

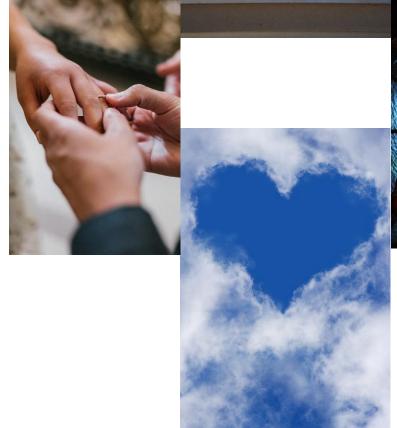
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#### **ABOUT THIS BOOK**

I begin by acknowledging the Dunghutti people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our church is located. I pay my respects to Elders and peoples past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Expressions of Interest were sought from the Parishioners of All Saints Catholic Church in early 2022 to form a Committee to plan out "How we could celebrate the All Saints Catholic Church building turning 100 years in July 2022."

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, a group of 12 people (nine at the meeting and three apologies) met and commenced discussing ideas.

One idea, which the committee unanimously agreed upon was to ask the parishioners to send in their memories so these could be put into a book.

We decided upon creating an A4 sheet in Portrait size, which was designed by Judy Brady with the words "My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is...." including a sketch of the street view of the church drawn by her son Shaun.

The idea then was to print out these sheets and place them in the church for people to take and freehand write, print, draw or just put photos about their memories.

The memories started to trickle in and by the cut-off date we had received an overwhelming response of parishioners' memories, from young people to the elderly, covering the Sacraments received and words of belonging, all giving their account of a glimpse of the events that have happened in "OUR" church over the last 100 years.

A Parishioner sums up what "OUR" church is:- " the love, prayer, care and friendship".

May our church, "All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey", continue to be filled with such life giving experiences and memories for the generations to come.

Kevin Lewthwaite (Chairperson of the Centenary Committee), Compiler of the Memories Book (two volumes) 17 July 2022 This book could not be created without the input of the many parishioners of All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey. These parishioners have given their permission for the use of their Memories (in words and photographs) included in the Volumes of this book.

The Centenary Committee express our sincere thanks to "All Parishioners".

It would be remiss of our committee to not mention Fr James Foster, who has put in so much behind the scenes works in sourcing, promoting and making happen OUR CENTENARY OF ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Thanks also to the Parish Office, especially Debra Henry and Therese Tedd for their assistance in collecting, photocopying, taking and making phone calls and offering of any assistance necessary to help with producing this book.

To the Centenary Committee, A huge thanks for everything, from your ideas to your efforts in getting this Celebration to being, Thank You



Back: Father James Foster (P.P), Kevin Lewthwaite (Chairperson), Jan Clarke, Judy Brady (Secretary)

Front: Peter Scott, Joan Clarke, Karen Daley, Margaret Haydon.

# ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH



This freehand sketch of the front of All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey, drawn by Shaun Brady, was used by the Centenary Committee for the "My Favourite Memories" Proforma throughout the Memories Volumes.

He is the son of Judy and Michael Brady.

Shaun was educated at St Joseph's Primary School and St Paul's College. During his school years, Shaun was also an Altar Server of our church.

# CENTENARY POEM Written By GUS CLARKE JULY 2022

# THE CENTENARY

My thoughts go back one hundred years
To nineteen twenty-two,
To the opening of Kempsey Catholic Church,
Everything was finished, everything was new.
It was a great occasion on that opening day,
The people had a new church to meet the Lord,
A place where they could pray.

There were lots of horse 'n sulkies
Heading into town,
Those sulkies were fairly eating up the miles,
As the wheels were spinning 'round.
The people were smiling and waving to each other,
on that Sunday morn,
Passing herds of milking cows
And fields of waving corn.

The people they came crowding into the church
Looking for a seat,
They left their horse'n sulkies, and T-model Fords
All parked out in the street.
The church was consecrated, everything was done,
The opening Mass was celebrated
By Bishop Carroll and Reverend Father Gunn.

The women with their hats on,
All the men in suits,
All the boys looked spick and span,
Right down to their boots.
The people were so proud
It's a day they won't forget,
They celebrated all day long,
Until the sun was set.

For the next hundred years,
could anyone count the Masses that were said,
The babies that were baptized,
The couples that were wed.
The church has seen a lot of priests
Since nineteen twenty-two,
Father Morris, Father McEvoy, Father Mills and Father Daley,
Just to name a few.

Every now and then, a new priest would arrive,
Thank God for those priests who came from Ireland,
To keep the faith alive.
We can't do without our priests,
When all is said and done,
We need the Mass and Sacraments
Just like we need the sun.

We would see the people lined up for
Confession, in the olden days,
We had Exposition, Benediction
A kind of prayer and praise.
Those old Confession boxes, couldn't they tell some stories?
But they don't talk, they keep their secrets well.

Those Mission priests, how many souls did they save, when they gave those fiery sermons on the burning fires of hell?

When we heard those sermons, it left us with a kind of holy fear,

When we sang Faith of Our Fathers, we sang it loud and clear.

The Mission priests when preaching, sometimes,
Would take a little break,
And tell us a joke or two,
Just to make sure we were all awake.
Whether the priests were preaching or telling jokes,
They really did it well,
I'll give you a little sample
Of the jokes they used to tell.

#### **JOKE**

A man fell over a cliff and on the way down he reaches out and grabs a small branch of a tree. Here he is swinging in mid-air yelling out "Save me Lord!" and he hears this voice say, "I'll save you as long as you do what I say." The man yells back, "I'll do anything you say Lord". The Lord said, "The first thing I want you to do, is let go of that branch!".

Sometimes I sit and wonder, where all the years have gone, from the present, right back to the days they'd stirred the fire and put the kettle on.

The men in the Holy Name Society, they knew what to do.

And The girls had the Children of Mary, With their sassy cloaks of blue.

This old church has seen it all,
As we have travelled through the years,
The times when we were happy,
The times when there were tears.
If this old church had eyes
They'd be sad, and shedding tears
For the disappearing faces
That's been happening in these later years.

So, some outside priests are coming to celebrate along with Bishop Greg.

And there's a story going round that when the Mass is over, The Committee might just put on a keg.

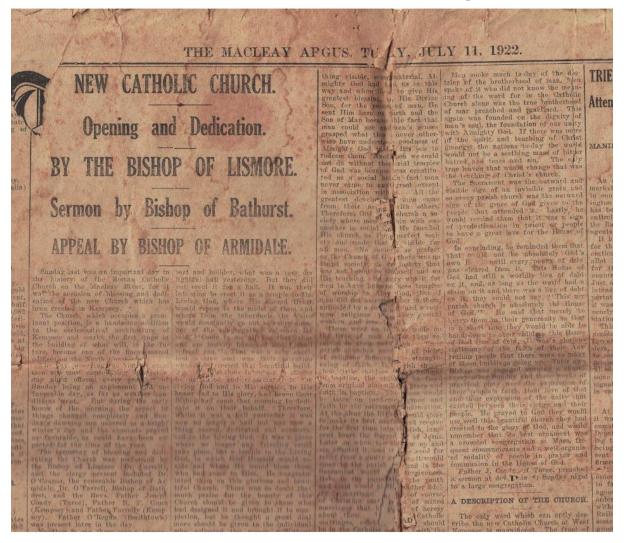
Don't get too excited, it might be just a rumour, If there's no alcohol allowed, I suppose that will be fine, But I recall a wedding feast at Cana, When Mary said to Jesus, that They just ran out of wine.

This old church looks as good now
As it did back in the past,
Like the foundations of our Faith,
This church was built to last.
Now Father James is Parish Priest
His smiling warmth has us won,
And there's now a hundred years between him
And the Reverend Father Gunn.

The Lord said, 'I won't leave you orphans,'
he won't leave us in the lurch.
So that's why we celebrate
The centenary of Kempsey's All Saints Catholic Church.

Gus Clarke wrote this poem especially for our church's 100 year Centenary Celebration.

# THE OPENING and DEDICATION 100 Years Ago



This image of the Macleay Argus is of the original newspaper 100 Years old which shows the published date of the story, Tuesday 11 July 1922.

The story is of the Opening and Dedication of the new Catholic Church Building on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 1922 by Bishop Carroll, Bishop of Lismore also present was Bishop O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale and Bishop O'Farrell, Bishop of Bathurst along with Father Coady (Taree), Father Gunn and Father Farrelly (Kempsey) and later in the day Fr O'Regan (Smithtown)

# MACLEAY ARGUS STORY – Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1922

Macleay Argus - Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1922

NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

Blessing and Dedication

# NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH.

# BLESSING AND DEDICATION.





The above photos were taken by Mr. G. Baxter, on the occasion of the Blessing and Dedication of the new Roman Catholic Church of All Saints, at West Kempsey. The photo showing a full view of the front of the church was taken prior to the ceremony, as the crowd was assembling, and the other photo was taken whilst the Bishop of Lismore (Dr. Carroll) was performing the ceremony.

# Macleay Argus - Tuesday July 11, 1922

#### New Catholic Church

#### Opening & Dedication

#### By the Bishop of Lismore

#### Sermon by Bishop of Bathurst Appeal by Bishop of Armidale

Sunday last was an Important day in the history of the Roman Catholic Church on the Macleay River for it was the occasion of blessing and dedication of the New Church which has been erected in Kempsey.

The Church which occupies a prominent position, is a handsome addition to the acclesiastical architecture of Kempsey and marks the first stage in the building of what will, in the future, become one of the finest Sacred edifices on the North Coast.

The day preceding the historic occasion was most unpromising and Saturday night offered every prospect of Sunday being an unpleasant and unfavourable day, as far as weather conditions went. But during the early hours of the morning the aspect of thing changed completely, and Sunday's dawning sun ushered in a bright winter's day and the elements proved as favourable as could have been expected for the time of the year.

The ceremony of blessing and dedicating the Church was performed by the Bishop of Lismore (Dr Carroll), and the clergy present included Dr O'Connor, the Venerable Bishop of Armidale, Dr O'Farrell, Bishop of Bathurst and the Revs Fr Joseph Coady of Taree, Fr BF Gunn of Kempsey & Fr Farrelly of Kempsey. Fr O'Regan of Smithtown was present later in the day.

Needless to say, there was a tremendous assemblage present, and the commodious Church was speedily crowded, once its doors were thrown open.

St he conclusion of the ceremony of Blessing and Dedication, the Bishop of Lismore, addressing the congregation, said the uppermost feeling in their hearts that day was one of deep gratitude to God for His great Mercy in enabling them to build this Church to His Honour and to His praise under the title of All Saints. He offered a most cordial welcome to the Bishops of Armidale and Bathurst, and he thanked them for coming such long distances to help them in the blessing of their new Church. Dr O'Connor came from Armidale laden with the weight of more than 70 yrs, but still animated with health and buoyancy. When Dr O'Connor addressed them, they would find the secret of the phenomenal success that had attended his work. During Mass it would be their pleasure to hear the new Bishop of Bathurst (Dr O'Farrell) and they would then realise what a blessing it was to the whole Church of Australia that Dr O'Farrell had been raised to the Bishopric.

Continuing, Dr Carroli sincerely congratulated Fr Gunn and his worthy assistant, Fr Farrelly and the people of Kempsey and the district on the great achievement they had accomplished in completing, as far as they desired it to be completed at present, a new Church. He would like to remind them that beautiful though the gift might be that they would that day offer to God, it would never have its perfect beauty until it was free from debt. He hoped they would do a great deal that day to remove that debt. There was one name which deserved special mention that day, and that was the name of Monsignor McGuire, an old Macleaylte himself who in this work had been a tower of strength to them all. He wished to thank the architect Mr Austin MacKay, the contractors Messrs Taylor Bros and, in a very special manner the men who had worked on this job. In congratulating Fr Gunn, Father Farrelly, the guarantors, the architect, and the contractors he would like to put almost in the highest place the men whose toil and sweat had contributed to the building of the church. This Church had been built with the motive of giving to God what belonged to God, honour and praise and thanks, and it had been built also for the love of their neighbour, and so it would be a symbol as long as it lasted of the honour they awed to God and the love that they owed to their neighbour.

Fr Gunn then read the financial statement. The receipts from the beginning of the undertaking were: From the Bloomer Estate, through the Blshop of Lismore £500; from the McGee Estate £1309.6.6; from Bazaars, etc £600. Those wee the amounts in hand at the laying of the foundation-stone. The appeal at the foundation-stone laying resulted in £802 in cash and since that time promises had been paid amounting to £284.5.6. They had £400 at Interest in the Government Savings Bank, which had been transferred to the new Church account and with interest amounted to £482.14.1. From the last Bazaar they received £450 and from a special at

Aldavilla £11/10/-. This gave a total of £4421.4.10. The expenditure to the contractor to date was £5950, Clerk of Works £227, Architect £224.5.6, Kempsey Electric Light Co. Ltd, £50, freight on seats £37. They had yet several items to pay, viz., seats in the Church £279.10.-, balance to the contractor as far as they could estimate £575, to Architect £168, painting the altar and approximate extras to building £112, furniture of the altar, including lineleum and matting and candlesticks £78. There were further approximate expenses yet to be adjusted in connection with the electric light, etc., probably amounting to £60. They owed the bank at present £2214.8.6 and the amounts to pay further were £1434, giving a debit of £3648.

Dr O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale, said that the Bishop of Lismore had told them he had some secret he was going to reveal. He had no secret and if he had he would not tell the Bishop. Proceeding; he said they had raised, with the assistance of their good architect and builder, what was a very delightful hall yesterday. But they did not erect it for a hall. It was their intention to erect it as a temple to the Living God, where His Sacred Heart would repose in the midst of them and where from the tabernacle the Voice would constantly go out to every member of the congregation as to when He said, 'Come to me all you that labour and are heavily burdened and I shall refresh you.' That was a very excellent motive and was their intention when they erected that beautiful building. It was their intention it should be dedicated and consecrated to the Living God and to HIs Service, to His honour and to His Glory and hence their Bishop had come that morning to dedicate it on their behalf. Therefore, whilst it was a hall yesterday it was now no longer a hall but was now a thing sacred, dedicated and consecrated to the Living God, in which God Himself would reside and where He would Bless those who had come to Him. He congratulated them on this giorious and beautiful Church. There was no doubt that much praise for the beauty of this Church should be given to those who had designed it and brought it to completion, but he thought a great deal more should be given to the individual who collect the money. Without money they could not have erected it unless some wealthy resident of the Macleay had given them £5000 or £6000 towards it. It was a very good thing they did not have such a person. He never liked to see one of their Catholic people standing forth and giving so much to the erection of a Church; that was a responsibility which should be shouldered by every man, woman, and child in the community. He congratulated them on their two young priests who had worked with so much energy, so much zeal and such marvellous success for the last 18 months towards the erection of this beautiful building. For 46 yrs he had heard of the generosity of the Macleay people and he felt that they would do their duty and shift the responsibility from the shoulders of those who had carried it, and that especially they would shift the responsibility from the shoulders of Father Gunn. In the course of further remarks, Bishop O'Connor mentioned that he was visiting Kempsey after an absence of 35 yrs. He was there 35 yrs ago on a matter of duty for his Bishop and they actually escaped having him as their Pastor 45 yrs ago. He was parish priest of Kempsey for three days then, but he never came to the place. Circumstances changed and he had to stay awa. The Bishop concluded with an appeal.

