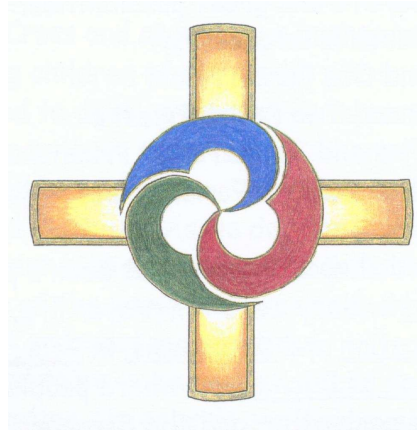


THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

A BRIEF HISTORY



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Acknowledgements:

The production of this "brief history" was the brainchild several years ago of then Chairperson of the Parish Leadership Team Maria McGarvie, encouraged by Fr John Cunningham PP and the Parish Leadership Team. Earlier, in July 1991, Fr Len Egan also proposed production of a Parish History. Several others including Merle Gilbo and Carmel Butler MSC contributed information and photographs to existing Parish archives. Sr Carmel further kindly allowed use of images from her ©2001 Video of St Bernadette's 50th Anniversary. Bernadette Milesi, Dorothea Chandler, Eileen Mount, Helen O'Brien, John Caddy, Chris Dixon and Margaret Rush also provided helpful anecdotal information. Over the last few years the bulk of this work was painstakingly done by Librarian and Researcher Nina McPherson to whom a debt of gratitude is owed. Thanks also to a few others who responded to numerous calls for old photographs or allowed their images to be used. Lack of available photographs results in some visual distortion of this history because of the inequitable impact of images that are included. This brief history, limited by historical records and effectively a work-in-perpetuity, was then brought together, photographically illustrated and edited as the "1st Edition" by John Costa (who lives outside the Parish). ©Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe, June 2010.

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE A BRIEF HISTORY

Originally the Ivanhoe Parish was part of St. John's the Evangelist, Heidelberg. In 1851, Bishop Goold formally established the Heidelberg Parish. Father Viventius Bourgeois was the first Pastor. His responsibilities extended as far as Lilydale, Healesville, Warburton and many nearby places including Eltham, Hurstbridge, Bulleen, Yan Yean, Templestowe and Epping. He organized building of a weatherboard chapel on the site of the present school and dedicated it to St. Monica. The foundation stone for the present church, St John's the Evangelist was laid by Rev. Dr Fitzpatrick Vicar General on the 6th March, 1859. The beautiful bluestone church was designed by William Wardell.

Earlier days. The first priest to arrive in what was then known as the Port Phillip District was Father Patrick Geoghegan. He celebrated the first Mass in that district on the 19th May, 1839. Nine years later, he celebrated the first Mass in the Heidelberg area. This was at the MacKillop home that was located where the then route of Bell Street crossed the Darebin Creek. No doubt the six year old daughter of the family was present, the girl who was to become Blessed Mary MacKillop of the Cross on the 27th December 1848 (the feast of St John the Evangelist). Fr. Geoghegan made an application for a grant of land at Heidelberg on which to build a church. Although it was approved, second thought about the location resulted in obtaining the site on which St John's now stands.

[Information from the brochure "The Sesquicentenary Celebrations of St John's the Evangelist Catholic Parish Heidelberg, 1851-2001]



A red brick church was built on the present site of the Mary Immaculate Church at 4 Waverley Avenue, Ivanhoe. It was the original Immaculate Conception, a Chapel of Ease from the Heidelberg Parish of St John opened on 31 October 1915 by His Grace, the Most Reverend T. T. Carr DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. The church building was commenced by Father Parker who was appointed as collector of

Funds for the building of Newman College. The building of Mary Immaculate was then completed by Father M.F. McKenna who took up the new position at Heidelberg following Father Parker's departure. The Architects of the church were Kempson and Connolly.

The Parish School was built in Rockbeare Grove with the teachers being the Sisters of Mercy. Sister Mary Helena and Sister Mary Patrick opened the School in July, 1922.

The Immaculate Conception Parish was established in 1940 with Father Bernard Geoghegan (shown here in his early priest days) in 1940 as the first Parish Priest (see Attachment 1 p.33). He subsequently built the church and school at West Ivanhoe, and the church at East Ivanhoe. Then, 21 years later, he made a start on a new church at Ivanhoe proper. That Father Geoghegan had progressively bought more land than any other priest in the whole Archdiocese was a comment made at the time by Bishop Fox.



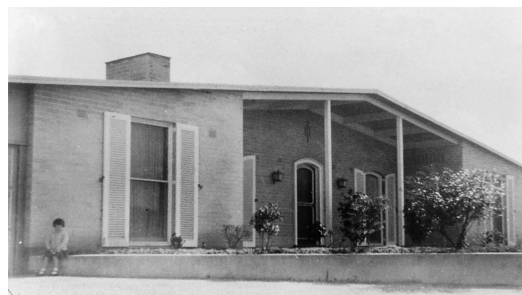
Laying of the foundation stone for the new church, now called Mary Immaculate, took place on 10th December, 1961. The stone was blessed and placed by the Most Reverend Arthur Fox D.D. Auxiliary Bishop. Blessing and opening of the new church by His Grace Archbishop E. V. Tweedy D.D was held on Wednesday 24th October, 1962.



Initially the presbytery was a nearby house and for parish functions the school was used. Later the presbytery and hall were built.

The sculptor Matcham Skipper was commissioned for the Stations of the Cross

The grey stone church was placed north-south to use the block to advantage. It was very wide so that the altar was easily visible with no altar rails to separate the congregation from the spacious sanctuary. The changes in the liturgy as a result of Vatican II led to the Mass being in English and lay readers, men and women moved onto the sanctuary where before only the Priest and boys trod.



The West Ivanhoe area had also been originally part of St. John's Heidelberg Parish. Later it became part of the Immaculate Conception, Ivanhoe Parish when that Parish branched from St John's in 1915. As housing developed in the area, Fr Bernard Geoghegan purchased two large parcels of land in West Ivanhoe in 1940. One of these now houses St Bernadette's Church, Presbytery, Convent, School and Hall. The second is now the site of the tennis courts and the land behind them. Portion of the land was sold to help finance Parish building projects.

For a short time Mass was celebrated in Ford Manor, the home of Mr Thomas Kinnon. A building permit was granted on 28th July, 1949 for the erection of a church school in Stanley Street. There were over 200 Catholic families resident in the area and a large building project was being undertaken by the Victorian Housing Commission.

St Bernadette's Parish school was blessed and opened by Archbishop D Mannix on 19th November, 1950. The school consisted of three classrooms, with a small room at the eastern end for use as a Sacristy. Sunday Masses were held there for the next 12 years.

When St Bernadette's became a separate parish Fr. John Perkins was appointed Parish Priest on 1st February, 1951. On 2 April, the school was registered as No. 1500. The Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition arrived on 8th February and the school opened on 12th February. On 24th June, Archbishop Mannix blessed and opened the presbytery and

convent. The nuns staffed the school and stayed in the Parish for 26 years. A number of pupils who received their education there during this period were ordained to the priesthood.

The first Mother Superior was Mother Regis and Sister Finbar was in charge of the school. The other teachers were Sister Nicoline, Sister Anastasia and Mrs Joan Ardito. Mother Regis taught music. The nuns lived in an old residence in Ford Street and volunteer labour was necessary to make it habitable. It continued in use as a convent until 1963 when it was demolished.

Just a few months after St Bernadette's became a Parish, 100 parishioners marched from Stanley Street to Xavier College, Kew to attend a function farewelling the pilgrim stature of Our Lady of Fatima and then walked back to Ivanhoe. 14 vehicles transported the elderly and the very young. Father Perkins outlined a proposal to form the Mothers Club. President Mrs Cullen, Secretary Mrs Goonan, Treasurer Mrs Marijiviona.

In 1956, Fr Perkins and Mr Ron Roberts planted the oak tree growing in the corner of the school grounds and at the rear of the old Presbytery, to celebrate the Olympic Games. Two tennis courts were opened on 2nd March 1958. The courts were paid for by subscriptions to a debenture scheme. The number of pupil grew to 380 and a further extension to the school was made and opened by Bishop Arthur Fox on 8th February 1958.

