depressed by the new liturgy, the different styles of personal devotion and the modifications in Jesuit house customs. Following fits of depression and overwork, he collapsed and died in August 1972. Although dying at an early age, he left behind a legacy of faith which still lives on today.

Fr Harper with first communicants, 1959

Fr Pat Harper: Recollections of a beloved Uncle

We are fortunate to have Fr Harper's niece, Toni O'Brien, in the parish today. She has kindly provided recollections of her uncle.

"Uncle Paddy" as he was always referred to by his nieces and nephews left Ireland before any of us were born – he had 30 nieces and nephews.
He was the eldest of 8 children and came to Australia in the early 40s.

I came out to Australia in 1969 – and even though I was 21 years of age, he took his 'duty of care' very seriously as I was the first of his relatives to come to Australia.

He was delighted to hear news of everybody at home, but had a very different idea of what life in 'modern' Ireland was like at this time. He still remembered Ireland in the 40s and earlier.

He went home in 1970 for a holiday and while he loved catching up with brothers and sisters – and meeting their spouses - it would be fair to say he was disappointed with the way Ireland had progressed.

When my brother Conor SJ suggested he come home and retire in Ireland – his reply was "Why would I want to come here when everything and everybody I know and love is in Hawthorn – no Hawthorn is my home". - and home he came.

I returned to Melbourne in 1972 with my (Australian) husband and my young son Michael. Uncle Paddy and Michael were great friends. Only a few months later he died, RIP.

Both my children Michael and Conor O'Brien got married in ICC – Michael in 2003 and Conor in 2019. Uncle Paddy would have loved that!
My brother Conor was ordained SJ in 1975 – he would have loved that too – the only one of his nephews who followed in his footsteps.

The parish between 1970-1990: Increased lay involvement

Brian Murphy, inaugural Parish Council President

In 1971, under Fr Kevin Carroll's guidance, the parish decided to set up a Parish Pastoral Council to enable parishioners to be consulted on what they hoped for and expect from the church and to suggest ways in which they might contribute to its life. Following several preliminary meetings, a Parish Assembly was held in May and 39 candidates stood for election to the Council. Eventually 12 members were elected, together with two priests, a Sister and a Brother from the schools and the president from the Parish Education Board. Mr Brian Murphy was elected inaugural president, with Mrs Margaret de Vries as secretary.

Br Alex McDonald

After a few years the Council had streamlined much of its work through subcommittees. The liturgy committee worked with the parish priest in helping to maintain meaningful liturgies and train lay leaders such as lectors in their work. Lay special ministers were introduced in 1975-76. Children's liturgies were introduced and developed under the guidance and drive of Barbara Papworth. By the mid-1970s priests and parents recognised the need for a more concentrated drive to engage the youth of the parish in the church's life. Brother Alex McDonald was brought to Hawthorn to set up the Manresa People's Centre, a club-like body aimed at drawing young people into the social life of the church. His work was continued and developed by Fr Paul Cleary, a gifted artist, who was able to engage many a youth in his pottery classes. 'Blue Moon' dances for the young of the parish were organised by the Centre in 1979.

In 1980 Manresa Care was established, catering for needs not covered by St Vincent de Paul. These included child minding and visiting to scrabble-playing, cooking and particularly volunteer drivers to take the elderly shopping or for appointments. Coordinators were the very capable Margaret Arundel, Nan Pitt and Pat Smith.

Sister Regina Naisbitt

During the 1980s, Our Lady of the Missions Sister Regina Naisbitt was added to the parish team as Parish Pastoral Associate. Sister's role included liturgy preparation, parish outreach and special ministers. With OLM Sister Angela, they formed a much loved pair in the parish and were greatly missed when Sister Regina was transferred and Sister Angela died suddenly in 1994.

Just as in earlier times, the use of social gatherings as a way of bonding parishioners, as well as for sheer enjoyment, continued. One innovation was the popular 'Dinners for Eight', small dinner parties held around the parish. During 1990 Maria McGrath took over the running of the programme and more than 100 people were involved.

The 20 years from 1970 was a period which saw a much greater involvement of lay people in the running of the parish, and, at last, a more prominent role for women.

The final years of one century and the first years of another

In December 1990 Archbishop Little blessed and formally opened St Joseph's Hostel on part of the site of the old school yard and tennis courts and within the grounds of St Joseph's Church. It was an important initiative in the care of elderly parishioners, who were able to remain as an integral part of the parish community, often close to family and friends in their declining years.
The Vatican Council had urged Catholics to develop good relations with other churches and faith traditions.
Frs Des Walker and Brian Murphy had become active in a group of local pastors called the Ministers' Fraternal. The Mayor of Hawthorn and local councillors were welcomed to ICC to an annual civic Mass which continued for several years. Fr Bob Walsh broke new ground in 1990 (a Jesuit Ignatian Year) by inviting the Anglican Bishop Robert Butters to preach at ICC on "What the Ignatian Year meant to me." Parishioners were urged to march in Palm Sunday processions with members of the Christ Church Anglican community.