Father Gunn then read a lengthy list of amounts already promised, after which many more sums were thanked in and announced.

At the close of the appeal the Bishop of Lismore thanked those who had contributed anything at all to the building of the New Church.

Father Gunn announced that on a rough estimate in addition to the names he previously read out they had further amounts totalling £660. There was very close to £1000 when the two lists were competed.

The celebration of High Mass followed and there was some excellent singing by the choir, The music being beautifully rendered. The Mass of St John the Baptist was sung, Sister Awuin conducting the choir. Mrs McElhone played a violin solo, Intermezzo from 'Cavalieri Rusticana' (Mascagni) at the offertory. Miss Trixie Monaghan presided at the organ and Mrs McElhone, Mrs G Grainger and Mrs M Brosnan played violins.

#### SERMON BY BISHOP OF BATHURST THE INFLUENCE OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Bathurst (Dr O'Farrell). He said that there was no ornament which would appeal to God in His Church as would a devout and crowded congregation, and he was sure the people of the parish would continue to remember that their greatest offering to God was not so much the material Church itself as the devout use they would make of it.

He would like to offer a few words on the meaning and influence of the Parish Church in the lives of the people in the parish. There were no buildings erected by the hands of men that had such an Influence over the lives of the people as tier Parish Church. The Parish Church was the centre of religious influence in every Parish. It stood first of all for the Worship of God. Whilst it was true that Almighty God did not need temples of this kind for us to Worship Him in, it was equally true that constituted as we were it was, we who wanted them more than God. We required houses that were temples of Worship; in fact, we could not get on without them. We were formed of body and soul, of material and spiritual elements and, whilst religion was entirely spiritual, still it was true we were intimately and necessarily connected with the material elements about us. Our souls were influenced immensely by the material element around us - our own body, the world around us and every material element around us. We were so constituted that we could not form in our minds any spiritual act apart from some material image. We could not even have a thought in our minds without bringing to our minds something visible, something material. Almighty God had fashioned us in this was and when He wished to give His greatest blessing, namely, His Diving Son, for the redemption of man, He sent Him here on this earth and the Son of Man became a visible fact that man could see and so men's senses grasped what they could never otherwise have understood the goodness of Almighty God in sending His Son to redeem them. Another reason we could not do without these material temples of God was because Man was constituted as a social being. In fact, man never came to anything great except in association with others. All the greatest developments of men came from their association with others. Therefore, God made His Church a society where men were to join with one another in social life, and He founded His Church as the most perfect society and made that Church visible for all men. No Society was so perfect as the Church of God and there was no sound society, no normal society that was not based on God Himself and on His teaching. So necessary was it for men to have houses like these Temples of Worship to Almighty God, that is men dld not assemble together in them, animated by a common faith and a common religious purpose, they would weaken and lose their faith.

There were no impressions made on the lives of men like those they received in their Parish Church. Their Parish Churches were centres of piety, of religious influence of the strengthening of faith. In the Parish Church their little children would be brought to baptism, the child would be freed from original sin and receive grace and faith in Baptism. The little one would be later confirmed in grace and faith by the sacrament of confirmation. At the altar the little child would come to make its first confession and receive for the first time into its childish, innocent heart the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Later, when the child grew up and sin affected it, and it felt the need for relief from a guilty conscience, it would come to the Parish Church and in the sacrament would receive forgiveness. Here in the Parish Church the youth and maid would pledge each other fidelity in marriage. He spoke, of course, of Christian marriages, not o mixed marriages that had a taint of heresy about them. He, spoke of Catholic marriages, celebrated as they should be in the Catholic Church and with the Nuptial Mass and the solemn blessing man and wife. When struck down by serious illness it was to the Parish Church they would look, and friends would send for the priest, and he would take the Blessed Sacrament and bring Our Lord to them as a benediction to strengthen and console them.

Even in death the Catholic Church would have a claim on them, and they would have a claim on it for their names would be mentioned at the aitar of God and Mass would be celebrated for them and the preyers of the people would be asked for the repose of their souls.

Here in the Parish Church would be preached to them the truth as Christ Himself preached it. It was only in The Catholic Church they could feel sure they had the pure message of the Gospel given to

them with the authority of God Himself. Their Lord reminded them that the truth should make them free. They had outside the Roman Catholic Church people railing and talking and censuring the Catholic Church because it would not tolerate licence, because it did not give freedom to man, because it restricted men's minds, because it retarded the progress of human knowledge and a thousand other objections, and yet what was the truth? The truth was that the Catholic Church was a Temple of human truth, where alone the truth was preached and there alone was human liberty recognised.

The Catholic Church laid down broad & deep the foundations of human liberty and no institution that ever existed on earth had done so much for human liberty as the Catholic Church. She had done it because she alone recognised the dignity and the grandeur of the soul of man; that God had formed them in How own image and had given to each one a free and immortal soul, and that God had destined that soul to be united to Him and sanctified by His grace through His Church. That soul was free and had a right to protest against every human tyranny. No doubt the soul of

man must be subject, as Our Lord Himself was, to the laws of the state, but Our Lord reminded us to give to Caesar the things that were Caesars' and to God the things that were God's. Every human soul had a right to protest against every tyranny that would violate its conscience, that would violate the law implanted in it by God Himself.

When men taught that there was no God, and that the human soul was not immortal, then that doctrine would lead to tyranny; it would lead to the principle of might being right, which would make of men tyrants and slaves, and wherever in this earth there was slavery there the spirit of Christ, was not recognised.

Men spoke much to-day of the doctrine of the brotherhood of man. Men spoke of it who did not know the meaning of the word for in the Catholic Church alone was the true brotherhood of man preached and practised. This again was founded on the dignity of man's soul, the foundation of our unity with Almighty God. If there was more of the spirit and teaching of Christ amongst the nations to-day the world would not be a seething mass of bitter hatred and tears and sin. The only true leaven that would change that was the teaching of Christ's Church.

The Sacrament was the outward and visible sign of an invisible grace and so every Parish Church was the outward sign of the grace of God given to the people to have a great love for the House of God. In concluding, he reminded them that would not be absolutely God's Own House until every penny of debt was cleared from it. This House of God had still a worldly lien of debt on it, and, as long as the world had a claim on it and there was a lien of debt on it, they could not say, 'This my Parish Church is absolutely the House of God.' He said that merely to hurry them in their generosity so that in a short time they would be able to hand down to their children this House of God free of debt. It was a glorious testimony of the faith of their Australian people that there were so many of these buildings going up. Their own Bishop was engaged opening a Church every other Sunday and tee works of practical piety were the expression of their people's faith, their love of God and their expression of the unity that existed between their clergy and their people. He prayed to God they would use well this beautiful Church they had erected to the glory of God, and would remember that its best ornament was a crowded congregation at Mass, frequent communicants and a well organised sodality of people in Prayer and communion in the House of God.

Father J Coady, of Taree, preached a sermon at devotions on Sunday night to a large congregation.



# Macleay Argus - Tuesday July 11, 1922

## **New Catholic Church**

#### A DESCRITION OF THE CHURCH

The only word which can aptly describe the New Catholic Church at West Kempsey Is magnificent. The front of the building as seen from the Street Is very imposing, being set off by a beautiful stained-glass window depicting the Hold Trinity. The window reaches from a few feet above the level of the gallery to within a few feet of the peak of the roof. It cost, including labour for erection, somewhere in the region of £200. The colour scheme is carried out in a quiet style and the general effect when the light is behind it is most beautiful.

Some idea of the size of the building may be leaned from the fact that from the ground to the top of the front wall is 50 ft and the other walls are 25 feet. The body of the main building measures 90 feet by 40 feet and the walls are 20 inches thick. The main porch in front is 12 feet by 12feet and is laid with terra cotta and white tiles, supplied by the Tesselated Tile Company Sydney. Leading to the porch and also around the two side porches, of similar design, is a paved path. The steps of the porches are of Tarrazzo marble, set off by concrete bannisters.

On entering the main hall one realises the immensity of the structure. The roof towers above, constructed of Oregon supports and girders. The supports, which are beautifully designed, rest on beautifully wrought stone pillars, extending 12 feet down the walls. The lining of the ceiling is of Baltic pine, which is of light colour and contrasts nicely with the dark timbers of the supports.

At the eastern end of the Church is situated the gallery, which is also constructed of Oregon timbers, set off by Baltic pine, and is supported by two huge Oregon pillars. This gallery is capable of seating 250 persons.

Along each side of the building at intervals are tastefully arranged stained glass windows, 15 feet by 3 feet.

Leading from the main hall are four confessionals, which have Oregon stained doors, set with art embossed glass.

There are two sacristies behind the altar, the walls of which are constructed of fibro-cement sheeting, panelled with Oregon. Let into the walls of the sacristies are two alcoves containing two statues of the Biessed Virgin and the Sacred Heat. These are gifts of the Sodality of the Sacred Heat and the Sodality of the Children of Mary.

The predella has three steps leading up to the altar.

The interior walls of the Church are painted white with a dado of sage green.

The ground floor is capable of seating about 800 persons and has three aisles. The main aisle is 6 feet and the two side aisles 3 feet each. There is also an aisle across the Church leading to the two side porches.

The architectural work of the building was carried out by Mr Austin McKay of Eldon Chambers, Pitt St Sydney, while Mr J G Taylor of Somerset House, Moore St Sydney is the contractor. The building bears its own tribute to the work of the architect and contractor.

The duties of Clerk of Works are in the capable hands of Mr H McGrath, of Sydney, who deserves all the praise which could be extended to him for his great work while the building was in course of construction.

The painting work, which is of a high order, was carried out by Mr J Porteous of Kempsey, while the huge job of plastering the walls was in the hands of Mr F Kelly of Kempsey.

The windows are the work of Mr John Ashwin of Sydney, and they reflect great credit on his skill.

The main building is lighted by two rows of electric lights with white opal shades.

Mr McGrath states the building as It now stands cost £7000.

#### Macleay Argus - Tuesday July 11, 1922

#### **New Catholic Church**

#### THE BANQUET

After the ceremony and service in the Church the visiting Bishops, members of the ciergy and the congregation adjourned to the school hall where a sumptuous repast was in readiness.

The room was nicely decorated with coloured streamers and the tables, which were laden with various dainties, were brightened with vases of flowers.

Rev Father

At the head of the table sat Dr Carroll, Bishop of Lismore, with Dr O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale at his right and Dr O'Farrell, Bishop of Bathurst on his left. Next to Dr O'Connor sat Mr Austin McKay, the architect, and Father Coady, of Taree, To the left of the Bishop of Bathurst sat the Mayor of Kempsey, Ald. H C Henderson and Cr J A Mannix, President of the Macleay Shire, Ald. O'Meara and Mr J G Taylor, the contractor.

Owing to the number of diners there had to be two sittings.

Dr Carroll opened the proceedings by extending a welcome to the guests, and then proposed the first toast that of the Pope and King. By this toast he said they pledged their loyalty to both Pope and King. Mr L J Hardiman proposed the toast of the visiting Bishops, Drs, O'Farrell and O'Connor. He said that day had been a memorable one for the whole of those present. It was a day for great rejoicing. Their Lordships had come a great distance to be present on this occasion. Dr O'Connor was not a stranger as he had stated he was here 46 yrs ago. Thoe only complaint the Doctor had was that he had to travel over a dangerous road to reach here. Those roads were like the poor, they were always with you. 'Laughter.' Their Lordships he knew would agree that the very elements seemed in accord with the occasion. Yesterday was bleak and dismal and now it was a beautiful day. The beautiful day was God's gift, and the Church opened that day was their offering to God. It seemed to be a sort of union between heaven and earth. The Church was truly symbolic of the brotherhood of man. All over this world – and was a great thing from the Catholics' point of view = they would always see the Cross, which was truly symbolic of the brotherhood of man.

Dr O'Connor, Bishop of Lismore, replying to the toast, thanked Mr Hardiman on behalf of his brother Bishop and himself for his most eloquent speech. Dr O'Connor sald he had just reached 74 years of age, but Mr Hardiman had made a mistake. He was not here 46 years ago. He was appointed Pastor of the Macleay district 45 yrs ago, but he did not have the pleasure of taking charge of the parish. His appointment only lasted three days when another pastor was appointed. He came to the Macleay on an official visit in 1887 and remained in the district for a fortnight. On that visit he had been greatly impressed with what he had seen on the Macleay, especially with the rich soil, and he could readily see how the people here became wealthy. He had, had a look around the district during the past few days and found it considerably changed. He had notices that West Kempsey had not progressed as he would have imagined it would. On the contrary the progress had taken place in Central Kempsey, but he supposed in time West Kempsey would progress also. It was a great pity the three portions were not in one. As far as he could see they would always have three parts in the town because of the river separating the eastern portion and the flood course the other two. West and Central, In conclusion he than ked the people for the kindness which had been extended to him while here and hoped the people would put forward their best efforts for the advancement of the town.

Mr P J O'Nelll, in proposing the toast of the visitors, both laity and clergy, said he would couple with this the Rev Father Coady, who was a native of this district. This district had every right to be proud of the members of the clergy it had produced. He mentioned the names of Monsignor McGuire and Father Hanley and said the district could well feel proud in bringing forth these three great men of the Church. 'Applause'. He was sure but for the energy and perseverance of Father Gunn they would not have had the number of visitors they had that day. Father Gunn had put in a great amount of energy and work while the Church was being constructed and he did not think that any man in Australia could have done more than he had done, and he offered him the most hearty congratulations. He trusted the visitors while here would enjoy themselves.