Mrs Molly Cullen, President of the very active Mothers' Club was the key figure in the formation of the Victorian Federation of Catholic Mothers' Clubs and became its first President. Fr Perkins transferred to West Geelong Parish. He passed away on 11th June 1971.

Fr. John Carroll was appointed Parish Priest on 31st January, 1959. A shelter shed and tuckshop was built in the school grounds. The project was financed by the Mothers' Club. By then the school enrolments passed the 400 mark.

The decision to build a Parish Church was taken in April, 1960. Church foundation blessed on 3 December, 1961.



The present St Bernadette's Church was blessed and opened by Archbishop E Tweedy on 12th August, 1962. The floor plan of the church is a copy of the Basilica at Lourdes which is associated with St Bernadette. The church was designed by Mr. R. O. Ellis. The altar was donated by Mr Thomas Kinnon who had the marble brought out from the marble mountains of Carrara in Italy.

For the Silver Jubilee of the Parish of St. Bernadette's, Mass was celebrated by Bishop E. G. Perkins, a brother of the first Parish Priest. The cross above the sanctuary was formerly at Corpus Christi Seminary, Glen Waverley and was presented to St Bernadette's by the Perkins family in memory of the late Father John Perkins. During the period 1970-1985, Father Kevin Sweeney was the Parish priest. The Church was

consecrated on 8 February, 1976. In the same year, the Sisters of St Joseph of Apparition returned to Western Australia.

Father Paul Gurry was the Parish Priest at St Bernadette's from 1985-1999 and with other priests was involved in the setting up of the Ivanhoe Cluster. In 2004, the Catholic Korean Community secured the Sunday 9:30am Mass at St Bernadette's Church.

Originally, East Ivanhoe formed part of the Parish of Mary Immaculate, Ivanhoe which, previously, was part of the Parish of St. John, Heidelberg.

Father Bernard Geoghegan, first Parish Priest of Ivanhoe, made the initial moves to establish a separate parish at East Ivanhoe, as the area gradually became residential in the early years following the Second World War. It was he who opted for the title "Mother of God"



The Foundation stone of the church was laid by Archbishop Mannix on Sunday 11th November, 1956. Father Geoghegan offered Mass for the first time in the newly completed church in September, 1957. The house situated at 63 Wilfred Road was purchased for a Presbytery in November the same year. The church was officially constituted a separate Parish in January, 1958. Father Edward Fennessy was appointed the first Pastor of the new Parish. The first marriage on 7 April was celebrated between Herbert Newland and Janet Cleary by Father Geoghegan.

A survey was taken to look at the possibility of 'Clustering'. A Steering Committee of three parishioners from each parish and the three Parish Priests, Fathers Maurie Cooney, Paul Gurry and Des Magennis met in November 1997. The process of moving from the situation where each parish had its own priest to one where one priest, with the help of another priest part time, would serve all three parishes was introduced. In January 1999 Fr. John Rogan was appointed the new Parish Priest. The Ivanhoe Cluster was officially launched by Fr Bren Donohue, Deanery Co-ordinator representing Bishop Hilton Deakin on the 8th August 1999. In March 2000, the Cluster Plan and Review took place and a new Cluster Logo was designed by Trish Murray.

Sister Joy Hanrahan was the Pastoral Associate from 1999-2001 and Ms Leanne Earl from 2002-2006.

Following the death of Father John Rogan after only 16 months as the Parish Priest Father John Cunningham was appointed the new Parish Priest to commence parish duties in January 2001. By 2005, a new Parish Development Group held its first meeting. Sr.

Jeanne Dwyer and Fr Maurie Cooney contributed. The Proposed model “... instead of three parishes, we have One Parish, the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe comprising of three Church Communities. New key groups would be Leadership, Administration, Liturgy, Communication, Outreach and Education.” On 17th September, 2005, the new Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe became a legal entity.

In July 2008 over 2000 Pilgrims from overseas were hosted in Melbourne parish homes in association with World Youth Day in Sydney. A number of those from South Korea and Corsica were hosted in the Ivanhoe Parish and by the Catholic Korean community there. The Parish has continued to contend with the general issues of declining Church attendances and income. That year also a draft Parish Facilities Master Plan was presented by the Parish Leadership Team.

Phase 1 of the plan involved converting the tennis court area at St Bernadette’s into housing to generate ongoing Parish income. Following extensive parish consultation Phase 1 of the plan was approved in 2009 and is currently being progressed. As of June 2010, plans for Phase 1 of the Parish Master Plan are awaiting Ivanhoe Council approval. On June 20th Fr Len Thomas aged 75 retired after 45 years as a Priest, with fitting tribute.

Each of the three parish Churches is of architectural significance. They are shown below as they look today.



St Bernadette's Church today



Mary Immaculate Church today



Mother of God Church today

Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe values: *Hospitality, Service, Inclusiveness, Mission*

2. CHRONOLOGY OF THE IVANHOE CLUSTER

- 1997** Survey to look at the possibility of ‘clustering’. A steering committee of three parishioners from each parish and the three parish priests, Fathers Maurie Cooney, Paul Gurry and Des Maginess met in November.
- 1998** *January.* Committee formed. The process of moving from the situation where each parish had its own priest to one where one priest, with the help of Father Len Thomas, another priest part time, would serve all three parishes.
- 1999** *January.* Fr. John Rogan. New parish priest appointed.
- June.* Fr. Len Thomas, Priest in Residence on full time appointment with the Inter-Church Mental Health Chaplaincy and Unit at Austin Repatriation Hospital.
First Ivanhoe Cluster Newsletter. Sr Joy Hanrahan. Pastoral Associate.
Ms Georgette Colaci, Secretary.
- July.* Mother of God parish house renovations.
Cluster choir formed for the first combined Confirmation ceremony.
Cluster Finance Committee formed.
- August.* Cluster officially launched by Fr Bren Donohue, Deanery Co-ordinator representing Bishop Hilton Deakin. New banner made
The first Antioch Youth Mass for the Cluster.
- September.* News sets of green and white vestments made by Amelia Palazzola and her mother Fiorina Basso.
- November.* New Pastoral Leadership Team commissioned.
- 2000** *February.* Bishop Hilton Deakin visits Ivanhoe Cluster.
Meeting of the Catholic Women’s League (AGM).
- March.* Ivanhoe Cluster Parish Plan and Review.
- April.* St Bernadette’s School building project.
- May.* Donation of a pair of fine silver inlaid wooden Communion Patens to Mary Immaculate in memory of Len Ryan. They had been turned by Richard Raffan. Donation of bronze medallion “The Resurrection” by Melbourne sculptor, Michael Meszaros in memory of Jack Duffy.
- June.* Six candlesticks for the side wings of the high Altar at Mother of God refurbished as well as the original Sanctuary Lamp. Fr Rogan also refurbished the brass lectern and candelabra at Mother of God.
First birthday of the Ivanhoe Cluster.
St Bernadette’s Golden Anniversary plans for February 2001.
- July.* Parish Expo 2000.

September. New Cluster Logo by Trish Murray.

October. Vale Father John Rogan who died on 10 October after giving so much in so short a time.

Gift of new brass and silver hanging candlelit Sanctuary Lamp for Mother of God Church donated by Steinfors family in memory of their parents Lou and Phil. It was designed and made by Fortunato Rocca.

November. New Parish Priest appointed.

Father John Cunningham to commence in January 2001.

Patchwork hanging at Mother of God was made by Jill Brophy's sister-in-law.

December. The Ivanhoe Cluster banner was developed. It depicts the three Parish Communities each with their own stories and their own church, people now called together to be "church" as the Ivanhoe Cluster. The banner was designed and made by Geraldine Camilleri, Jenny Rotar and Lyn Farrelly. It comprises the recognizable, distinctive features of each church, set around Mary. The colours are the dominant school colours – burgundy for Mother of God, blue for St Bernadette and green for Mary Immaculate. Fr John Rogan had passed on so much of the braid and embroidered edging from his own collection of this, and bequeathed his Chalice and specially made Paten.