Fr Bob Walsh

Fr Richard Shortall

Fr Richard Shortall (PP 1991-1996) cultivated a strong presence in the parish school, St Joseph's, which had been under some threat from the Catholic Education Office, due to changing demographics and buildings which were looking a little tired. A full School Review, undertaken in 1991 and looking at all aspects of school life, was full of praise for the school and its endeavours, however. It concluded: 'St Joseph's ably demonstrates a learning community in a Catholic parish setting that augurs well for Catholic Education in general and St Joseph's in particular.' In the mid 1990s a large and much needed multi-purpose room was built to allow whole-school activities and the library and some classrooms were updated. Fr Richard fostered stronger links between school families and parish.

Blessing of parish centre

In 1996 Fr Geoffrey James came to Hawthorn as P.P. He had a concept that running a parish was a modern business which needed to be effective as well as pastoral. He sold various properties which the parish held. Manresa Hall was leased to Billy Lids in 2001. The Scout Hall was sold shortly after. Acting on advice from the parish council and others, he initiated the plan to renovate the old E.S. & A bank building in Burwood Rd. So the building, first purchased in 1923 and having served a multitude of functions, kindergarten, library, Club rooms for various organisations, Youth Club, Bamboo Room, even housing the Jesuit Provincial (when Fr John Bourke called it the Curia) etc, now became space for parish administration, commercial offices for leasing and space for parish functions. The Centre was fully occupied by August 2004.

Fr Geoffrey James

A Highly Active Catholic Parish

In a recent Sunday Age 'Faith' column, Donald MacKay commented "When you walk into the Hawthorn church you feel a wonderful sense of community. You're immediately welcomed at the door by the priest before you even sit down." "The church," he continues, "provides a model for the way a contemporary parish can operate. It is outward looking, a large numbers of volunteers care for the elderly, shut-ins and the mentally ill in the area, there is also a food bank that provides prepared meals for people in these situations."

Fr Des Dwyer, who was appointed to Hawthorn in 2004 and has now become the longest serving Parish Priest in our 150 years, has reinforced several of the traditional practices identified above and introduced other initiatives. Fr Des is expertly supported by Fr Tom Renshaw and the pastoral and administrative staff from the Parish office.

Fr Des Dwyer

Innovations include the very popular Business Breakfast program, an excellent annual 'Women's Life Stories' event and providing the flat behind the presbytery as a temporary home for refugees and asylum seekers.

Monthly healing Masses, Christmas hampers for those who have been ill or suffered loss during the year, Christmas Day lunch for the lonely and needy, long table dinners in the parish centre and regular bus trips for the elderly are further evidence of a caring parish.

Lunch at one of the regular Bus Trips

The school ministry continues to occupy a central place in the overall work of the parish, in particular in relation to the children's preparation to receive the sacraments. Regular Sunday Class Masses are held when one or other class is responsible for presenting the liturgy.

Evidence of how the parish has used the technology may be found in the ICC website where parishioners are kept abreast of all current programs and new initiatives.

The long standing good works carried out by parishioners continue unabated through Manresa Care, Children's Liturgy, St. Vincent De Paul society, choirs, Youth Engagement Program, people assisting with preparation of the churches & during liturgies, holding social and pastoral functions and much more.

A new way of commemorating our dead is expressed in the Resurrection Wall. Plaques dedicated to deceased parishioners and relatives of our families are placed on the wall, set in the presbytery garden. This is a sacred place where deceased loved ones can be remembered and prayed for. Each November, a special Mass is celebrated for parishioners who have died during the previous year.