Father Coady, in reply, said his visit had done him the world of good for he had seen things of a very edifying nature: It was just 43 years ago since he had first seen the light in Kempsey, and he left here with his parents when he was five months only. He did not see Kempsey again until he

became a priest. He would carry away with him nothing but pleasant memories of is visit. Mr O'Neill and he were friends of very old standing.

Rev Fr John 'Joseph Coady

Mr Albert Simon responded on behalf of the lay visitors and, on behalf of the Smithtown visitors, congratulated the people of Kempsey on their magnificent Church.

Dr Carroll then proposed the toast of Kempsey and the Macleay District. He had heard a lot about loyalty and patriotism. If men were to be loyal they must begin in the district where they lived. It was the true sense of patriotism to begin in their own country. It was very foolish of people to think they were indifferent in tier

#### Rev Fr O'Regan

patriotism to the Empire. Patriotism was the gift of God and of the heart of and naturally, therefore, they were right when they carried out their woks and obligations to the Empire so long as they considered those works and obligations just had beneficent to Australia. He rejoiced that in recent years the development of Australia had been rapid, and he hoped it would continue. The Church development also was keeping pace with the development of the State and he hoped that Kempsey would be always imbued with higher spiritual ideas as well as the spirit of prosperity. The very Manner in which they claimed Monsignor McGuire and Fr Hanley did not allow of anything to be said which would be in excess of their trust in them. There was another point which showed the loyalty of the people and that was that there was no diocese that had given so many nuns as the Diocese of Lismore. That alone showed the character of the religion in the homes of the people here. He regarded it as a good omen to have present the Mayor, Ald, H C Henderson, representing the citizens of Kempsey, and Cr J A Mannix, President of the Macleay Shire Council, representing the citizens of the Macleay generally.

The Mayor of Kempsey Ald. Henderson, responding to the toast, said that on behalf of other denominations he wished to congratulate his Catholic friends on the consummation of their ideals in the completion of that wonderful Church. He had followed with interest and pleasure the efforts of the people and especially their Parish Priest to raise funds for the erection of that edifice, and they had accomplished a work which was a great credit to both. In the future he was sure the population of Kempsey would increase, and he thought it a wise action on their part to build a larger Church to make provision for a much larger congregation.

Cr J A Mannix, President of the Macleay Shire, said the great response to the appeal for funds to erect the Church had been a great and striking test on the question of the prosperity of the Macleay. He took the opportunity of congratulating Father Gunn and Father Farrelly on the magnificent building. He also wished to congratulate the gentleman who designed it. It was a credit also to the contractors and workmen. He desired to extend a hearty welcome to the visiting Bishops on behalf of the residents of the Macleay. He especially welcomed Dr O'Farrell, Bishop of Bathurst, because it was at a historical Federal Convention held at Bathurst that, that great price of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Moran, by a lofty speech moulded public opinion in favour of a free, united and intelligent Commonwealth of Australia. Beyond a doubt they had wonderful district and also a wonderful waterway and if they could get justice from the central Government, it would be alright, but they were not getting justice and were out for a new State. 'Applause'. He hoped Dr O'Connor the first Bishop of the New State capital.

Rev Father Gunn, in proposing the toast of the Architect, Mr MacKay, said it was perhaps one of the most important toasts of the day, inasmuch as everyone that day who had inspected the Church had stated it was the most beautiful and well-finished Church it had been their pleasure to see. There was no doubt it reflected great credit on the architect. Mr MacKay had drawn the plans, and Mr J G Taylor, the contractor, had expressed his ideas in bricks and mortar in a most faithful manner. The contractor had expressed in a very able manner in the finished job the design and ideas expressed by the architect on paper. A great deal of praise was due to the contractor and his workmen for they had worked under great difficulties both in weather conditions and combating continual trouble through shortage of material. Mr MacKay's and Mr Taylors work would always be a pride to the residents of the Macleay. He also wished to congratulate Mr William Newton, who represented the man.

Mr MacKay, the architect, in response said is constant connection during the procedure of the work with Father Gunn had been of the most pleasurable nature. He had noticed about town Father

Gunn was regarded as a sport, but in his opinion he was also a very astute business man. He owed a lot to the honest work of Mr J G Taylor, who had carried out is ideas faithfully and well. He had not occasion even once to find fault with his work. Mr Taylor had been aided in his work by the loyalty of the man in his employ and the result of this loyalty was very apparent in the completion of the Church.

Mr J G Taylor, responding, said when they employed Mr MacKay, in his opinion they secured the services of one of the most eminent architects in Sydney He had been very much struck on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone when his Lordship spoke so eulogistically of the workmen, as he had never before experienced such an honour. The men had responded to this honour and had given every satisfaction in their work throughout.

Dr O'Farrell then proposed the clergy of the Diocese. When he accepted the invitation, he did not expect to see anything like such a wonderful Church or so great and enthusiastic a congregation. He was particularly struck by the intelligence of that same congregation. There was another great thing he had discovered here and that was the unity between the clergy and the people. He did not think that any Bishop was blessed with better young priests than the Bishop of this Diocese. A Bishop could not hope to carry out his work successfully without the co-operation of his priests. If that same co-operation had not been present here, he doubted whether that magnificent Church which stood there to-day would have materialised. It had been said that Father Gunn was regarded as a sport. In this direction he wished to make it clear he had nothing against any young priest enjoying his amusements provided he was faithful to his Church. There was another thing he could not but mention and that was the link between Bathurst and Kempsey. He referred to that well-known and much-respected priest who was buried in the Cemetery here, the Rev Father John Grace Buggy. This priest who had passed away had done great work in the great bush when travelling was difficult and had to be done for the most part on horseback.

Rev Father O'Regan spoke reminiscently of his early days on the Macleay and at Lismore. He spoke of the great progress made in this district since he came here years ago. He remembered the time when the Church walls at Lismore could be pushed in with the hand, they were so eaten with white ants. On top of that there was a deficit on the Church of £1000. At that time two priests had to do the whole of the northern district and a very hard task it proved for them. Since Bishop Carroll had come to the district it had advance by leaps and bounds. 'Applause'. In conclusion he extended a hearty welcome to the visiting Bishops.

Dr Carroll expressed special thanks to the ladles of the Church for the splendid way in which they had provided the dinner for the visitors., **He stated he would also like to mention and specially thank the guarantors, who were as follows:** 

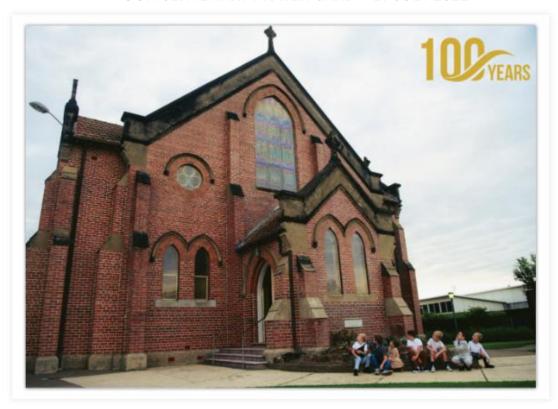
Monsignor McGuire, Messrs W O'Meara, Peter Reed, J E Connelly, Pat McNally, 1 Geary, Dr McElhone, L I Hardiman, J M Brosnan, P J O'Nelli, H A McGuire, W H Sheridan and Miss Toohey. He said these people had carried the real burden of the work. They could do nothing without the funds being guaranteed by these people.

Mr J Geary proposed the toast of the press, and the representatives of the Argus' and 'Chronicle' replied.

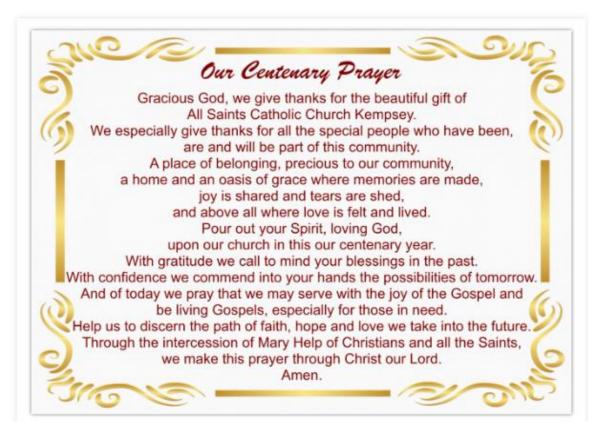
The above articles came from the Macleay Argus editorials published

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 1922

#### OUR CENTENARY PRAYER CARD – 17 JULY 2022



**Front of Prayer Card** 



**Reverse of Prayer Card** 

# PAPAL BLESSINGS AWARDED TO PARISHIONERS

IN 2021 AND 2022 A NUMBER OF KEMPSEY'S LONGSTANDING PARISHIONERS WERE AWARDED PAPAL BLESSINGS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE PARISH



COLIN AND PATRICIA HASSETT- 19 SEPTEMBER 2021
THIS WAS ALSO THEIR DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



JACK CHAPMAN- 19 SEPTEMBER 2021
JUST ONE MONTH SHY OF TURNING 102



KEITH HENRY (left) & PETER SCOTT (right) - 5 JUNE 2022 LIFELONG MATES SERVING THE PARISH SINCE THEIR YOUTH



## MEMORIES OF BISHOP GREGORY HOMEMING

My memories of Macleay Valley Parish begin in 2017 when Fr Paul Gooley was parish priest. Since then my visits have been frequent and I have watched Fr James Foster become a much-loved shepherd of the parish. I enjoy coming to Kempsey because I have always been welcomed and treated by the community. I am also proud of the parish for its extraordinary community spirit and commitment to the care of those in need. The schools of the parish are respected and students are proud to belong to the school. I pray that you will continue to prosper and ask God's blessing on the parish.

# **Bishop Greg**



Bishop Greg Homeming, 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Lismore, Blessing and Opening the new Parish Office



Bishop Greg during the visit of the Relics of Saint Alphonsa



Bishop Greg and Father James Foster at an Afternoon Tea with the Parish Pastoral Council, during a Bishops Parish Visit.

# MEMORIES and ADDRESS of THOMAS KENEALLY for the BLESSING and REDEDICATION OF THE LOURDES GROTTO

It is a massive honour for me to be invited to speak at this sanctuary that meant so much to my forebears, both Tim and Kate Keneally, who came from North Cork to build and operate the store now called Chaddy's in East Kempsey, and Mick and Hilda Coyle of West Kempsey. Father Foster in his generosity for and tolerance of strange characters has invited me here to commemorate in particular the relationship between Mick Coyle, a locomotive driver between Taree and Grafton, and the sanctuary of All Saints.

In the school adjoining this parish church both my parents were educated, and indeed from this hill I can see where my parents and my infant self lived in Sea Street, in the late years of peace and the onset of World War Two. Throughout my early childhood Old Mick Coyle was a presence, a self-taught historian, a Union Man who slowed his train to let the travelling poor men of the Depression on and Off the suspension beneath carriages, a choice engine drivers made then to help the travelling poor board or leave trains.

He was a St Vincent de Paul man, and when a man travelling, without anyone knowing, on top of a goods truck was killed in an instant aboard his train by a low tunnel capstone, he dressed the dead man in a decent suit and brought his wife from Sydney to attend the funeral.

We went to Sydney when my father, Tom Keneally, enlisted in the armed forces and was then sent to the Middle East. Before that happened I had at four or five attended the adjoining school here for one day, but that night was diagnosed with diphtheria, the frightful disease which still killed hundreds of children a year in Australia. With the lucky majority I survived, and by the time I was out of hospital my father had been sent to Wauchope by the post office.

My fellow grandchildren were in particular the Bully girls of West Kempsey, though at that stage Peter Scott's amiable wife Trish had not been born. I am sure the Bully girls' father, Joe Bully, a man of natural style and generosity, and not a Catholic, helped Mick a great deal on that grotto. But all we kids knew that our grandpa, Mick Coyle had created the grotto here as a homage and a desperate pleading to the Holy Family. We see in the grotto a man clinging to the old stalwarts of the Irish Church, the Christ Child, vulnerable himself, and tender intercessor on our behalf, the Madonna.

These days the Catholic Church has a broader range of people worshipping. The children of Croatians, Dutch, Italian, English, Bavarians, Chinese, Polish background can be found in most Catholic churches now. But in my childhood, before the great emigrations following World War Two, the people were mainly of Irish descent. The Irish was still suspected of disloyalty and all manner of plotting against the Australian state. In 1935, the now remote year of my birth our day, the Church was primarily Irish and Catholics were suspect, believe it or not, as Muslims have been say in the 90s, and even now.

As for Mick himself, when he was born (in 1886) the Irish famine and the persecution of Catholics under the British UK penal laws was a living memory. Ireland was a backward colony where Catholics -- and indeed, Presbyterians --were required to pay tithes to the official state church of the state, which was not theirs. The Irish peasant lived on his yearly crop of potatoes, and it was one of the three foodstuffs the family encountered regularly, including buttermilk and oatmeal. I have seen the results of a famine in East Africa in the 1970s, and the way that when people grow hungry and then, various infections strike their bodies and finish off the process of dying in nine out of ten starving cases. One night in the autumn of 1845 a "vampire fungus" that had crossed in ships from America struck the potato crop in the small holdings of Ireland and reduced the plants to putrefied stalk and fruit. It is true what the great Indian analyst, Amatya Sen, whom I had the honour to meet once in Calcutta (yes, Calcutta and See Street are on the one earth), says about famine – it can never happen in a representative democracy. Hunger, yes, malnourishment, yes, but fullblooded famine, if it manifested itself in Kempsey today, would be in every species of current affair show by tomorrow night, and all the Commonwealth would be crying for government action. Not in Ireland though, for the starving did not have the vote and no one to appeal to. A million a half Irish died and a million and a half immigrated to the new world. And some of those sent to eastern Australia as convicts were famine protesters of various kinds, and stealers of produce being shipped out of the country.

The Famine was one event that cemented the Irish to the church. It was the only place in which they were awarded dignity. But even if they went to America and Australia they never escaped bigotry about the Irish. That is why

I think we should always be suspicious of politicians who tell us to feel fearful about one of another group. We should not fall into line when it comes to dislike, and hate, we should ask first what is in it for the demagogue and the politician? In any case, Mick Coyle, influenced by the Famine and its lessons, turned to the church when he felt he was not given standing in civil society.

His youngest daughter, Betty, was struck by a car in River Street and died horrifically injured. She is buried not far from the gate of the cemetery in West Kempsey, where the Keneallys, husband and wife, are also buried.