2001 January. Fr John Cunningham arrives.

March. Michele Lindner presented her paper entitled: "Our Parish – the Past and the Future".

May. Fr John visited his family in Ireland.

Painting of Our Lady at Mother of God (entrance) by Geoffrey Horgan (p. 21).

October. Cluster gathering led by Sr Bernadette Keating and Fr Maurie Cooney.

December. Sr Joy Hanrahan sent to another appointment by her Superiors in the Presentation Order.

2002 February. Launch of "Gathering our Stories: St Bernadette's Parish, West Ivanhoe 1951-2001" Parish video produced by Sr Carmel Butler.

Mother of God Church improvement first stage of repair work to the external reinforced concrete of the church structure completed.

March 24. Celebration of 80 years of service, the Mary Immaculate School had given to the parish.

June. Ms Leanne Earl appointed as Pastoral Associate in the Ivanhoe Cluster.

October. Mary Immaculate Church Parish Priest Honour Board.
Bali disaster National Day of Mourning.

2003 Ivanhoe Cluster Review gathering in November where a committee was formed to look at the issues facing the Ivanhoe Cluster.

2004 The Ivanhoe Cluster Protocol governs the operation of the parishes during the absence of the Parish Priest Father John Cunningham on sick leave.

May. St Bernadette's School new Principal Kathy Lowe appointed. Welcome to the Korean Catholic Community who gathered for worship at St Bernadette's Church at the 9.30 Mass. Parish Secretary Georgette Colaci replaced by Ruth Villani.

December. New Parish proposal feedback meeting chaired by Pat Kelly.

2005 **February.** Meeting "Looking to the future – revitalisation & reunification" by Father John Cunningham.

March. New Parish Development Group first meeting
- Sr. Jeanne Dwyer and Fr Maurie Cooney contributed. The Proposed Model - instead of **three parishes** we have **one Parish**, the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe comprising of three Church Communities. New key groups would include Leadership, Administration, Liturgy, Communication, Outreach, Education.

April. New Parish Development Group meeting. The Way Forward was the focus of the discussion for the meet. Very little response received from the community in regards to the last meeting and it was agreed that most people were happy to move forward. Father John Cunningham's green paper "To the People of the Ivanhoe Cluster" distributed with the newsletters.

May. New Parish Development Group meeting.
Mr. Frank Cahill from Integro hosted an information evening at Mary Immaculate School to assist in the next stage towards the development of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe.

June. Cluster Schools Grant through the Quality Teaching and Learning Program to develop links between the schools and their communities.
New Mary Immaculate School Principal, Mrs Kerry Willcox-McGinnes appointed.

July. The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe came into being and comprised **one parish** with **three churches** - Mary Immaculate Church and that of St Bernadette's Church and Mother of God Church.

August. Archbishop Dennis Hart's Decree regarding Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. Publication of the Ivanhoe Parish Outreach Brochure.

September 17. The new parish became a legal entity.

October 16. Mass at St Bernadette's Church to mark the occasion of the reunification of the three parishes of Ivanhoe, East Ivanhoe and West Ivanhoe into the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. Bishop Hilton Deakin joined the inauguration of the new parish. Interim groups were Leadership chaired by Maria McGarvie, Liturgy - Leanne Earl, Education - Mary Browne-Downes, Outreach - Pauline Serafini, Communication - Michael McCarthy, and Administration & Finance - Noel Benton.

2006 **March.** Centacare Catholic Family Services arranged a Morning Tea at the Parish Office to thank all those who had initiated and continued to support the

Godstart Program at Mary Immaculate Church over the past nine years. Godstart is a program that maintains contact with parents of newly baptised children through birthday cards, activity cards and a small prayer book distributed from the child's first birthday to their fourth birthday. Farewell Morning Tea at the Mother of God church, for Leanne Earl, Pastoral Associate.

September 10. Parish Leadership Group meeting. Frank Cahill, Management Consultant, volunteered his time to assist the various groups with their work and provided a report and recommendations. Pat Jones employed in a consultancy role, on a part time basis to be reviewed.

The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe's new website introduced as a new form of communication within the parish together with weekly Parish email bulletin.

November. Mother of God Church 50th Anniversary. Celebration lunch on 17 December.

2007 **August.** A paper "The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe 2010" presented to PLT
November. Mass times for the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe change. The new schedule for weekend Masses is Saturday: 6.30pm St Bernadette's; Sunday: 9am Mary Immaculate; 10.30am Mother of God and 5pm at Mary Immaculate with 11am Korean Mass – St Bernadette's. Weekday Masses remains the same: Monday 9.15am at St Bernadette's; Wednesday 9.15am at Mary Immaculate and Friday 9.15am at Mother of God.

Young Peoples Group established with a Committee and two Youth Leaders.

Parish Vision calls us to remember that we are a community:

- of people united in faith in Jesus and his values
- which gathers to celebrate the Eucharist
- which seeks to serve the needs of the community and the world
- that bears witness to the way life could be!

Our parish values include: **Hospitality Service Inclusiveness Mission**

2008 **February.** Father John (Jack) Carroll died on 20th February. He served in St Bernadette's Parish 1959 – 1970.

Golden Jubilee celebration for Sister Therese Healy, Missionary Sister of Service at the Mary Immaculate Church on 1st March.

March. Deferral of move to one Mass Centre.

July. World Youth Day "Days in the Diocese" in Ivanhoe. 52 Pilgrims from overseas hosted in parish homes. Aboriginal spiritual walk in the Darebin Parklands and Pilgrim Football Clinic

Parish Communication Group established.

October. "Multimedia Liturgy" introduced at Mary Immaculate Church

2009 Parish Master Plan presented to the people of the Parish with mixed reaction

Phase 1 of the Plan, the "Ford Street Development", endorsed to proceed.

The Tennis Club site 'sacrificed' for this development.

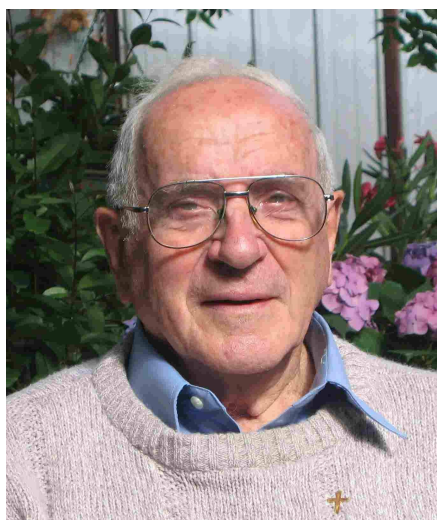
Multimedia Liturgy introduced at Mother of God Church.

Father John Cunningham's 50th Jubilee year as Priest.

Bishop Tomlinson visited the Parish and three schools, celebrated Masses and met informally with the PLT Executive and a gathering of parishioners. **Multimedia** facilities provided in Parish Hall through Outreach fund-raising. **Parish** introduced its most comprehensive ever financial modeling tool. **Major new Government-funded building projects** at all our schools.

2010

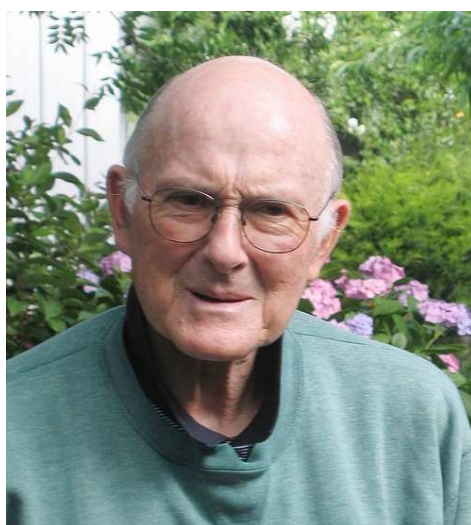
Korean community decides firmly after review to remain at St Bernadette's. **Expanded Youth Group** split into Junior and Senior groups
Launch of newly constructed Classrooms and Hall (Cunningham Centre) at St Bernadette's school. Construction projects underway at the other schools. **Agreement** to introduce Multimedia at St Bernadette's Church
Pat Jones (Community Liaison Officer) retired.
Father Len Thomas Priest-in-Residence (below – also Mental Health Chaplain for Archdiocese of Melbourne) retired on 20 June 2010 aged 75 after 45 years as a Priest. An uplifting con-celebrated Mass followed at St Bernadette's with a get-together afterwards at the Cunningham Centre.
As of 21 June 2010 the Parish with its three Churches has only one priest, the Parish Priest **Father John Cunningham**.