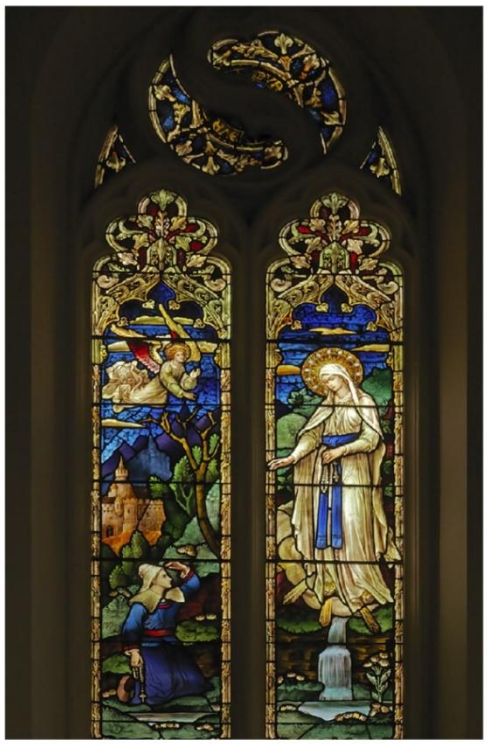
Blessing of the Resurrection Wall

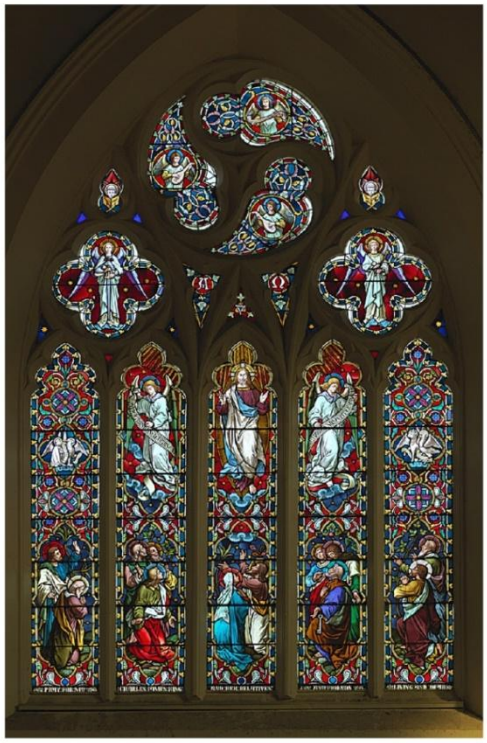
It can be safely said that over the past 150 years, under 25 parish priests, and around 100 'assistants', the Hawthorn parish very successfully continues to abide by its Vision Statement 'The Hawthorn Catholic Parish strives to be a Christian community focused on Jesus, helping all celebrate God's presence and expressing our faith through outreach, service and justice. '

Timeline of Hawthorn Catholic Parish

1853	First building in the parish (then part of Richmond), St Joseph's school-church, enlarged and improved when Jesuits took over. School under lay administration
1865	The Jesuits take over Richmond Mission, which included Hawthorn, Kew, Camberwell & out to the hills
1867	Michael Lynch presents the land on which the parish church now stands. Foundation stone for ICC laid on feast of the Immaculate Conception
1869	On October 10th the first part of the church comprising nave, side aisles, and a tower to 66 feet, was opened and blessed by Bishop Goold before departing to 1st Vatican Council
1879	The organ installed (at a cost of 380 pounds)
1861	Hawthorn becomes a separate parish. Presbytery built
1888	The first St John's School built (where the Glen Arcade in Glenferrie Road now stands)
1889	FCJ sisters now administer St Joseph's School
1892	The ICC chancel (sanctuary) completed
1911	St John's school moved to permanent site, then numbered 311 Glenferrie Rd
1921	The spire and eastern transept added
1922	Lyndale Secondary College opens under the Brigidine Sisters
1923	• FCJ sisters move out of St Joseph's school. Brigidine sisters take over • E.S. and A. Bank purchased (to become the 'Clubrooms') and adjoining tennis courts acquired
1924	Manresa Hall built
1925	The Marist Brothers take over the new St John's School at 306 Glenferrie Rd
1935	ICC front porch erected
1950	Lyndale school name changed to Kilmaire, meaning 'House of Mary"
1961	Western transept completed
1965	Organ enlarged and rebuilt. Console placed in Eastern Transept
1969	Centenary of the opening of ICC celebrated. Centenary history written
1971	First Parish Pastoral Council established
1976	Marist Brothers leave St John's School. School becomes the one parish primary school, called St Josephs under Brigidine administration. St Joseph's school in Power St closed
1977	St Joseph's Parish School now under lay administration
1989	St Joseph's Hostel built on the site of the tennis courts in Elgin Street
1995	Kilmaire College closes
2004	Parish Centre opened
2011	'Portrait of a Parish' by Fr Paul Duffy SJ published
2014	St Joseph's Hostel closes, residents relocated. Catholic Homes for Elderly buy Old St Joseph's School site
2016	St Joseph's Mews opens. St Joseph's Church renovated

A Selection of Stained Glass Windows





Top Left: *Holy Family* (Richard King, Dublin, 1961);
Top Right: *Our Lady of Lourdes* (Hardman and Co, Birmingham, 1921);
Bottom Left: *Annunciation* (Brooks Robinson and Co. Ltd., Melbourne, 1906);
Bottom Right: *Ascension of Christ* (Mayer of Munich, 1875)

Immaculate Conception Church 150th Anniversary

On Sunday 6th October 2019 the 150th Anniversary of the consecration of Immaculate Conception Church was commemorated at a special Mass celebrated by Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, who was joined by Jesuit Provincial Fr Brian McCoy SJ and Parish Priest Fr Des Dwyer SJ.

Those attending the Mass listened to an inspiring homily by Archbishop Comensoli.
'Faith is a light to be fanned into a blazing fire, not typically left on the mantelpiece to give off a reassuring glow', said the Archbishop,
'The gift of faith that Christ set alight 150 years ago still needs fanning and still needs fanners … You stand on the sacred ground of those Christian disciples who went before you who did not demand "give us more faith" but humbly declared "we are his servants".'

The choir delighted the congregation with beautiful music, including a new musical setting for the Hail Mary composed by Fr Christopher Willcock SJ.

The Mass was followed by a light lunch and gathering on the lawn. As part of the celebration St Joseph's Primary School Principal, Sharon Kenyon-Smith, presented a time capsule prepared by the students and blessed by Archbishop Comensoli.

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