The coroner, on the basis of the autopsy, brought down a verdict of accidental death and Old Mick, still a youngish father of a family, and Hilda his wife, were stricken. They had to deal with the fact that the civil system had not given Betty the standing she should have had, and had bowed to the privilege and position of the driver who killed Betty. When his natural impulses for retribution and justice had nowhere to run, Mick did what the Famine people did and looked to the symbols of his religion for relief. He worked on that grotto as a tribute to the church and to his dead, shattered and voiceless daughter. He found his justice where he could, knowing that although Australia was a more benign place then Ireland, it was still not a place where the Irish could expect the fullest justice they would later come to inherit.

The grotto, built nearly a century ago, was old Mick's way of finding peace, without self-destruction. The world being what it is, even in the modern world, there must be people who have come here for similar reasons, in an attempt to have a near intolerable weight of grief lifted from them. Old Mick Coyle, the engine driver the unionist, was your brother.

He died earlier than the raw medical facts seemed to justify, in Penrith, where he and Hilda had lived with their children when he was a freshly minted driver. He remembered the old mountain railway, and how his firemen one night soon after World War I had been Ben Chifley, a future federal Treasurer and Prime Minister.

Now we all face dreadful times, bullied by a micro-organism and its variations. There is no certainty and there is vast financial stress facing many people just when they should be enjoying their best years. I do hope intensely that things improve, and can only leave a donation with Father Foster for the St Vincent de Paul Old Mick used be an active member of. In

the meantime, thank you for letting me remember my grandfather here, and whatever anguish we have, I remember an injunction of the great Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, a genius and a helpless alcoholic but somehow a prophet too. He urged us to "sing like the sea in our chains." I hope you are able to do so, until the chains drop from our wrists.



A picture of the Grotto approx. 1935



Mick Coyle and his Wife Hilda



Inside the Lourdes Grotto July 2022

#### The Lourdes Grotto - Impressive Religious Ceremony

The Kempsey Catholic Church held a crowded congregation on Sunday afternoon last on the occasion of a special visit by the Right Rev Dr Farrelly, Coadjutor Bishop of Lismore for the purpose of blessing the Lourdes Grotto erected in the Church grounds. People were present from all parts of the Macleay district, and also visiting clergy and the ceremony was a most dignified and impressive one.

The Grotto has been erected just within the entrance gates of the Church grounds and is an imposing and artistic structure. Composed of pieces of stone set in cement, it is a true representation of a natural cave or grotto. The inside has been hung with baskets of fern and palms, while the besides are bedecked with staghorns and elikhorns. Within the grotto the appropriate statuary and an electric light sends a diffused light over the scene depicted within.

The Rev Father Morris conducted the first portion of the service and extended a welcome to Dr Farrelly and the wisiting clergy. He extended thanks to Mr & Mrs Fallon, who had provided the statues for the Grotto, a donation equal to £50. All the work had been done by voluntary labour. He explained that the idea of erecting the Grotto originated with Mr Mic Coyle, of the St Vincent de Paul Society, and through his persistent advocacy had become a fact. The work had been taken charge of by Mr Tom McCafferty, who was greatly assisted by Mr Coyle and Mr A Herbert, while Mr Ern Wooderson had done a lot of carting for the job free of charge. Mr Jim McElhone and other members of the St Vincent de Paul Society had also assisted and to all who had given of their time and help he desired to extend deepest appreciation and thanks. He felt assured that their labour and work would be rewarded.

The Right Rev Dr Farrelly gave an Interesting address in the events which fed up to the present-day miracles which took place at the Grotto in Lourdes, France. They were no hearsay miracles, but miracles accepted only after the keenest and deepest research by leading medical and clerical men of the world, and the cures that had been affected were astounding. He said that seventy-odd years ago there occurred an event in France which was destined to have far reaching consequences. In the Pyrences Mountains there was a small town of scarcely 6000 souls, of no importance whatever but as a military outpost, not possessed of precious metals, nor agricultural advantages which would make for commercial eminence, yet it had within its borders that which was destined to raise it to the highest pinnacle of fame and enable it to take its place as one of the outstanding cities of the world. The town of Lourdes was drawing people like a magnet and was fast becoming as familiarly known as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. What was the reason? On February 11th, 1858, as the Angelus bells were tolling forth their message a poor peasant child was out in the fields with two companions and while hesitating to cross a stream, she heard a voice and on turning round was astounded to see a grotto a beautiful lady clothed in white from head to foot, and carrying in her hand a glistening rosary, and the lady conversed with the little peasant child. The features of the child gradually underwent a miraculous change, and thousands of people began to gether around to see what was taking place. On 25th February the visitation again appeared, and the child was told to scratch the earth at the mouth of the grotto, and immediately water came forth and had been running continually ever since. That was had since been responsible for miraculous cures. The lady had revealed to the child her identity as the 'Immaculate Conception,' a new title under which the Mother of Christ was to be honoured by the Catholic Church. The peasant girl had Immediately risen from her lowly estate and through the edict of Pope Pius the 9th was now St Bernadette. The speaker said that many had gone to Lourdes to scoff but had come away convinced of the powers of the Grotto and its cures. A priest of the Lismore Diocese had visited Lourdes and while on the statin there met a woman who had been miraculously cured of consumption at the Grotto. They parted, and he never expected to see her again, but on entering a hospital on the North Coast he met the Sister and the recognition was mutual, for the nurse was the lady he had met on the station at Lourdes. The speaker added that, while the physical cures were remarkable, the spiritual cures were far more so. He was intensely pleased to see that the people of Kempsey had seen fit to propagate the devotion of Our Lady of Lourdes, and he felt assured that their action would merit the favour of the Mother of Christ. He desires to congratulate the donors of the statues, and all those who had assisted in the construction of the Grotto.

A procession was then formed from the Church, headed by the Cross-bearer and Acolytes, the Children of Mary, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society and Hibernian Society, the Bishop and Clergy, followed by the whole congregation. At the conclusion of the Biessing of the Grotto the congregation returned to the Church and Benediction was given and the ceremonies concluded with the singing of the well-known hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers' by the whole congregation.

Those to be credited for the erection of the GROTTO are: Mr Coyle, Mr Tom McCafferty, Mr Tony Herbert, Mr James McElhone, Mr Ern Wooderson Mr Brian and Mrs Catherine Fallon –

The newspaper had credited Mr S Wooderson for his work but it was Mr Ern Wooderson .. Details given by Phyllis – within family history of the Wooderson family.

# MEMORIES and ADDRESS by MAYOR LEO HAUVILLE

Good morning, everyone. I would like acknowledge Bishop Gregory Homeming, Bishop Geoffrey Jarret, Mr Thomas Kenneally, Sister Cabrini, Father James Foster and all special guests and Parishioners here today. I would also like to make mention of a special family friend, and friend to many here, Mr Jack Chapman, who is older than this building, with him being 102 years young. Regrettably, he is not able to be here with us.

It is a great honour for me as Mayor of Kempsey Shire Council to be attend. We are gathered for this special occasion of the 100 years anniversary of the opening and dedication of this magnificent building, All Saints Catholic Church.

Kempsey Shire is wholly within the lands of the Dunghutti people, the original settlers who have resided in the area for thousands of years. I acknowledge the Dunghutti elders past, and present, and any other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people with us today. There are several things I would like to tell you about this morning. Firstly, the Changes in Kempsey since 1922.

Then, recognition of the amazing donors who financed the construction of the Church.

And finally, some remarkable facts about the construction of this unique church, All Saints.

Father James Foster and the committee, organising this special event, asked me to present this speech to parallel the then Kempsey's Mayor speech, which occurred at the 1922 event. Much of my information comes from the Macleay Argus' and Macleay Chronicles of 1922.

100 years ago, the then Mayor of Kempsey, Alderman Henderson said it was his pleasure to be here and represent different sections of the Kempsey community.

Like Alderman Henderson, I too would like to convey congratulations to the parish. He remarked on the tangible steps people took to progress this church as a centre of the Parish. He went on to remark that the Catholic people had taken the opportunity of very good years to construct what would be a very handsome church. He congratulated the people on enterprise upon the work, which they had already shown in this regard towards paying off the debt. ... the energy of Father Gunn fairly and whose direction had not so generously responded. had shown they would pay off without difficulty".

# Changes

Over the last 100 years there have been many changes in the Kempsey Shire. The population of the Shire have increased remarkably from approximately 11000 people in 1922 to the latest census showing there are now 30,688 people living in the Shire In 1922 Kempsey was the main centre between Taree and Grafton. There were small villages on the coast like Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour. People travelled from many of these little villages to shop and be entertained in Kempsey.

Kempsey was then surrounded by farming communities. Today there are many more populated villages with a diverse range of employment.

A visit to Sydney was mostly by train, as the roads were narrow,

windy and somewhat dangerous. Few people could afford to own a car. Train travel had come to Kempsey just five years prior, in 1917. Now, in 2022, with the Pacific Motorway, a trip will be under 5 hours by car.

## Costs and Donors 1922

I have calculated a comparison of costs then and converted it to present day dollars. Based on the then average wage, one pound then is worth \$71 today.

Costs: building contractor \$422,450, architect \$15,904, Candlesticks \$5,538. Total cost was approximately \$710,000

At the opening there were still outstanding debts. The Contractor was owed \$40,825 and other expenses totalled \$259,008

The Diocese contributed \$35,500.

On the opening day, the plate was passed around with over 150 attendees donating. The three top donors were Bishop Carroll, Mr J.M. Brosnan and Cr W. O'Meara who together contributed 152 pounds, the equivalent of \$10,827

#### The Construction

The foundation stone was laid in January 1922 and this building was opened 7 months later in July. The Macleay Argus reported: "On entering the main hall one realises the immensity of the structure... The roof towers above, constructed of Oregon supports and girders. The supports, which are beautifully designed, rest on wrought stone pillars. The lining of the ceiling is of Baltic pine which contrasts nicely with the dark timber of the supports."

The floor area is 70 ft by 40 ft to where the altar rails were. Within

this area there is seating for a congregation of 800.

The stained-glass windows over the entrance were dedicated to George Ptolemy after his mother, Mrs George Ptolemy, donated them to the new Church. Private George Ptolemy (31 years of age) was killed in action in World War 1 in Picardie, France on 20 May, 1918.

On opening day in 1922 there were 2000 people in attendance. Half the population!

**Thanks** 

I would like to thank Father Foster for the invitation to be with you to share this special centenary of our Church of All Saints.

To conclude: During the High Mass on that opening and dedication day, Doctor Carroll, Bishop of Lismore remarked the church beautiful, as a gift to God, but it would never have its perfect beauty until it was free from debt. I have been told the building now has perfect beauty! Marrungbu, thank you.

Leo Hauville,

Mayor, Kempsey Shire Council.

# MEMORIES of a Child - KRYSTAL CLARK'S SON

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is ... Seeing Isl



#### MEMORIES of a Child - GRACE HARMAN

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



we can come and

Proy and Spend time
with the lord in his
house. It is also Amazing
because you can forget
about all your sinns.

by Grace Harman

#### **Grace Harman wrote**

"We can come and prey and Spend time with the lord in his house. It is also Amazing because you can forget about all your sinns."

#### **MEMORIES of RITA SINCLAIR**

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



. It gives me a sense of belonging and calm when I pray There

The parish priest and parishioners are friendly and welcoming.

Gives me a sense of spiritual community fellowship.

I have been living in Australia for 51 years and this kempsey is the only church I feel that it is my church I feel that it is my church - like the Church I was baptised in Malaysia, 55 years ago.

Rita SINCLAIR

# MEMORIES of THERESE RUSSELL (FETTERPLACE)

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



. When I was in 4th Class my friend anne Claske (daughter of Bernard , Ritel Clarke) were asked by SI Bernard to help clean the church on a daturday morning. We would have to get the candle warsof the candle holders & then Brassothem. Dust the alter Rail! neatly died! to the communion rails. We dusted the santuary area & back area of the shouch where I Krink the Baptisms were attended. There was replaced of the holy water at the Entrence areas. The theat following this was morning tea with a glass of milks & bread whether with hundreds & thousands Cut into 4 thrangles or honey, on the Convent Verandaly The church was very much part of our pamilies life, Sunday mads, Confessions that we The family were all Baphood but all Staint and received boly Commission & Confirmation For First Comming there was & tryns that still bring, me to tears when I hear them, "you have some to

my heart Pearest Jung you are welcome a hittle white Government, and the First Communican Long. Beautiful I simewheath at there was a Sinday Mass Duce a month for Mend - The Holy Mame Society. a Mass for the Children of Mary - (I loved the blue deloaks that they were on the Sundays) I am not sure what the women of the parish had, tast I think they also had a designated Sinday. I remember the hat in Masses and I can still reate The Our Father a some of the Mass. Benedution was in Latin, and I still Eiggy going to Bendiction when g can. I remember their were alway prients callin in to our home at the comes March Milier ST. (The Catholic Poctor House) as they may have been called to the Hospital when Dad-Reg (Fellesplace was on call at the Hospital) for Emergences. The priest, would be on eall for anounting of the sector, and they would call back home for a coop of tea, coming back to Bempsey in the Pate 1980's my husband John Russell was received into the church and this was the highlight of my life, when he herame a latholic of his own will and for his 151 Communion the 2 first Comminconshymis were sungly Joan Clarke " Pat Hassett on the organ, more treats plouved that day She church continues to be a part of my life. But the early days have wonderful memories Therese Petterplan Kussell

#### MEMORIES of JERRY Van Der VEER

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



Jerry van der Veer

When I first entered ALL SAINTS Kempsey in 1969, I was struck by the fact that in the front half of the church every pew was filled by an entire family such as a pew of Kings, a pew of Purcells, a pew of Hurdens, a pew of McCuskers and so forth and of course my family made it a pew of van der Veers.

My eldest brother. Fr. Abel, at that time parish priest of Mareeba Qld. was here on a holiday break round 1972. My kids had not really met him before this but we introduced him as Uncle Abel when he arrived wearing his holiday gear. Two days later Abel celebrated the Sunday Mass here in All Saints. My Son Lyle, about 6 years old, could not contain himself and yelled in an enormously loud voice "what's Uncle Abel doin' up there dressed up like God for?!!"

When we mentioned to Fr. Perry that Dawn and I would soon be married 25 years he stated that, in the light that so many marriages do not last, we should do something to celebrate the milestone. So on TUESDAY 28th APRIL 1987 at the 7pm Mass Dawn and I renewed our wedding vows. No sooner had Fr. Perry pronounced us Man and Wife than the thunderous crash-bang of fireworks burst forth from the Kempsey Show.