Fr Len Thomas

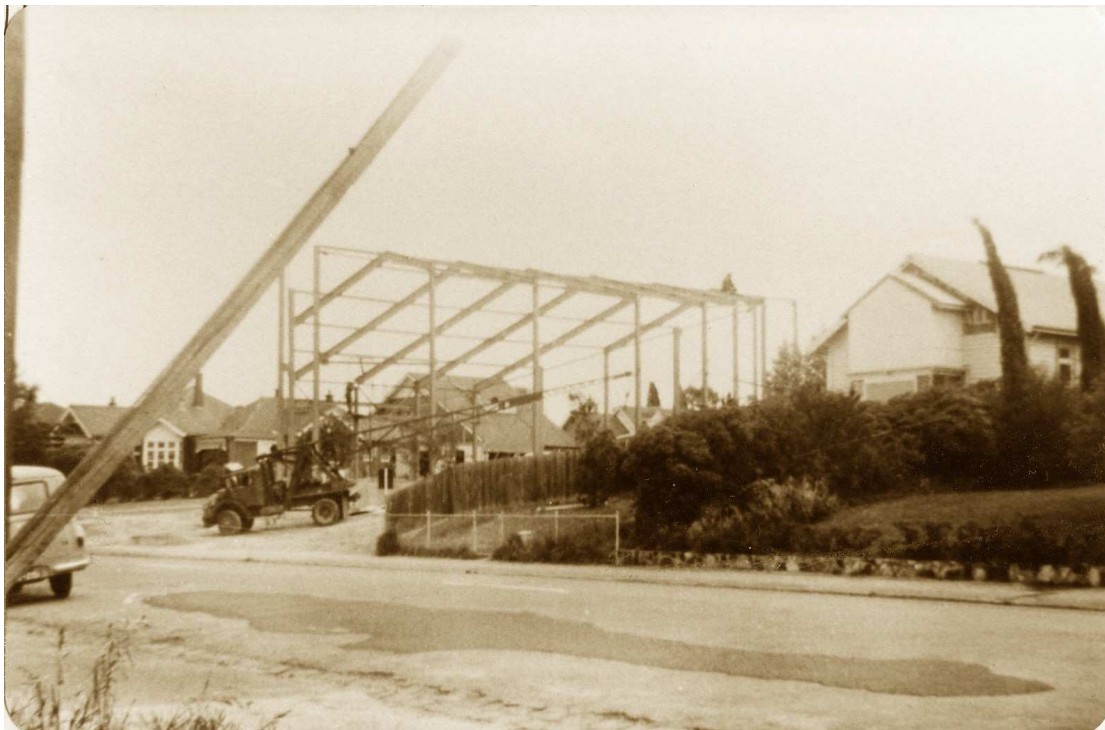


Fr John Rogan



Fr John Cunningham

3. CHRONOLOGY OF MARY IMMACULATE PARISH



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Earlier days. The first priest to arrive in what was then known as the Port Phillip District was Father Patrick Geoghegan. He celebrated the first Mass in that district on the 19th May, 1839. Nine years later, he celebrated the first mass in the Heidelberg area. This was at the MacKillop home that was located where the then route of Bell Street crossed the Darebin Creek. No doubt the six year old daughter of the family was present, the girl who was to become Blessed Mary MacKillop of the Cross. On the 27th December 1848 (the feast of St John the Evangelist), Fr. Geoghegan made an application for a grant of land at Heidelberg on which to build a church. Although it was approved, second thought about the location resulted in obtaining the site on which St John's now stands.

[Information from the brochure of "The Sesquicentenary Celebrations of St John's the Evangelist Catholic Parish Heidelberg, 1851-2001]

- 1915.** A red brick church was built on the present site in Ivanhoe. It was the original Mary Immaculate, a Chapel of Ease from the Heidelberg Parish of St John. It was opened on 31 October 1915 by His Grace, The Most Reverend T. T. Carr DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. The building was commenced by Father Parker who was appointed as collector of funds for the building of Newman College. The building of Mary Immaculate was then completed by Father M.F. McKenna who took up the new position at Heidelberg following Father Parker's departure. The Architect of the Church was Kempson and Condill and on the opening day, a collection realised the sum of £366. The building of the original Mary Immaculate Church cost a total of £2,408.
- 1922.** The Parish School was built in Rockbeare Grove with the teachers being the Sisters of Mercy. Sister Mary Helena and Sister Mary Patrick opened the School in July.
- 1940.** Father Bernard Geoghegan became Parish Priest. "Father Geoghegan had bought more land than any other priest in the whole Archdiocese" was a comment passed by Bishop Fox. He built a church and school at West Ivanhoe. He built a church at East Ivanhoe. 21 years later he made a start on a new church at Ivanhoe proper. This church cost £49,000. The first Baptism recorded took place on 28th July, 1940. The child was Michael John Cornelius Nolan.
- 1941.** Land purchased at West Ivanhoe.
- 1942.** Church school, presbytery and convent provided in West Ivanhoe.
- 1950.** Father T. Brophy became the first full time assistant priest in February.
- 1951.** West Ivanhoe Parish formed from Ivanhoe.
- 1954.** Church of the Mother of God commenced at East Ivanhoe.
- 1957.** Presbytery secured at Mother of God.
- 1958.** East Ivanhoe formed as a separate parish from Ivanhoe.
- 1959.** Enlargement and restoration of school buildings and tennis pavilion at Ivanhoe West.
- 1960.** Mary Immaculate presbytery built (initially the presbytery was a nearby house and for parish functions the school was used).
- 1961.** Laying of the foundation stone for the new church on 10th December. The church was designed by Mockbridge, Stahle and Mitchell Architects, and the stone was blessed and placed by Most Reverend Arthur Fox D.D., Auxiliary Bishop. Rev Bernard Geoghegan was the Parish Priest.
- 1962.** Blessing and opening of the new church by His Grace Archbishop E. V. Tweedy D.D. on Wednesday 24th October, 1962 at 7.00pm. Solemn Mass followed at 7.30pm.

The sculptor Matcham Skipper was commissioned for the Stations of the Cross. The grey stone church was placed north-south to use the block to advantage. It was very wide so that the altar was easily visible with no altar rails to separate the congregation from the spacious sanctuary. The changes in the liturgy as a result of Vatican II lead to the Mass being said in English and lay readers, men and women moved onto the sanctuary where before only the Priest and the altar boys trod.

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition accepted appointed to teach.

- 1966.** Sacrificial Giving Campaign commenced by the weekly offerings of the majority of the Ivanhoe Parishioners. Extensions to the Mary Immaculate parish house undertaken to provide additional space for priests on northern wing.
- 1968.** Father K. Toomey, administrator of the Church of Mary Immaculate transferred to the Parish of Clayton where he became Parish Priest. Other Assistant Priests were Fathers Leonard, Barnett, Maguire, O'Callaghan.
- 1970.** Parish Council formed. Election took place.
- 1972.** Father Geoghegan retired after 32 years in Ivanhoe.
Golden Jubilee of the Mary Immaculate School in Rockbeare Grove. The School opened in July 1922 with Sister Mary Patrick and Sister Mary Helena. Father John Connellan arrived and filled several roles in the diocese.
The Immaculata, a monthly church magazine first publication in August.
40th International Eucharistic Congress
- 1973.** Parish meeting hall, parking area and new toilet block completed. It was blessed by Father Geoghegan on 29th June. The Coffee Shop Group was formed. Father Maguire, resident for 18 months moved to St Peter and Paul Church in South Melbourne. He was responsible for the formation of the Basketball Club.
- 1974.** Father Kevin Dillon started a fortnightly Youth Club in the Parish hall.
- 1975.** Coffee shop ceased operation. Catholic Womens' League formed with Mrs Kath Lane as President. New staff room at the Mary Immaculate School completed and two new classrooms and refurbishment for the library.
- 1976.** Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition returned to W.A. Mrs Janice Dismore, Lay Principal appointed.
Rosary and Our Lady's statue street by street introduced by Mrs Mary Thrum.
The Immaculata, Church Monthly Paper discontinued due to costs.
Father Kevin Dillon involved with the Youth of the Parish. The 14 and over YCS Group and the over 17 Mico Group. Film Society provided screening of films in the Parish Hall.
- 1977.** Father Bernard Joseph Geoghegan, Parish Priest at Ivanhoe for 32 years, died at St Vincent's Hospital on March 1.
Parish census conducted.
- 1978.** The Franciscan Fathers Mission took place.
Father Maurice Heading celebrated his first Mass in the church.

- 1979.** Indo-Chinese refugees resettlement assistance.
- 1980.** **40TH** Anniversary of the Parish celebrated with an Old Time Musicale and variety show in the Town Hall and display of parish photographs in May. Mass concelebrated by priests who served in the parish in the past or lived in the parish at the time of their ordination, followed by an informal reunion of past and present parishioners or staff at the school on 12th May. Parish Debutante Ball held in September. Daybreak'80 renewal programme from the Bishops of Australia. Father Kevin Dillon was Director in Victoria. Fr Dillon ran film nights at MI Hall.
- 1981.** Father Kevin J. Dillon officially farewell, then assisted Fr Connellan.
- 1982.** Mary Immaculate Primary School Planning Permit for construction of two classrooms and refurbishment of administration hall and library.
- 1985.** Father Connellan was succeeded by Father Len Egan from Bulleen. The back of the sanctuary was enlarged and the tabernacle placed on the altar of what used to be called "The Lady Chapel" whose name was changed to "The Blessed Sacrament Chapel" where Mass is celebrated during the week. Tennis Club closed end of June and joined St. Bernadette's Tennis Club. Parish Education Board set up.
- 1987.** Funeral of Father Connellan on 22 April. Parish Renewal Programme commenced on 9 August.
- 1991.** Church spire restoration.
- 1993.** Father Maurie Cooney, new Parish Priest arrived in June whilst also working at Catholic Research Office for Pastoral Planning. He was ordained in 1974 and had been Parish Priest at Wantirna for seven years.
- 1994.** Liturgy Planning Group formed in July.
- 1995.** Forming Tomorrow's Church project. Care/Outreach Group formed.
- 1996.** Father Michael Dooley arrived from the diocese of Dunedin, New Zealand and lived in the parish house whilst studying. School banner design commission given to Evan Evans. Refurbishment of the Parish School completed in June. Blessing and opening of the new school library and extensions took place on 21st July by the new Archbishop George Pell. Donation of the glass cover for the baptismal font was made by Matthew Larwood, the grandson of the Gilbo family who came to Ivanhoe in 1929.
- 1997.** Godstart program begins. Parish Strategies Convocation established which would gather the wisdom and share the responsibility for the whole parish life and for its constituent elements in a complimentary way. This resulted in the formation of the Pastoral Leadership Team. The First Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) installed in October. The PLT membership was made up of eight 'lay' members and Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate and School Principal as ex-officio members.

New Social Committee commenced.

Parish Finance Committee set up. Maintenance audit conducted to identify forthcoming requirements and to assist in financial planning.

1998. Survey by Yarra Deanery of the profile of parishioners of Mary Immaculate Church.

Parish Forum on 15th March to discuss the Parish Plan.

Projects undertaken were carpeting the sanctuary area and overhauling the sound system.

Parish Forums started in May on the Ivanhoe Cluster.

Parish Profile Directory published.

Cornerstones program for strengthening parish life.

1999. Father Maurie left after serving MI Parish for six years.

Father John Rogan, new parish priest was appointed in June with Father Len Thomas, Priest-in-Residence, as his assistant.

Sr Joy Hanrahan, a Presentation Sister appointed as Pastoral Associate for the Ivanhoe Cluster.

Cluster of the three Ivanhoe Parishes – Mary Immaculate, St Bernadette's and Mother of God.

(History continued. See the Chronology of the Ivanhoe Cluster)



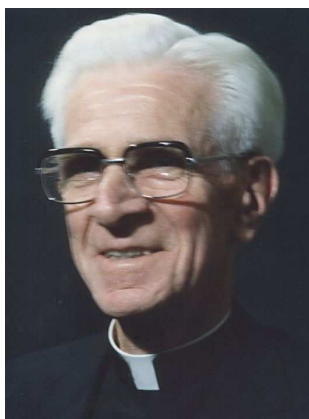
Youth involvement in liturgy at Mary Immaculate.

(Note three of Matcham Skipper's "Way of the Cross" sculptures in background)

From an incomplete set of historical photographs the following are included, unfortunately neglecting many other priests and lay people who have been instrumental in building up the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe from the earliest days. The chronologies of other churches in this Parish equally unfairly lack photographs that would be relevant if they were available. In the process this unintentionally but somewhat inequitably focuses attention on photographs that simply happen to be available, or have been otherwise located.



Fr Bernard Geoghehan



Fr John Connellan



Fr Bob Maguire



Fr Len Egan (in retirement)



Fr Maurie Cooney



Father John Cunningham, Parish Priest Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe, 2001- current
(photo. at 5 pm Mass, 14 June 2009 on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary as a priest)

4. CHRONOLOGY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD PARISH



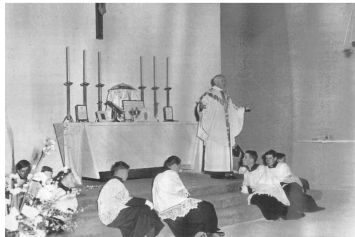
An older Fr Geoghegan (c.1957)

Originally, East Ivanhoe formed part of the Parish of Mary Immaculate, Ivanhoe which, previously, was part of the Parish of St. John, Heidelberg.

Father Bernard Geoghegan, first Parish Priest of Ivanhoe, made the first moves to establish a separate Parish of East Ivanhoe, as the area gradually became residential in the early years following the Second World War. It was he who opted for the title “Mother of God”

- 1954** Announcement made in the Advocate on 1st April, that a new church, designed by Mockbridge, Stahle and Mitchell Architects, was to be erected in Wilfred Road Ivanhoe East as the churches of Heidelberg and Ivanhoe were considered too distant. The proposed site of the new church was to be the intersection of Ormond Road and Maltravers Road.
- 1956** Foundation stone of the church, dedicated to “Mother of God” laid by Archbishop Mannix on Sunday 11th November.
- 1957** Father Bernard Geoghegan offered Mass for the first time in the newly complete church in September. The comfortable three bedroom house situated at 63 Wilfred Road was purchased for a Presbytery in November.

The church building at East Ivanhoe was ready for use towards the end of the year. First baptism was Sally Mary Colahan on 26 July.

- 1958** The church was officially constituted a separate Parish in January. Father Edward Fennessy was appointed the first Pastor of the new Parish and took up residence at 63 Wilfred Road, in the house purchased for that purpose. First marriage on 7 April between Herbert Newland and Janet Cleary by Father Geoghegan.
- 1959** First Confirmation on 2 October administered to 99 candidates by Archbishop Tweedy. *Mater Dei: Official Magazine of the Church of Mother, East Ivanhoe* first issue in July.
Men's Parish Committee:
President Mr. J. B. Duggan, Secretary
Mr. P. O'Neill. Ladies Parish Committee President
Mrs. E. Wirth, Secretary
Mrs. E. Breen; Legion of Mary, President
Mr. A. Cattnach, Secretary
Miss M. Cook, Altar Society
Acting Secretary Mrs. W. Payne
- 
- 1960** First Sacrificial Giving Campaign.
- 1961** Property at 66 Wilfred Road purchased for proposed Parish Primary School
- 1962** Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition accepted appointment to teach.
- 1963** Parish Primary School opened at the commencement of the school year - Sister Anastasia appointed as Principal. Enrolment of 77 children.
- 1965** Sister Nicoline in charge of the Parish School. First Holy Communion on the 10th October. There were 13 girls and 5 boys.
- 1967** The first Ecumenical activity between the three religious churches in East Ivanhoe, Catholic, Anglican and Methodist. A complete Inter-Church census of the East Ivanhoe District.
- 1968** Mass facing the congregation a regular feature. The new altar given prominence by raising of part of the Sanctuary floor. Mr Edward Gallagher donated the cost of making and laying the new carpet and Mr and Mrs Duffy donated the cost of the new altar as a memorial to their son, John. Mrs M Potter donated a set of new candlesticks for the new altar. John Caddy constructed seats for the altar servers and a timber surround for the tabernacle.
- 1969** The state of Father Fennessy's health did not permit return to fulltime duty. Acting on medical advice, he was confined to occasional visits to the Presbytery and to the School in order to attend to matters of an Administrative nature. Father Brasier stepped in to undertake many extra duties.