One of my favourite memories was during the ordination of Fr. Colin Rheinhardt. The choir and organ were still in the loft then and the acoustics were such that one could here one's own voice travelling along one sidewall and return by way of the other. And on that day my vocal cords must have been in top condition because I heard them loud and clear. I reckon the angels must have been singing with me.

#### MEMORIES of CLARE Van Der VEER

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My first recollection of ALL SAINTS, Kempsey was during the time I boarded at the convent. I was given the charge, after school and Saturday mornings, to help the sisters clean the candlesticks, wash and polish the floor in the sanctuary. The Sisters would place fresh flowers on the alter and the linen cloth fied to the inside of the alter rails would be changed for a fresh one.

I remember when the statue of our Lady of Fatirna was brought to our parish. A special extension was added to Our Lady's pedestal, a bolt of blue satin was pleated and arranged behind the statue, an abundance of flowers and candles made a beautiful and impressive display. A wonderful memory.

The boarders attended Mass each morning and if there were no altar boys to serve, the boarders would alte the Latin responses during that Mass. On Sundays the boarders would attend the early Mass, then again at 10 am (after breakfast) And in the evening Benediction. At that time Benediction was also held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

It was the first time I have ever witnessed a High Mass con-celebrated in Latin.by 3 priests with appropriate chants, pomp and ceremony. Very impressive.

The first Holy Communion Masses were a lovely spectacle. Flower girls would enter the church spreading petals on the floor. They were followed by the communicants, the girls all dressed in white and looking angelic. The boarders had a good view of the procession as they were singing in the choir, then stationed in the loft.

My parents Henry and Daisy Powick were married in ALL SAINTS, as were Gordon and Lurlene Mainey. In 1956 I married Peter Mainey here. All of our children were baptized here giving me many wonderful and lovely memories of this beautiful church, All Saints Catholic of Kempsey.

Clare Powick-Mainey -van der Veer

#### **MEMORIES of a PARISHIONER**

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....

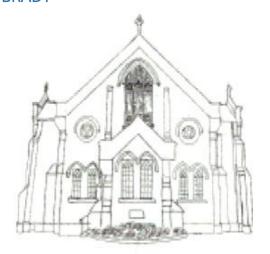


Jor Many Years there was The Catholic Women's Club" we had Garden Parties, Concert's like this one held in the Church Hall for Christmas 1981. In this photo there are many of us - Norma Cooper, alleen Rosten Freda ..... Noleen Millard, Wyn Henshaw, Margarel Patterson, Sheila Fisher, Noleen Tompson.



#### MEMORIES of JUDY BRADY

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



The All Saints Catholic Church, Kempsey, has been such a big part of my families lives. We have experienced many happy and sad times within the walls of this wonderful old building but with every event, this building has provided a haven for faithfilled, community rich and loving memories.

My first ever visit was the First Holy Communion of my husband's nephew more than 35 years ago. We had just moved back to Kempsey and although my husband grew up here, it was my first Mass here. From the moment I sat in the pew near the side entrance, from then on my usual seat, I fell in love with this amazing building. But more than just the four walls, I was filled with the joy of community, the faith and the love of the people who prayed with me that day.

There have been many Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and Sacraments each which hold a special place in my heart. Walking down the aisle myself on my dad's arm, only weeks before he passed away with him saying to me, this church is taking my breath away, always brings a smile to my face. The Baptisms of my children and grandchildren and all of their sacraments, watching them Altar serve and each one of my grandchildren being Baby Jesus at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass and my daughter and son in law's Wedding are just to name a few.

This building, our beloved Church, is more than just a venue to celebrate our faith, it is a part of our faith journey and one I hope will continue for many years to come.

Judy Brady

### **MEMORIES of JENNIFER HILE**

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



1962 I started instruction in the Catholic faith. I was a practising Anghican when I met John Maines. When we got engaged Iwanted to be a Catholic the same as John.

I had instruction one on one with Father Goad. It was a special time and I loved coming to the Presbyton and meeting with Father Word in the room which used to be the Parish office. At that time it had beautiful cedar function.

I made my Tirst Communion one winters midweeth Morning Mass. It was just a normal Mass and I went on my own. No fanfure or family. John's family lived at Toorooked an hour & a half journey to Kempsey in those days.

Never the less it was a most memorable day for me.

I will never forget the wonderful feeling I had.

Other memorable times were my marriage to John, the childrens sacraments, unfortunately John's death & funeral in 1996. I had another marriage in the church in 2006 to Inever Nile.

Jennifer Hile Nee Mainey Nee Delveij

#### **MEMORIES of HELEN COUNIHAN**

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My best memory of all Saints batholic bhurch is the day I married Tom, exter a very hectic year.

at the line we were married I was in the middle of treatment for breast concer- I had NO hair NO eyebrows etc. I thought- a bald head cannot hold a veil, so I asked the lady at Port Macquarie Bridal shop could her friend in western Australia create a bathing cap type "cap for my head.

We were married by Father Park yooley- 17. October 2009- with all our families in attendance a some of our friends.

I have the friendship of our "kircle of Friends" family group and the way people look out for one another particularly when sick or in bad times.

Helen + Jom bourihan.

Ps: I love where I live-Kempsey.



Tom and Helen married 17 October 2009

L to R: Jessika & Ashley (Grandchildren),
Helen, Tom, Father Paul Gooley & Tom's
brother Edward

Outside the Church
Helen, Tom and Father Paul Gooley



#### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - PATRICK HANRAHAN

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My favourite memory from the Kempsey All Saints Catholic Church was the six years serving as an altar boy from 1968 to 1974. In those days the altar boys were recruited from the boys who attended St Paul's College which I attended from Year 5 in 1968.

We were trained at St Paul's College in how to serve during the Mass and we wore red and white robes with red slippers, which were kept at the Church. Getting a pair of slippers to fit was a challenge. The fun part included ringing the large bell at the back of the Church ten minutes before Mass started using the dangling rope. The sheer weight of the bell could lift you metres off the ground. There were also the altar boy larrikins too, who on occasion would loosen the nuts on the small bell rung during Mass so that it would fall apart when rung. Thankfully that trick was not played on me, but I checked that bell before every Mass I served.

The altar boy role was very important to assist the Priest in the celebration of the Mass and you felt special as you would light the candle in the red cover each Mass to signal that God was now present. The altar boys developed great friendships in working as a team as three or four were needed for the Sunday services. The highlight of the year for the altar boys was the altar boys picnic day at the beach at the end of the year while all the other students had normal school. That made everything worth it!

After a stint doing Sunday Masses, I chose to serve during the week either on Friday afternoon Mass or Saturday morning Mass, which you did as a lone altar boy with the Priest. The altar boys back then also served at funerals and the Priest would seek out available altar boys and most would be happy to volunteer on a school day. I remember I got to do a lot of Saturday funerals with Father Kelly as I did not play team sports but played golf so could be available when needed. Father Kelly and I formed a good funeral team on Saturdays back then even though it was never a happy event.



These are the favourite memories for me at Kempsey All Saints Catholic Church.

Patrick Hanrahan

#### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - THERESE HANRAHAN

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My favourite memory when I was young was of my First Holy Communion Day especially the beautiful hymn "O Mary Mother Sweetest Best" and every time I hear it I am reminded of that special day. I also fondly remember the First Communion Breakfast in the parish hall organised by the Sisters of Mercy where we were seated at long tables and a plate of cakes & slices was placed in front of each of us and my sister & I couldn't believe that we got to eat the whole plate ourselves!

Another favourite memory when young was attending Sunday Mass with my parents and siblings and then after Mass catching up with all the relatives under the very large tree that used to be out the front and our group was always the last to leave the Church on Sundays!

What I like most about All Saints Church now is the great friendships I have made with other parishioners (and Fr James) and the special feeling of belonging with the whole community of the Church. Also knowing that I can call on so many of my Church friends if I need help in any way or extra prayers for some special need.



Therese Tedd (nee Hanrahan)



# MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - GAIL CARTER (nee HANRAHAN)

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My favourite memory when I was young was of the visiting missions held in All Saints Church and we could buy Rosary Beads and holy cards. I still have one of those cards of Saint Gerard Majella which I gave to my mother for Easter.

What I like best about All Saints Church is the opportunity to meet old and new friends as well as extended family. And I was married in All Saints Church on Saturday 15th November 1980, the same Church where my parents Kath & Jim Hanrahan

were married on 19th May 1951. Gail Carter (nee Hanrahan)



## MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - JENNY SYMER (nee GALVIN)

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My Nana Vera Galvin's 90th Birthday is my favourite memory. Veronica Galvin's (nee Purcell) milestone was recognised with family and friends attending the Saturday evening Mass celebrated by Fr Peter Perry on 26th October, 1985. This was followed by a Birthday celebration in the parish

hall attended by Vera's sister Mary Ryan and brother Jack Purcell as well as Vera's children Jack Galvin, Dorothy Anderson, Frank Galvin, Ron Galvin & Clare Alexander and many grandchildren and friends.

Jenny Symer (nee Galvin)







VERA WITH DAUGHTER DOROTHY LISTENING TO GEOFF ADAMS (MC)

KATHRYN & FRANK FOGARTY WITH JIM & KATH HANRAHAN & MARIE GALVIN.



VERA WITH HER SISTER MARY & SON JACK



NORMA COOPER, SUE KEAST & PAT GALVIN

#### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - PAUL AND MARGARET SHERIDAN

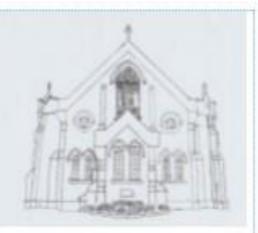
Our family have enjoyed a long relationship with All Saints Catholic Church. My husband, Paul's father and mother, Philip and Connie Sheridan were married at the Church in 1936. Paul and I were married by Father William O'Hare in the Church on 7th September 1963. Our eldest son Patrick and his wife, Kerrie were also married in the Church in 1996. We have 4 children who have all been baptised and received all the sacraments in the Church as we did. Paul and I and our children all attended St Joseph's Primary School. We look forward to enjoying our community for years to come. Paul and Margaret Sheridan





#### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - PETER SCOTT

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



This grand now 100 year old Church has created many wonderful good times and memories for my family and ancestors as they passed down through the years, with many baptisms, first communious, confirmations, weddings and funerals, all an important part in our family life.

My wife Trish received all of her childhood sacraments here in this Church as she attended St Joseph's primary school. My childhood sacraments were at the Smithtown parish as I attended the Smithtown convent school with Fr Thomas Morris the Parish Priest.

I came to live in Kempsey when I was fifteen after my parents finished dairy farming. Trish and I were married in All Saints Church in 1968 where our children received their childhood sacraments and two of them were also married in this Church.

One of my most memorable family sacraments was the baptism of our youngest son Matthew in October 1989. Fr Peter Perry suggested that he would baptise Matthew

during the Saturday night Mass and this was enjoyed by all the parishioners who attended the Mass and no homily required!

Peter Scott Diemories



Trish & Peter Scott with Matthew, Sarah, Andrew & Ben

#### MEMORIES OF MARY JOSEPHINE GRIMALDI

Josephine Mainey and Nino Grimaldi married on 19 December 1959 at All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey

There began the integration of two very different families and cultures, which was fairly unheard of in a small country town in those times.

After their wedding the blue eyed Irish Catholic girl from the Macleay Valley started a new life in Gydney with her strong accented Italian husband.

They had four children together and raised them with the experiences of both Australian city and country living, alongside the influences of Italian Heritage.

Josephine was a strong woman that worked very hard in many different positions in her lifetime. In later years

Josephine was employed at Parliament house in Gydney.

She became the first female attendant to be appointed in the Lower House of Representatives, a major achievement for women at the time. She retired after 14 years of service in 2004.



#### MEMORIES OF NOELINE and PHILIP REILLY

Noeline and Philip attended St Josephs Primary School Kempsey together from the ages of 10.

Their friendship and romance began when they were just 17 at the Catholic Debutante Ball.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1962 they were married at All Saints Catholic Church by the Rev Father Pascal O'Halloran (a first cousin of Philip's father Brendan Reilly). It was a beautiful day that has stood the test of time.

Noeline's parents William Gordon and Mary May better known as Molly Mainey had a large family of 12 children. Ten of their children were married at All Saints. One of the children little Myra tragically died at the age of 7 one week after she made her first communion. Such a terrible said time for the family.

After Noeline and Philip marriage they made their home in Sydney. Philip worked in catering at Central Railway Station and Noeline stayed at home to care for their 5 children. She later carried on the tradition and was employed at Sydenham Railway Station.

In 1992 the couple returned to the Macleay and built a in South West Rocks. They have recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary and have had a long and happy life together and are still going strong.



#### MEMORIES OF AUDRY AND BILL BLEWITT

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My marriage to Bill Blewith was on July 23d 1960. Tather arithmy Hoade officialed. Our son anthony (Jony) named affect Our priest. Aways welcomed by all church Jamily.

Our son Jony married Jacqueline Piltard in 1998, Grand children Kiri, Kai v Katherine a blessing.



Bill Blewitt Married Audry Bowen 23 July 1960 by Father Anthony Hoade



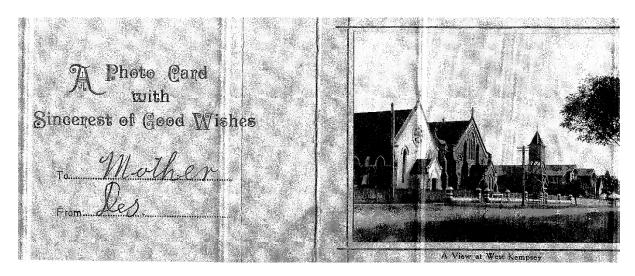
Tony Blewitt married Jacqueline Pittard,
7 March 1998



Baptism of Kai.

Kai is with big sister Keri and Mum Jacqueline & Dad Tony.

#### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - SUSANNAH CAVANAGH



**All Saints Catholic Church and Convent** 

Christmas Postcard sent to Susannah Cavanagh from son Desmond Cavanagh.