- 1971** Father Fennessey transferred to the Parish of Glen Iris. He was succeeded by Father Gerard O’Callaghan.
- 1985** Farewell Mass for Father Gerard O’Callagan on 3rd March followed by an Afternoon Tea. Father Des Magennis became Parish Priest. Introduction of Special Ministers of the Eucharist. Renovations to the church commenced.
- 1986** The house next to the Presbytery purchased for school use. The cost was \$127,000 and was financed largely through the school.
- 1987** Church renovations carried out by Vito Cassisi, Architect. The house next to the Presbytery purchased by the school was named “Nicoline House” in honour of Sister Nicoline, a former Principal of the school.
- 1989** Sister Joy Hanrahan provided pastoral work in the parish for two days per week. Resided at the Presentation Convent in Glen Iris. Nicoline House to be auctioned. The sale of the house was to assist in paying for necessary work at the school.
- 1990** Following his ordination Fr Joe Caddy celebrated his first Mass here,
- 1993** Antioch started for young people in the Parish
- 1995** Father Tom Grufferty of Portsmouth Diocese commenced duties as Acting Parish Priest of Mother of God Parish. Father Des Magennis on exchange as acting Parish Priest of St Joseph’s, Havant, England. Father Edward Fennessey died on 19th November. He was the first Parish Priest of East Ivanhoe, 1958-1971.
- 1996** Father Tom Grufferty departs on 5 October and Father Des Magennis returns.
- 1997** Official farewell dinner for Sister Joy Hanrahan on 16 August. Ruby (40th) anniversary dinner for Mother of God Parish on 19th October. Liturgical quilt hung on the southern wall of the church made by Maureen Quaine of Canberra and was on loan for the ruby anniversary.
- 1998** The three Ivanhoe Parish Cluster forum on 14 June. Farewell luncheon for Fr Des Magennis on 6 December.
- 1999** Father Des Magennis appointed to Castlemaine Parish. He took annual leave during October 1998 and worked part-time in the Parish of Broome. Father John Rogan appointed Parish Priest. Also took responsibility for Ivanhoe and Ivanhoe West parishes. New altar for the back chapel installed on 17 January. A solid Tasmanian blackwood panelled altar formerly used in a small chapel of the Archdiocesan administrative offices. Ivanhoe Cluster comprised the three Ivanhoe Parishes – Mary Immaculate, St Bernadette’s and Mother of God.

Anecdotal evidence provides further insight into Mother of God Church and the development of its School. At an early stage an old shed (the “shelter shed”) at the rear of the original school was used as a meeting place by the very enthusiastic Mother’s Group.

Having a dirt floor was no deterrent. In wet weather children who were unable to play in the already limited space outside also shared this room with the Mothers.

Whilst Mother of God school renovation was taking place at a later stage a number of the children were driven by taxis every day to Mary Immaculate School where their learning was accommodated during this period.

As in other Ivanhoe Parishes church accessories, fittings and sometimes art works were periodically contributed by parishioners. Amongst others in Mother of God Church today can be seen a Paten, decorated with a Maltese Cross, inscribed as follows:

“Pray for Father John Rogan.
Bernadette and Leo Milesi and Family”

Not long before his sad and untimely death Fr Rogan had indicated that this Paten was due to arrive from the manufacturer shortly. As it happened it arrived just days after his sudden death. This Paten now also resides at Mother of God Church.

There is also a Chalice, inscribed as follows:

“Made for the Ordination of John Patrick Rogan, Melbourne, 22 August 1992,
RIP George Owen Rogan, 1898 – 1977, Irene May Rogan, 1903 – 1973”

Fr Rogan had previously arranged a special Paten, designed for larger bread than the earlier ‘hosts’ that previously were more typically used for communion. It was inlaid with an original smaller silver Paten decorated with an engraving of the Last Supper as previously presented to him as a gift before his ordination. The timber part was made from Tasmanian Blackwood and crafted by Richard Raffan of Canberra. This was bequeathed to MOG Church where it now also resides.

The painting of Our Lady located at the entrance to Mother of God Church, shown below, was contributed by its artist Geoffrey Horgan (May 2001).



(History continued. See the Chronology of the Ivanhoe Cluster)



Prep & Grade 1 with Miss Browne, Mother of God Primary School, 1966



A large crowd at the earlier Blessing of the Foundation Stone of Mother of God Church
by Fr Bernard Geoghegan





Blessing of Mother of God Church by Archbishop Mannix



Fr Edward Fennessy c. 1963

5. CHRONOLOGY OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH



The West Ivanhoe area was originally part of St. John's Heidelberg Parish, founded in 1851. Later it became part of the Immaculate Conception, Ivanhoe Parish when that Parish branched from St John's in 1915. As housing developed in the area, Fr Bernard Geoghegan purchased two large parcels of land in West Ivanhoe. One of these now houses St Bernadette's Church, Presbytery, Convent, School and Hall. The second is now the site of the tennis courts and the land behind. Portion of the land was sold to help finance Parish building projects. For a short time Mass was celebrated in Ford Manor, at the home of Mr Thomas Kinnon.

- 1940** Fr. Bernard Geoghegan purchased land in West Ivanhoe.
- 1949** Building permit granted on 28th July for the erection of a church school at Stanley Street. There were over 200 Catholic families resident in the area and a large building project was being undertaken by the Victorian Housing Commission.
- 1950** St Bernadette's Church school was blessed and opened by Archbishop D Mannix on 19th November. The school consisted of three classrooms, with a

small room at the eastern end for use as a Sacristy. Sunday Masses were held there for the next 12 years. The cost of site and building was £25,000.

- 1951** The new parish was formed and Fr. John Perkins appointed Parish Priest on 1st February. On 2 April, the school was registered as No. 1500. Sister of St Joseph of the Apparition arrived on 8th February. School opened on 12th February. On 24th June, Archbishop Mannix blessed and opened the presbytery and convent. The nuns who staffed the school stayed in the Parish for 26 years and three pupils who received their education there during this period were ordained to the priesthood.

The first Mother Superior was Mother Regis and Sister Finbar was in charge of the school. The other teachers were Sister Nicoline and Anastasia and Mrs Joan Ardito. Mother Regis taught music. The nuns lived in an old residence in Ford Street and volunteer labour was necessary to make it habitable. It continued in use as a convent until 1963 when it was demolished.

Just a few months after St Bernadette's became a Parish, 100 parishioners marched from Stanley St to Xavier College, Kew to attend a function farewelling the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima and then back to Ivanhoe. 14 vehicles transported the elderly and the very young.

Father Perkins outlined a proposal to form the Mothers Club. President Mrs Cullen, Secretary Mrs Goonan, Treasurer Mrs Marijiviona.