Susannah Chapman married Charles Cavanagh 29 March 1910 in the old All

Saints Church



The Catholic Precinct (L – R) Old All Saints Church, New All Saints Church opened July 1922, Belfry Tower, Convent and St Joseph's School (photo taken around 1928 from near the Railway Station)

#### A MESSAGE FROM EGENIA RAUCH

Thomas and Ellen Clarke arrived in Sydney on 7 th February 1836 forging a strong Catholic faith. After living in the Hunter Valley, Thomas and his sons selected land on the Macleay and in the 1860's they moved north. Their five daughters married local men, moved away from Kempsey but maintained ties with the area. The sons prospered and their large extended family grew, and the Clarkes became well known in the Catholic community. The youngest son, Francis, represented the NSW and Federal seats of the Macleay. He was the first Member for Cowper.

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey was the site of hundreds of Clarke baptisms, marriages, and Requiem Masses. The faith of the five daughters of Thomas and Maude Clarke forged there, leading to their lives spent in the Service of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Other Clarke girls attended the church and strengthened their faith in a time when dances and youth groups gave young people the opportunity to meet others of similar values. Sunday Mass was the highlight of the week when, after mass you could catch up with your brothers, aunties, and cousins, and find out the family, and local news. With over 7.000 descendants, there is much news to tell.

The Clarke Family extends to Fr James, and the Parishioners of All Saints Catholic Church, best wishes for the Centenary of the building of the church and for the planned celebrations.

**Eugenia Rauch** 

**Author- Clarkes in Australia** 

**July 2022** 

#### FAMILY MEMORIES OF JOAN CLARKE

# My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



#### JOAN CHRISTINE CLARKE nee JEFFERY

As a former student at St Joseph's and St Pius X High, I have wonderful memories of our beautiful All Saints Catholic Church. It was such an important part of school life and there was a regular routine after we had received our Sacraments. Friday was Benediction Day, and the smell of incense has become part of the memory. Then there was the First Friday of the month for mid-day Mass. Before mass, we all went off to confession and it was a bit tough trying to think of the awful things that we did. I think I may have even made up a few "sins" because I couldn't remember back through the past month, and I thought "surely I wasn't THAT good". Anyway, the three Hail Mary's and one Our Father really did not cause me any lasting trauma. The best memories are the days on which I received the various Sacraments although they were received in a different order to how they are received today. Baptism, Confession, Holy Communion then Confirmation was the norm, and I recall that it was so cold on my First Communion Day however my dear Mother provided me with a pretty, white jacket to keep out the winter chill. I always loved the special treats of drinks and cakes in the hall after each occasion. As an older student, the girls became "Children of Mary" and once a month, we sat as a group for Mass, in front of the statue of Our Lady. We wore a light blue knee length cape around our shoulders, tied at the neck. I always felt "special" on that day. I was a member of the school choir with Sr Clare our singing teacher and Sr Gregory the organist. On special occasions we gathered upstairs in the choir loft, and I was always a little nervous as we went down the spiral staircase. I am proud to say that I am still a member of the Parish Choir although we no longer gather upstairs which is a safer option at an advanced age. In February 2021, at Sunday Mass, I was blessed to renew my Marriage Vows with my husband of 50 years, Allan Clarke, (son of Mary and Gabriel Clarke) officiated by Fr James Foster, our Parish Priest with members of the Jeffery and Clarke Families present. I will always remember attending Sunday Mass with my parents, Mary and Allen Jeffery and I am now grateful for the opportunity to be part of the celebrations for the Centenary of All Saints Church on this day, 17th July 2022, and to be a serving member of the Parish Pastoral Council.



"Attending Mass with Mum and Dad was just what we did on Sundays and rules regarding head wear for the ladies changed over the years, but I do remember when mum made special little hats for my sister Margaret and I to wear after she attended a few millinery classes. Mum did a lot of special tasks that were fundraisers for the church and parish, and she was the first President of the Catholic Women's Club. Dad was a very proud convert to Catholicism and was always keen to assist in his role with the St Vincent de Paul men to take up the plate collection. When I was quite young, I was committed to attending mass on the forty days of Lent, and Dad would get up early to drive me to quarter to seven Mass. Our parents did all they could to ensure that all seven of us children had a good Christian education and they set a fine example indeed. All Saints holds a very special place in my heart." By JOAN (Jeffery) CLARKE

Left to right
Joan – Margaret
Michael – Patrick
Bill (Charles)
John - Robert



**ALLEN JEFFERY** 



MARY (Meade) JEFFERY





# GABRIEL RONALD CLARKE Married MARY JOSEPHINE CAVANAGH 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1938 ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH - KEMPSEY



Gabriel – son of Leslie & Kathleen CLARKE (Nee Simon)

Mary – daughter of John & Jane CAVANAGH (Nee Smith)

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....

Three of my brothers on their FIRST COMMUNION DAY Submitted by JOAN (Jeffery) CLARKE



JOHN JEFFERY PATRICK JEFFERY







ALLAN EDWIN CLARKE

- First Communion Day - Circa 1957



#### MY FAVOURITE MEMORY - MICHAEL JEFFERY

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



#### MICHAEL JEFFERY (Son of Allen and Mary JEFFERY)

"In the year of 1962 or 1963, I was at a week-day early morning Mass and serving as altar boy with Richard Clifford when we got a fit of the giggles. Father Daley was conducting the Mass and I was "sent off" the altar ... but Richard stayed. Father told us to report to him at play lunch time, which we did. We were then told to write out 100 lines 'We must not laugh in Mass'. The nuns, who at that time had their seating adjacent to the altar, saw all of this occur which added to our discomfort".







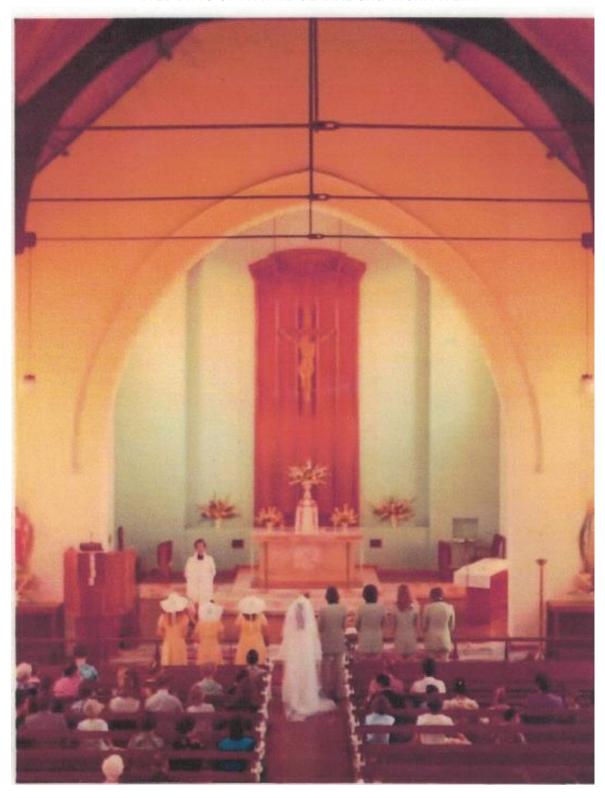
Ian and Elaine Richardson – Married 26 April 1957,
All Saints Catholic Church, Kempsey

Ian Richardson (Son of Roy & Elsie Richardson)
Elaine Clarke (Daughter of Gabriel & Mary Clarke)
Shirley Clarke – Whalen (Daughter of Gabriel & Mary Clarke)
Jeff Ducat – Best Man



**Elaine Richardson (Nee Clarke)** 

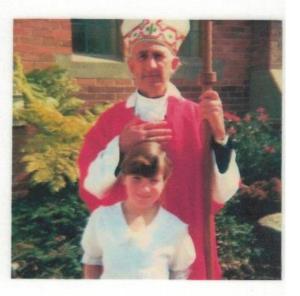
# WEDDING of WAYNE CLARKE and VICKI AVERY



Marriage of Wayne Clarke to Vicki Avery, 15 February 1975



Catherine Clarke with her Great Aunt Sr. Joan Meade CONFIRMATION 1986



Catherine Clarke with Bishop John Sattherthwaite CONFIRMATION 1986

# **Daughter of Allan and Joan CLARKE**



CATHERINE CLARKE – Daughter of Allan and Joan Clarke Second row, second from right

**Year 12 Graduation Mass 1997** 



CHOIR PRACTICE – CHRISTMAS 1992

Back Row L-R: Margaret Patterson, Celia Morris, Marilyn Figgett,

Heidi Figgett, Carmel Mainey

Front: Joan Clarke, Wyn Henshaw, Christine Wells, Maria Hall, Gary Hall



YEAR 6-REUNION 2013, AT THE CHURCH.

BACKMARGARET HOLLIS, JEAN HOLLIS, SUE SMITH, KATHY GALVIN, DIANNE DUGGAN, NOEL HOY, DR. CHRIS NEEDS,
MIDDLEALAN CLARKE, SR MARGARET BANNON, FR. COLIN REINHARDT, MARY MCMILLIAN, BETH RYALL,
JOHN CAVANGAN, THERESE FETTERPLACE, RUTH WOODBRIDGE, ANNA HARRIOTT, ANN BORGER, JO FARLEY,
MARLENE SUPPLE, JENNY EDWARDS, WARREN HANCOCK, PATRICIA KELLY (ABSENT).

#### FAMILY MEMORIES OF DEBORAH HENRY

My first memory of All Saints Church, Kempsey is the first Sunday morning I attended Mass with Gary (my now husband), Keith and Rhonda Henry in 2015. I am a city girl from Sydney and never in my wildest dreams would I think/know that this was the beginning of my journey with the Henry family and the Macleay Valley Catholic Parish.

The Henry's sat in the same pew every week and Keith still does. I was in awe of the size of the beautiful Church and impressed with the friendliness of parishioners. Gary and I were married on Saturday, 28 October 2017 and it was the happiest day of my life. Father Paul gave us a gift on the altar of a house brick to symbolise our marriage having a strong foundation. That raised a few laughs as the brick was elaborately wrapped.

A sad memory is that Rhonda passed away last year, her Requiem Mass was celebrated by Father James in the very Church we all adore.

#### **Debra Henry**





Marriage of Gordon Clarke and Rita Mainey (Daughter of Catherine)

24 June 1941



Marriage of Johnny and Mollie O'Neill (nee Cooper)

9 December 1942

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey



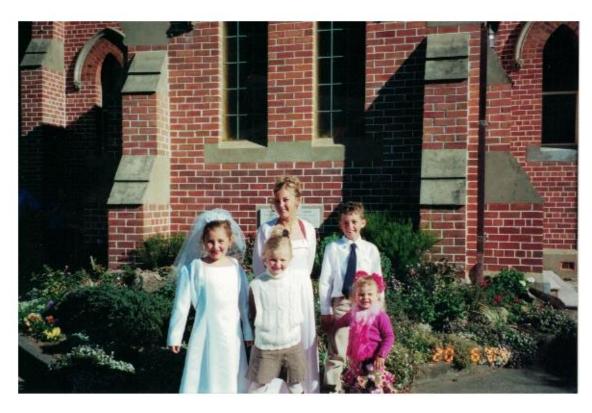
Marriage of Graham Clarke and Leone O'Neill 25 May 1968



**Graham & Leone Clarke - (Celebrant – Father Clement Dick)** 



Graham and Leone Clarke, Married 25 May 1968
Groomsmen: Chris Clarke, Michael Clarke, Gerald Clarke
Bridesmaids: Clare Rufo (nee O'Neill), Trish Woods (nee O'Neill),
Carol Robinson (nee O'Neill)



Brianna Scott First Holy Communion – 2004
With Courtney & Cody Scott



**Brianna Scott – Confirmation – 2004** 



**Cody and Courtney Scott – Confirmation** 



Courtney, Brianna and Cody Scott - Confirmation



Hollie Le Brocq – First Holy Communion – 2009



# WEDDING of KEITH and RHONDA HENRY



Marriage of Keith and Rhonda Henry – 26 October 1963



Wedding of Mark and Louise Haywood (nee Henry) 13 September 1986
With Louise's Parents Keith and Rhonda Henry



Casey Haywood Baptism – 4 September 1989, with Parents Mark and Louise and Father Peter Perry



Marriage Gary and Debra Henry – 28 October 2017 (The Farmer got his Wife)





The Papal Blessing awarded to Keith Henry - June 2022



### **MEMORIES OF MAISIE QUINN**

# SODALITY SUNDAYS AT ALL SAINTS

Several Sodalities were an important part of Parish life when I was growing up.

The Holy Name Sodality was for men. They wore a small black and white enamelled badge in the lapel to denote membership. It was a stirring sight to see a solid block of men sitting together in the front seats, kneeling, standing and singing as one. When they raised their vices to praise God, it sent shivers up the spine and engendered a feeling of great security within the congregation.

The Sacred Heart Sodality was for women. Their insignia was quite a large medal imprinted with an image of the Sacred Heart. It was worn on a red cord around the neck. Apart from binding together in religious duties, the women were able to socialise in age groups ranging from the young married to very senior ladies. This benefit allowed much caring and sharing to flow on into the Parish and local communities.

The Children of Mary Sodality catered for 14-year-old girls onwards. Their regalia was a dress length blue cloak worn over the shoulders and a white veil pinned in their hair. Their medal was quite big, rather star shaped with a space on the back where a name could be engraved. These medals could be worn at any time, even to high school if the girl was in that age group. The memory of the Sodality which stands out is that of how many times we took part in short processions in the vicinity of All Saints to celebrate special occasions during the Church year, especially those related to Our Lady. It was very easy to form lasting friendships within the Sodality through common interests and togetherness. At the time of marriage it was usual for the bride to place her blue cloak at the altar steps before the ceremony. Once married she was able to join the Sacred Heart ladies. As these Sodalities disappeared I felt a great sense of loss and that the loss was a detriment to parish life in general.

Maisie Quinn

# THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

The Hibernian Society could be seen as an earlier version of the modern health benefit companies. There were several small societies on the Macleay eg Manchester Unity. "The Hibernians" was attached to the Catholic Church. Members paid a small subscription to cover insurance against sickness, hospital admissions, student school yard accidents, funeral expenses etc.

A stalwart parishioner, Mr VIv Relly was Secretary from Kempsey and Smithtown Branches of the Hibernians for many, many years. When he retired in 1977 I became the Secretary. This photo is the regalla of that position. The same regalla was worn by men and women at the Society Mass held regularly at All Saints. The Centenary of the Society was held in Sydney in 1968. These small societies have now disappeared but in their day, provided a great family orientated service to parishioners of All Saints and all the Parish Churches on the Macleay.





MARRIAGE of GEOFF QUINN and MAISIE HENRY



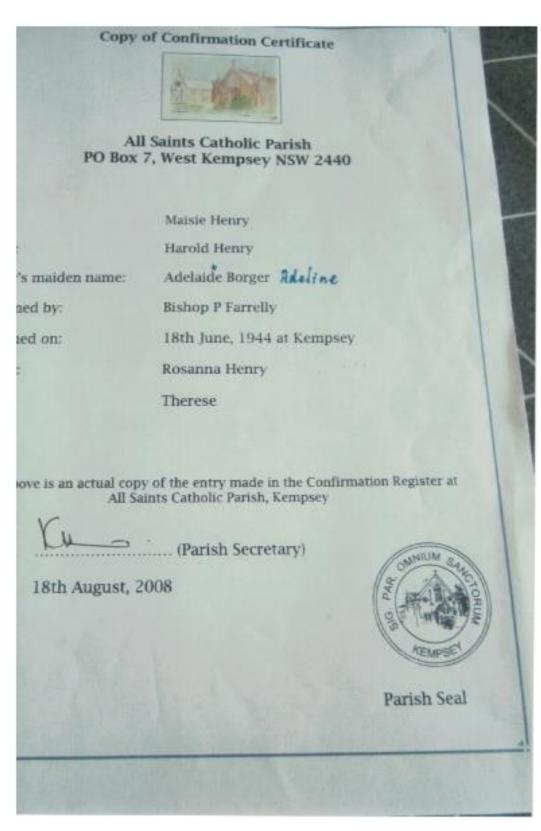
Marriage of Geoffery Quinn and Maisie Henry – 20 August 1952





Geoff and Maisie Quinn (nee Henry) – 20 August 1952





Copy of Maisie Henry Confirmation Certificate –

Confirmed on 18 June 1944

## MEMORIES OF ROSEMARY FISHER

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



IN THE LATE NINETEEN SIXTIES, I RECALL THE PRIESTS VISITING THE FARMING FAMILIES AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL (CONSISTING OF SIXTEEN PUPILS) IN THE SMALL RURAL COMMUNITY ON THE UPPER MACLEAY.

AFTER FATHER JOHN CASEY HAD GIVEN US A RELIGIOUS LESSON, HE
DECIDED TO GO RABBIT SHOOTING ON OUR DAIRY FARM. MUM AND
DAD HAD FINISHED DOING ALL THEIR CHORES FOR THE DAY AND THEY
THEN INVITED FATHER CASEY TO JOIN US FOR DINNER. AFTER A
HEARTY MEAL AND GREAT CONVERSATION, HE LEFT WITH HIS
RABBITS AND PRODUCE FROM THE FARM.

ROSEMARY FISHER

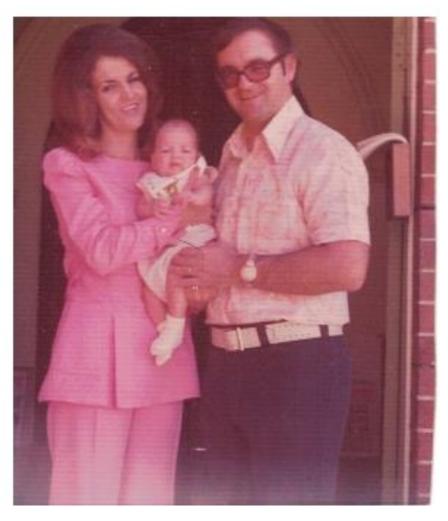
#### **FAMILY MEMORIES OF CAROLYN PETERS**

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is...

ule beine a basolyn Peters, first Hongrey after manying in the Sacred Ho hathalic, whereh in Timerell in 26.1.74 my favourite momories were the our two whildren - barles in in 1980 ,- by Father chilliam Mills. Im the upears that followed both childrens neceived call celeir Sacraments - until were married or had left Kampsey, I catheraged call enegular masses, In addition during the years when the Shurch was open to allow frinate fraggers, I, would tall in ion my way home from work to fray , do the Stations of the brass, bluch ion 28.4. 2001 dy Father Wienis Byenes a their 3 Children, hallum, Bayce a busia have neceived call their Sacraments. I have soffsecrated the mondayful & sat times beautiful services provided by the many special relations we have enjoyed. However man being affainted cas a Sacrista by Father James Foster has anabled me to hecome were more involved

with the Schurch and its formshioners of to experience the love frages, some of distribution he has brought to all South fathelic scherch of introducted formally lave this cheartiful feeling blusch of its Masses of Harrilys.

Charolyn Peters.



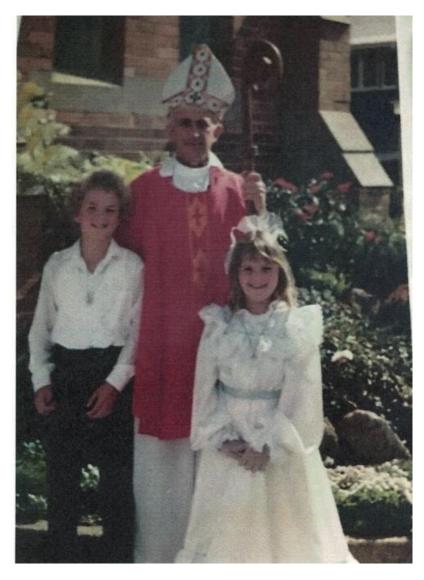
Carlos Peters Baptism – Parents Bernie and Carolyn Peters 27 March 1977 by Father Peter Perry



Claudia Peters Baptism 30 March 1980. Baptised by Fr William Mills. Here with Mum, Carolyn and Brother, Carlos



Carlos Holy Communion 28 April 1985
With sister Claudia & Father Peter Perry



Carlos & Claudia Peters Confirmation 9 August 1987 With Bishop John Satterthwaite





Marriage of Carlos Peters and Deanna McCafferty 28 April 2001



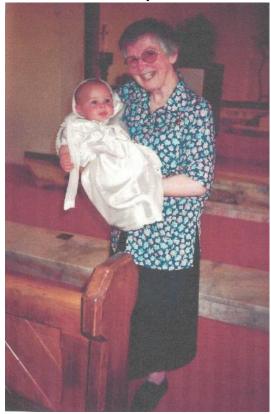


Marriage of Carlos Peters and Deanna McCafferty 28 April 2001





Baptism – Bryce Peters 15 October 2006 With parents Deanna and Carlos and brother Callum



**Bryce and Sister Cabrini** 



Ciara Peters Baptism, June 2008, Parents Deanna & Carlos

Ciara was Confirmed by Bishop Geoffery Jarrett

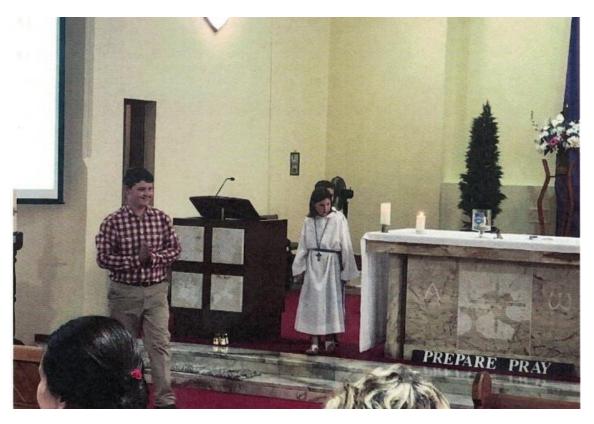


Baptism of Catalina Dennison,
daughter of James and Claudia Dennison (Nee Peters)
2014 by Father Paul Gooley

# St Joseph's Primary – Year 6 Graduation Masses



Callum Peters- (Front Row Pink Shirt) Graduation Year - 2014



Bryce after finishing a reading at the Graduation Mass 2019

Ciara Peters made her Graduation at a Mass in 2020.

### **MEMORIES of KEVIN LEWTHWAITE**

Some of my memories of All Saints Catholic Church are:-

When as a child, getting up early on Sunday mornings to catch the bus (run by Clyde and Clair Cavanagh), with mum (Carrie Lewthwaite), to attend the early Mass (I think it was either 7 or 7.30 AM) back in those days, Cavanagh's, religiously would drive all around South and East Kempsey to collect parishioners for the Sunday morning Mass and deliver the them back home after Mass. A lot of the times it was on an old school bus, but later on when Cavanagh's bought a coach, we would drive around in comfort. Some mornings, especially in winter, the temperatures would plummet and it was nice to step inside the warmth of the Air Conditioned coach.

I could not understand, when I was young, why mum made me get out of bed to attend Mass every Sunday. I never understood why she made me kneel up straight, stand up straight, not look around the church or even play with my matchbox cars, driving them along the wooden seats. I thought those days were a waste of time as I never knew what was being said, and sitting through the long Homilies that were given by the priests, and the things I prayed for, I never seemed to get (new matchbox toy, wanting dad to take our family to the beach, wanting lollies etc. Now I am so thankful that she persevered taking me, because even though I didn't understand at the time, she was giving me the chance to experience the presence of God, in his house. It was also to teach me that the church was community, something that I am very grateful for in my later years.

2001 was when I really started understanding what attending Mass on weekends, and saying different prayers was all about, because in 2001 I suffered a massive heart attack. I found out that I had eight days in an induced coma and had been flown to Sydney on full life support. I also found out that I was given a twenty percent chance to pull through. My wife flew to Sydney to be by my side and on one weekend she came back to Kempsey and attended the weekend Mass. The priest of the time announced that the Mass was being offered for me to make a recovery. When Linda arrived back in Sydney, on the Monday, I had come out of the coma and I watched her walk over to my bed. One doctor at the hospital, visited me in my hospital bed. He told me that the reason I was alive was not through medical intervention, he said it was a pure miracle. It took many weeks for me to

recover enough to return home. Different people have told me since that the Parish Community, the School Community and even a prayer list sent around the world, were all praying for me. The prayers and going to Mass, when I was young, were answered. I am so thankful to God and the Parish Community of All Saints for the prayers that have given me more time to try and understand God better.

At the time I was in Sydney one of my classmates had died. I asked the Parish Priest "why they died and I was alive". The answer I was given surprised me at the time. He said "All I can tell you is that your work, for God on this Earth, is not yet complete".

Other memories I have relating to All Saints Catholic Church:-

Receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage and Annointing of the Sick.

Mum doing the washing, starching, ironing and mending the priest's vestments, the Altar servers garments and Altar Linens (Pall, Corporal, Hand Towels, Purificator, Tablecloths.)

The Priests coming to our house when they needed clothes taken in, taken up or even zippers replaced.

My wife and I going through the RCIA program during Father Peter Perry's time as Parish Priest.

My children receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

My children all serving at Masses as Altar Servers.

My sister's marriage at All Saints Catholic Church.

The unbelievable love, support and comfort that God and Our All Saints Parish Community gave me and my family on the death of my Father and Mother.

It was through the upbringing that I had, by my parents and the All Saints Parish Community, that my faith has grown to what it is today.



Michael Lewthwaite – Reconciliation 18 August 2001

Michael Lewthwaite
First Holy Communion
August 2002

Michael with Linda and Kevin Lewthwaite (mother and father)





Marriage of Graham Macintosh and Carolyn Garlick (nee Lewthwaite)

19 December 2009

Witness: Kevin Lewthwaite, Celebrant: Father Paul Gooley





L – R Graham Macintosh, Caroline (Carrie) Lewthwaite (Carolyn and Kevin's mother), Carolyn Macintosh



#### MEMORIES of JOCELYN and GEOFF MAINEY

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



Geoff and I have loved, respected, and supported All Saints Catholic Church.

Here are a few memories from our family.

Both of our parents were married and buried through this church. Geoff and I were married in 1966. The beginning of our family journey with the church.

When our daughter was born, we had her baptised in the church and she also made all her sacraments including her marriage in 1989.

Both of our granddaughters made all their sacraments through the All Saints parish and we now have the next generation continuing this family tradition.

The house of God is a very special place for both of us.

**Jocelyn and Geoff Mainey** 

# MEMORIES of STEPHANIE SCOTT (nee) MAINEY

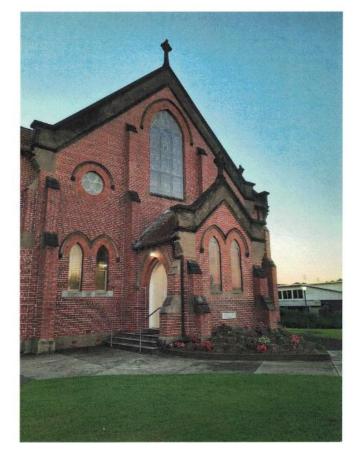
My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



My first memory of our church is sunlight coming through the windows and making the polished seats glow, I can't place what age I was but I remember feeling that this was special. I was Baptised at All Saint's and have made every Sacrament since there. The Altar rails were still at the front and we had to learn to kneel and not lean on them for our First Holy Communion, the girls had to wear a veil and the boys had to have their hair combed suitably as was tradition. This was back in the olden days when Nuns almost outnumbered lay teachers. Generations of families have

past through All Saint's and that is a great testament to the continuity of faith and love for the church and its people.

Stephanie Scott (nee) Mainey.



## MEMORIES OF KAITLIN KOMOR (nee SCOTT)

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....

I have many fond memories of All Saints Catholic Church. I would go to church every

Saturday night with my grandparents Jocelyn and Geoff Mainey and sit in the second row on the right-hand side next to the door behind the organ. I loved to close the windows after mass with my grandfather. Once I was tall enough to pull on the ropes, I was taught how to gently close the windows and fasten them afterwards. While we were closing the windows, we would talk to everyone we knew. He taught me the importance of looking after Gods house and its people. Even though I don't live in Kempsey or even Australia anymore, walking into All Saints feels like returning home.

My favourite thing about all saints is knowing that so many happy moments in the lives of my family and especially mine have taken place there-All of my Sacraments, special school masses, the day I met my husband Peter during days of the diocese before world youth day in 2008, our wedding day in 2013 and the weddings of my parents, grandparents, great grandparents and recently my sisters.