- 1952** One year after the school opened, the number of pupils rose from 145 to 185 and another classroom was added following a wide range of fund raising activities, Miss Valerie Sumner was crowned Queen of the Carnival by Archbishop Mannix at the Coronation Pageant. Fundraising realised £2,320.
- 1953** Mr Cyril Cummins formed a Boys Scout Troop. The Troop met in the School basement until 1959 when the Australian Paper Manufacturers donated a large building which was moved and set up on the block behind the tennis courts. However the hall was destroyed by fire in 1963 and the scouters disbanded in 1964. Choir Festival organised and held in the Heidelberg Town Hall.
- 1954** First Parish picnic held at Hurstbridge. Commencement of the Silver Circle as a fund raiser organised by Mr Ron Roberts.
- 1955** Archbishop Mannix blessed new classrooms on 19th June. The number of pupils had grown to 280.
- 1956** Fr Perkins and Mr Ron Roberts planted the oak tree growing in the corner of the school grounds and at the rear of the old Presbytery, to celebrate the Olympic Games. In November, a Parish dinner was held in the school to welcome new parishioners. It was catered by the Mothers Club.
- 1958** Two tennis courts were opened on 2nd March 1958. The courts were paid for by subscriptions to debenture scheme. The number of school pupils grew to 380 and a further extension to the school was made and opened by Bishop Arthur Fox on 8th February.

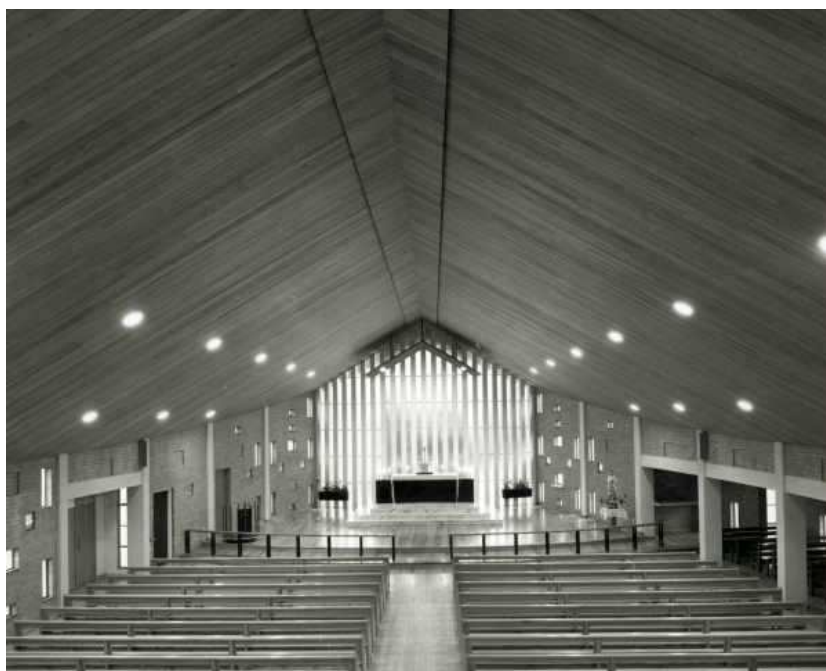
Mrs Molly Cullen, President of the very active Mothers' Club was the key figure in the formation of the Victorian Federation of Catholic Mothers' Clubs and became its first President. Fr Perkins transferred to West Geelong Parish. He passed away on 11th June 1971.

- 1959** Fr. John Carroll appointed Parish Priest on 31st January. A shelter shed and tuckshop was built in the school grounds. The Project was financed by the Mothers' Club. By then the school enrolments had passed the 400 mark.
- 1960** Decision to build a Parish Church was taken in April. The Block Collection Scheme was replaced by the weekly envelope system
Scholarship fund established. Building fund set up.
- 1961** Church foundation blessed on 3 December.
- 1962** Present Church blessed and opened by Archbishop E Tweedy on 12th August. The floor plan of the church is a copy of the basilica at Lourdes which is associated with St Bernadette. The church was designed by Robert Ellis. The altar was donated by Mr Thomas Kinnon who had the marble brought out from the marble mountains of Carrara in Italy. (The former Convent is now the West Ivanhoe Christian Community residence which includes some Christian Brothers, and the chapel is being used by the Korean Community)
- 1963** Present Presbytery blessed and opened by the Monsignor Laurence Moran on 14th July.
- 1964** Present Convent blessed and opened by Archbishop Justin Simmonds on 13th June.
- 1969** The Parish Hall was built and opened by Archbishop James Knox on 2 May 1969.
- 1970** Fr Kevin Sweeney appointed Parish Priest on 14th November.
- 1974** (Gough Whitlam becomes Prime Minister. Cyclone Tracy devastates Darwin)
- 1975** Fr Vincent Curran appointed Parish Priest on 25th January.
- 1976** The Silver Jubilee of the Parish of St. Bernadette's. Mass celebrated by Bishop E. G. Perkins, a brother of the first Parish Priest. The cross above the sanctuary was formerly at Corpus Christi Seminary, Glen Waverley and was presented to St Bernadette's by the Perkins family in memory of the late Fr. John Perkins. The Church was consecrated on 8 February. The Sisters of St Joseph of Apparition returned to Western Australia.
- 1977** St Bernadette's Community Bingo commenced on 27th October, which raised much needed funds for the parish. It was administered by Paul and Ena Melvaine and their helpers.

- 1983** Father Kevin Eaton appointed Parish Priest.
- 1985** Father Paul Gurry appointed Parish Priest.
- 1987** Major school refurbishment and construction of Multi-purpose Room. Community centre erected.
- 1995** The Clifton Hill Community and the St Bernadette's Parish drew up a contract of agreement that the community would rent the former convent building. The community adopted the name West Ivanhoe Community. This began as a Christian Community but subsequently became Ecumenical with life shared by persons from Christian, Buddhist and Muslim traditions. Two founding members of the community, Brothers Len Francis and Mark O'Loughlin continued as members.
- 1996** Land in Bond Street sold for \$261,000 in June. Funds used to pay off various debts, and \$150,000 invested in a term Deposit account.
- 1998** October. Ivanhoe Forum meeting at St Bernadette's on the Ivanhoe "Clustering" issue.
- 1999** Father Paul Gurry's farewell on 21st February with a farewell function in St Bernadette's School Hall, School Principal, Lynne Farrelly.
- March.*** Father John Rogan celebrated 10am Mass at St. Bernadette's, followed by a Community Sunday Morning Tea.
- 2000** St Bernadette's Parish became part of the Ivanhoe Cluster on 14 June. Father John Rogan appointed as Parish Priest of the Ivanhoe Cluster. Inauguration of the Ivanhoe Cluster on 8 July.
- 2001** Father John Cunningham appointed as Parish Priest of the Ivanhoe Cluster on 17 January. School refurbishment program commenced in April. 50th Anniversary of St Bernadette's. A celebration video "Gathering Our Stories – St Bernadette's Parish West Ivanhoe" was produced by Carmel Butler MSC and St Bernadette's parishioners for the 50th Anniversary of St Bernadette's.

(History continued. See the Chronology of the Ivanhoe Cluster)





Fr Paul Gurry



Fr John Carroll

**6. SOME IMAGES FROM ST BERNADETTE'S VIDEO
"Gathering Our Stories - St Bernadette's Parish West
Ivanhoe", Carmel Butler MSC, 2001**



Building St Bernadette's School



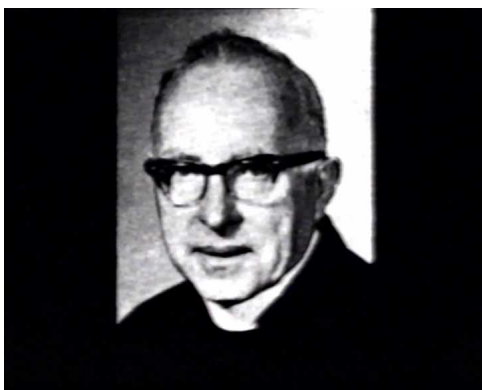
Fr Geoghegan and 1st Communion



Archbishop Mannix opening school 1951



Arrival of Sisters of St Joseph in 1951



1st Parish Priest Fr John Perkins



St Bernadette's Children of Mary



Tennis Club



Sisters return to WA In 1976



Around the piano



Fr Carroll and the 1963-64 Cricket Team



Fr Paul Gurry with some students



Fr John Rogan celebrating a home Mass



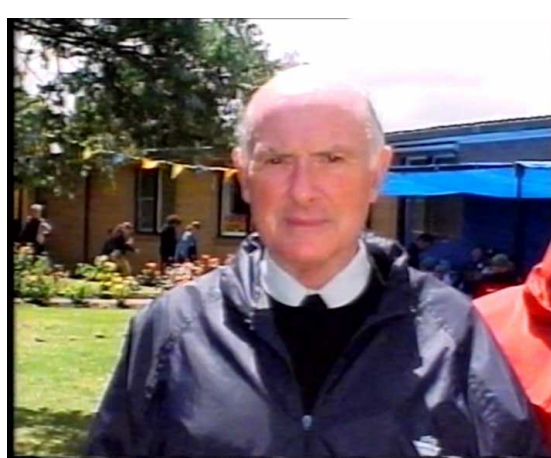
St Bernadette's in winter



Fr Len Thomas and friends



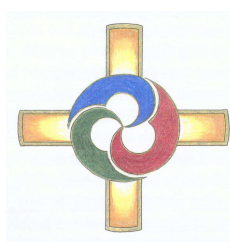
Funeral of Port Arthur victim Pauline Masters



Fr John Cunningham on arrival as Ivanhoe Parish Priest in 2001

The St Bernadette's Video reveals the same passionate sense of Parish belonging and dedication that this "brief history" has discovered in each of the former Parishes. It encouragingly expresses the following words towards its end, which perhaps also make a fitting conclusion to this brief history of what, beyond the unified Cluster, is now The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe:

"The Cluster is a challenge – but a symbol of what we can be together"



7. PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE PARISHES

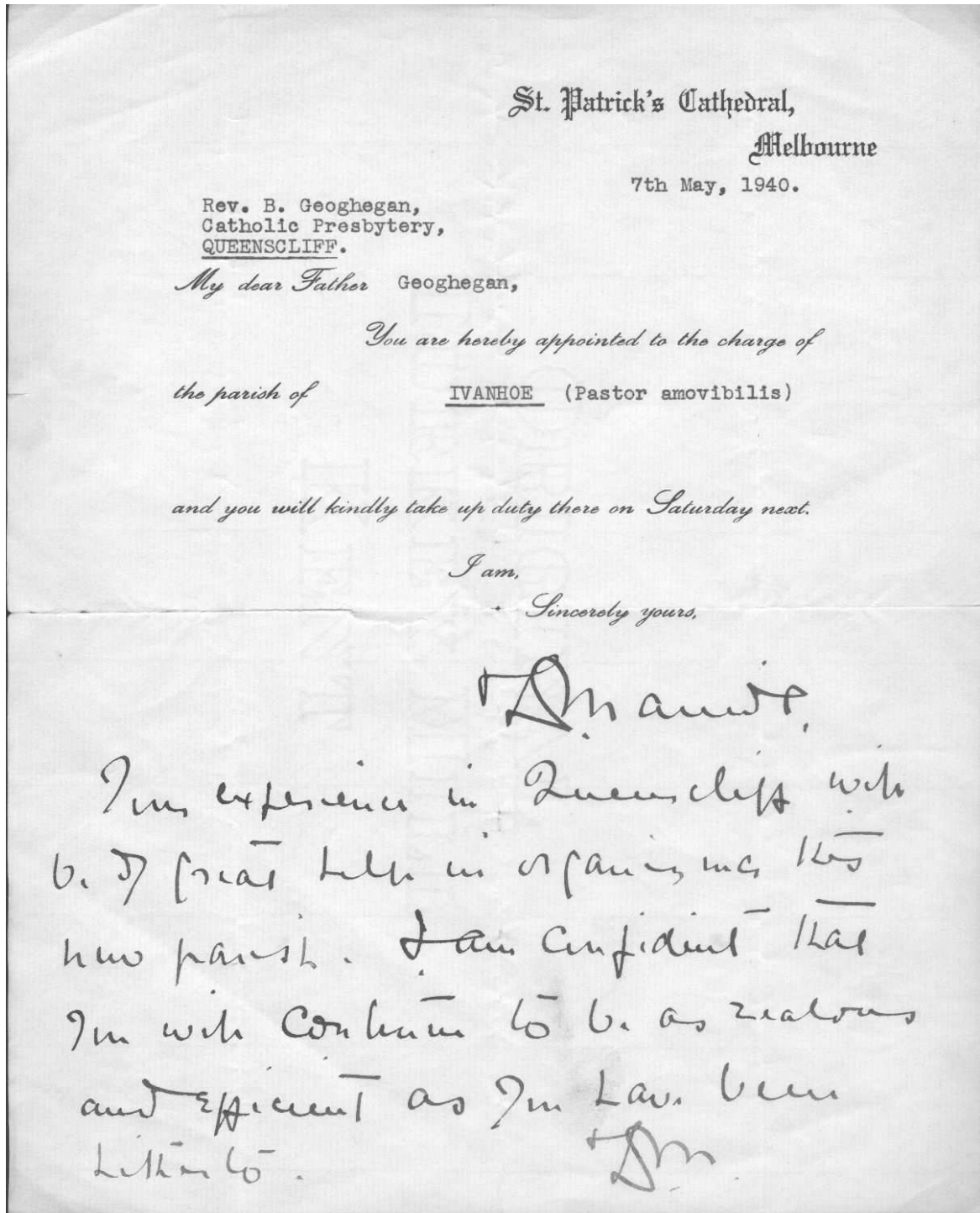
Father Bernard Geoghegan PP	1940-1972 (Inaugural Parish Priest Mary Immaculate)
Father Brian. Leonard	1952-1953 (Mary Immaculate)
Father T. Brophy	1950-1951 (Mary Immaculate)
Father John Perkins PP	1951-1958 (Inaugural Parish Priest, St Bernadette's)
Father Edward Fennessy PP	1958–1971 (Inaugural Parish Priest, Mother of God)
Father Brasier	1967-1971 (Mother of God)
Father K. Toomey	1962-1968 (Mary Immaculate)
Father C. Barnett	1968-1969 (Mary Immaculate)
Father John O'Callaghan PP	1970-1972 (Mary Immaculate)
Father Gerard J. O'Callaghan	1971-1984 (Mother of God)
Father Kevin Sweeney PP	1970-1985 (St Bernadette's)
Father John Carroll PP	1971-1975 (St Bernadette's)
Father Bob Maguire	1972-1973 (Mary Immaculate)
Father John Connellan PP	1972-1985 (Mary Immaculate)
Father Kevin J Dillon	1974-1980 & 1984 (Mary Immaculate)
Father Vincent Curran PP	1975-1984 (St Bernadette's)
Father Kevin Eaton PP	1983-1985 (St Bernadette's)
Father Des Magennis	1985-1998 (Mother of God)
Father Len Egan PP	1985-1993 (Mary Immaculate)
Father Paul Gurry PP	1985-1999 (St Bernadette's)
Father Tony Kerin PiR	1989-1999 (St Bernadette's)
Father Tom Grufferty (Acting PP)	1995-1996 (Mother of God)
Father Maurie Cooney PP	1993-1999 (Mary Immaculate)
Father Michael Dooley	1996 – Lived in Parish House while studying.
Father John Rogan PP	1999-2000 - Inaugural Parish Priest of the Ivanhoe Cluster. Assisted by:
Father Len Thomas, PiR	1999-2010 (Cluster & Parish)
Father John Cunningham PP	2001 – current (and Inaugural PP Ivanhoe Cluster)

8. DISCLAIMER

Attempting to write even “a brief history” across three originally disparate groups is fraught with difficulty, and risk. Data availability aside there are also issues of recollection and interpretation. No doubt this “1st edition” will prompt more of both. Whilst much historical content has been searched there is also much that is lacking. Numerous attempts to locate more data and attract further assistance met with only limited success. Despite due diligence and the best voluntary effort there is always scope, given even more effort and data, for greater detail and therefore greater accuracy.

**This 1st Edition Brief History of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe was produced by
Nina McPherson, Merle Gilbo and John Costa, June 2010. Enquiries:
Parish Communication Group comms@ivanhoecatholics.com
Further information, parish website History Project page.**

9. ATTACHMENT 1



Letter of Appointment of Fr. B. Geoghegan by Archbishop Dr. D. Mannix in 1940

10. REFERENCES

This Brief Parish History has been prepared from a variety of sources, including a small number that are anecdotal, and from a video, and the following :

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