Our Wedding 09.02.2013

Kaitlin Komor (nee Scott) Obertshausen, Germany

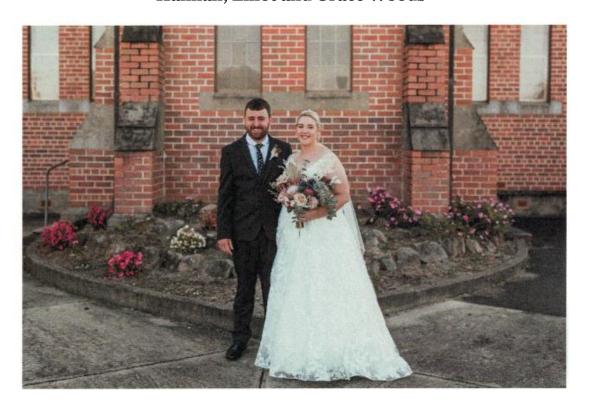
# MEMORIES of HANNAH, ELLIOTT and GRACE WOODS

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



The All Saints Catholic Church holds significant memories for me as my journey with the church began in 1995 with my baptism. In my school years I continued this journey attending masses with the school and also making all of my sacraments. In April 2021 I was married in the All Saints Catholic church by Fr James. This was a significant milestone for our family as I was the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to receive the sacrament of Marriage in the All Saints Catholic Church. In April 2022 we had our daughter baptised on our wedding anniversary. These were wonderful memories for our family to share.

## Hannah, Elliot and Grace Woods



**Elliott Woods and Hannah Scott married April 2021** 

#### MEMORIES of an R.C.I.A. PARISHIONER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH, KEMPSEY

Sunday, April 30, 1989

### MY STORY

A couple of years ago, a friend found out I was a Cardidate in an R.C.I.A. Programme. He only asked me one question. Why?

I found then, that I had to ask myself the same thing.

Why would anyone want to become a Catholic in the 1980's? Why be bothered with a system of rituals and beliefs that go back 2,000 years? A hard question when someone else asks; a lot harder when you ask yourself.

The answer I gave was: "I found a bunch of people who believe in the same things I do." That probably sounded a bit condescending; maybe I should have replied that <u>I</u> believed in what the <u>church</u> says; or that <u>we</u> believe in the same things; but to me there is no difference.

When we come together as a church, we are one - a family.

As a Candidate in the R.C.I.A. I received a lot of support from Sponsors, Catechists, Religious and Laity, in fact the whole Parish family, and it was something I'll always remember. That support lifted me up when I faltered and humbled me with its generosity.

During the Programme, the various Scrutinies were very special but the time that firmed my resolve the most, was the presentation of the Apostles Creed. I read and re-read it for weeks later and when in Mass 1 heard the words, "We believe in..." I could hear myself saying inside, "me too". It became a sort of family prayer of the Church to me.

I was baptised at All Saints Anglican Church, Easter Day 1947.

I received the Eucharist for the first time at All Saints Catholic Church, Easter Vigil Mass 1987.

Forty years to travel such a short distance - home.



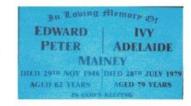
### MEMORIES OF PHYLLIS WOODERSON and HER RELATIVES

# Children of Edward 'Eddy' Peter Mainey & Ivy Adelaide Chapman

#### Married All Saints' Catholic Church Kempsey by Rev Fr B F Gunn 16.2.1921







Michael Mainey & Margaret Kilduff

Par: of Edward - Marr: Macleay River 1878

#### Thomas Neil Mainey - Marr: Clarice Jean Hudson -

- All Saints' Catholic Church Kempsey - By Rev Fr Thomas McEvoy 21.11.1942

Beryl Margaret Mainey - 'Sister Celene de Stanislas' of Little

Sisters of the Poor

Entered the Order 1947 -



## Winifred Mary Mainey - Marr: Reginald Thomas Kerr -

St Johns' Catholic Church Willawarrin - by Rev Fr Augustine Parker 8.1.1949

# Sheila Bernadette Mainey - Marr: Noel George Fisher

St Johns' Catholic Church Willawarrin - By Rev Fr Thomas McEvoy 9.9.1950

Ann Gwendolyne Mainey - 'Sister Cabrini' Sister of Mercy

Entered the Convent 2.2.1952 Grafton



Sr Cabrini since her teaching years - & returning to Kempsey has been such a wonderful worker in the

Kempsey Community - Giving - Giving - Giving



The Angel she is!





Thomas Neil Brett - Married - Brigid Angela Henshaw
At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey on 4.11.1921
By Rev Fr Thomas O'Regan - Witness' Winifred Cooper & James Randall

They had daughters **Phyllis Mary Brett** b 22.5.1922 – d of diabetes 20.2.1930

Aged 7 years

Margaret Noeline Brett b 25.12.1924 – d 17.6.2012

Married: Roy Brenton at All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey 8.2.1947

Aged 87 yrs



Bernice Brett b 23.10.1932 - d Kempsey 17.5.2008

Married: Peter Debenham at All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey All Saints on 2.1.1954

Aged 70 yrs





#### Memories of being a Flower Girl for my Uncle Peter Debenham & Aunt, Bernice Debenham Nee Brett

#### Married All Saints' Catholic Church - 2.1.1954

I remember this flower basket so well and scattering some of the flowers

While going up the isle – at the age of 7 years

It was a long walk up the isle .. But I got there ..



Memories of this day were picking up the bouquets from a florist Who lived up in the Street when Big W is now.

Memories of the rest of the day are not vivid but did enjoy playing in my dress in later years ..

And never got to dressed up like that again in my younger years.

# FAMILY OF ROY & NOELINE EXENTON

# Married 8th February 1947

# At All Saints Catholic Church Kemp St Kempsey

By Rev Fr Augustine Parker

Bridal Party - With bridesmaid Bernice Brett, sister of the bride & Jack Dodds, friend of the groom

Parents of Roy Brenton

George Brenton

& Ruby Tonkin dec'd

Parents of Noeline Brett

Thomas Neil Brett

& Brigid Angela Henshaw

#### Children of the Marriage:

Phyllis Mary & Peter John Brenton twins Kerrie Maree Brenton Lynette Anne Brenton



Beginning in 1947





# Baptism of Children of Roy & Noeline Brenton

**Phyllis Mary Brenton** 

Baptised: 15.5.1948

At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey by Rev Fr A Parker

God Mother: Bernice Brett

**Peter John Brenton** 

Baptised: 15.5.1948

At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey by Rev Fr A Parker

God Mother: Mrs A Brett

**Kerrie Maree Brenton** 

Baptised: 11.11.1952

At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey by Rev Fr T McEvoy

God Mother: Miss Kathleen Henshaw

**Lynette Anne Brenton** 

Baptised: 19.11.1955

At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey by Rev Fr F O'Gorman

God Mother: Mrs Unetta Brenton

#### Marriages of Children of Roy & Noeline Brenton

**Phyllis Mary Brenton** 

Married:

Frederick Thomas Wooderson

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey 18.5.1968

Bridesmaid: Sally Chapman

By Rev Fr Anthony Casey

Best Man: Rex Williamson

Peter John Brenton

Married:

Patricia Anne Foxley

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey

Bridesmaid: Dorothy Bucannane

by Rev Fr Kelly 7.11.1970

Best Man: Terry Hanlon

**Kerrie Maree Brenton** 

Married:

**Christopher Noel Hawes** 

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey

Bridesmaid: Barbara Hayes

by Rev Fr Kelly

Best Man: Terry Putland

**Lynette Anne Brenton** 

Married:

**Garry Raymond Colling** 

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey

by Rev Fr Mills 5.1.1974

Bridesmaid: Janette Clarke

Robert Davidson



#### Children of Roy & Noeline Brenton - First Communion



Phyllis Mary Brenton 21st August 1955 At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey Priest Officiating: Rev Fr T Mc Evoy

Peter John Brenton 21st August 1955 At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey Priest Officiating: Rev Fr T Mc Evoy

Kerrie Maree Brenton 9th August 1959 All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey Priest Officiating: Rev Fr Daley

Lynette Anne Brenton 19th November 1963 All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey Priest Officiating: Rev Fr O'Hare

# At All Saints' Catholic Church Kempsey 1st Communion 20th August 1955 at 7 yrs









Peter & Phyllis



Mum with Peter Kerrie & Phyllis

#### Children of Roy & Noeline Brenton - Confirmations

Phyllis Mary Brenton - Confirmation Name: Elizabeth

By Bishop P Farrelley

Sponsor: Mrs Unetta Brenton

At All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey

Peter John Brenton - Confirmation Name: Michael

By Bishop P Farrelley

Sponsor: Mr Reg Henshaw

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey -----

Kerrie Brenton - Confirmation Name: Therese

By Bishop P Farrelley

Sponsor: Miss Anna Brenton

All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey -----

Lynette Anne Brenton - Confirmation Name:

By Bishop P Farrelley

Sponsor: Mrs Dawn McEachran

At All Saints Catholic Church

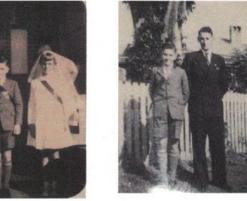
# Confirmation on 5th July 1959



Phyllis Brenton With Sponser Unetta Brenton an Aunt of ours



Peter Brenton my twin brother & his sponsor Reg Henshaw an Uncle



I am unsure if I have memories OR It is just that we have the photos to HELP Remember but from photos we always help Share the day with Our Grandmother & Mum's sister & her family



# All Saints' Catholic Church Kempsey

# Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto ..

Being a student at St Philomena's High School -

I along with other students spent many a lunch hour keeping the Grotto clean & tidy & keeping fresh flowers.

And attending for prayers.



The statue within the rock cave at Massabielle in Lourdes, where St Bernadette Soubirous witnessed the Blessed Virgin Mary

Location: Lourdes France

Date: 11.2.to 16.7.1858

Witness: Saint Bernadette Soubirous

Approval: Pope Pius IX

Shrine: Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes

France



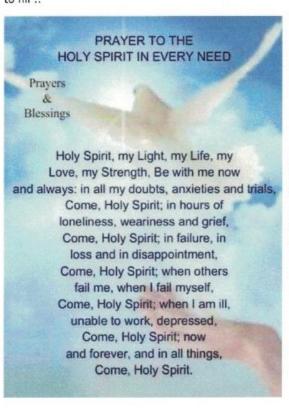


After meeting my husband Fred Wooderson many years later, I found it was a relative of his, Jack Wooderson that had carted all the rock etc for the erection

# Our SON Shane Wooderson Passed away way too early On 4th March 1974 at a Port Macquarie Surf Carnival aged just 4 ½ yrs of age

Fred being a lifesaver with KCH SLSC, said afterwards commented out of all the lives he had saved .. you could not be saved. But your time was up and not to us to choose.

You always enjoyed the company of all those Young lifesavers who often trained in our back yard and they too had a hole left to fill





The light of our lives his time was not meant to be with us for very long.

He was a blinding light to his grandparents Roy & Noeline, Roy often regretting he had not had enough time with him as he had not then retired.

Four years previous I had been at a Catholic School sports carnival and Fr Anthony Casey came up to a few women asking if anyone was interested in some work for a few months while the 'Planned Giving Programme' was being finalised. I applied while being about 6 months pregnant.

On the day I was to finish, I had to rush to Kempsey Hospital to give birth .. leaving my position in the lurch on the last day.

Weeks later I received a Condolence Card from Fr Casey saying 'You would think the little fellow could have waited another day'. It was a wonderful comfort.

As the years past Fr was transferred up North but seeing he had been with those early years whilst I was working & having baptised him I thought it was only fitting to have been there to help us say 'Goodbye'.

Fr Casey had married us on 18th May 1968, so had had been a special part of our connection with him ..

Sadly Fr Casey has now passed on himself and as life goes will be like the rest of our family ever so often be constantly in our thoughts.

That day passed in a big blur and not many memories survive except for the abundance of flowers and the so many, many cards with pouring out of sympathy .

Farewell Shane you were the first of our family along with Sidonie & Odette, then after your passing that of Elke & Koby – No one can take your place and you will ALWAYS be such a wonderful son .. loving you always ..

#### MEMORIES OF ROBYN ELLER (KING)

All Saints Catholic Church, Kempsey has been an important part of our family for generations. My parents, Jack and Audrey King were married in All Saints Church over 68 years ago.

All Saints Church has hosted the marriages of my sister Maria and husband Jimmy Potter in 1977, my younger sister Pauline and husband Michael Landers in 1982 and myself and husband Mick Eller in 1994.



Mick Eller and Robyn Eller (King), married in All Saints Catholic Church, Kempsey. 1994



Wedding of Jimmy Potter and Maria King 1977



Wedding of Michael Landers and Pauline King 1982

# Our children, Jane, Kate and Sally each received the sacraments of Baptism, Confession, Eucharist and Confirmation here at All Saints.



Baptism of Jane, first daughter to Mick and Robyn Eller

We feel very connected to this parish community centred on All Saints Church

#### **MEMORIES of DAWN ADAMS**

My favourite memory and what I like most about our All Saints Catholic Church is....



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH KEMPSEY HAS BEEN MY FAMILY PARISH CHURCH SINCE ARRIVING IN KEMPSEY IN 1962 -60 YEAS AGO - AND I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED THE PEELING OF BEING PART OF DALF BIG PARISH FAMILY: IT HAS BEEN THERE POR THE BAPTISMS OF DUR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, FAMILY WEDDINGS & FUNERAL FAREWELLS. 50 MANY MEMORIES WITHON ITS WALLS -HAPPY & SAD \_ BUT ALWAYS WITH THAT WELCOMING FEELING OF BEING AMONG FAMILY & FRIENDS. I WAS ALSO PRIVILEGED TO HAVE WORKED IN THE PARISH OFFICE OF ALL SAINTS FOR. 9 YEARS FROM 1989 UNTIL 1998.

DAWN ADAMS

# MEMORIES OF KINGSLEY AND BETH BARNETT

# Beth Farley married Kingsley Barnett in All Saints Catholic Church 8 March 1980 - (Celebrant: Father Gerard Maloney)



Groomsmen: Mick Landers, Grant Barnett and Glen Crawley
Bridesmaids: Josephine Breckell (Nee Farley), Susan and Louise Farley



#### ANNA BARNETT'S BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH



ANNA BARNETT'S BAPTISM IN 1990 WITH PARENTS KINGSLEY & BETH BARNETT

ANNA BARNETT AND COUSIN TRAVIS JONES FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION 23 AUGUST 1998 WITH BISHOP SATTERTHWAITE



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY AND CONFIRMATION IN ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH KEMPSEY ON 23RD AUGUST 1998

#### NICHOLAS & ANTHONY BARNETT BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATION IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH



NICHOLAS BARNETT'S BAPTISM IN 1983 WITH GRANDPARENTS MARIE & JACK FARLEY



ANTHONY BARNETT'S BAPTISM ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 1985 WITH FR PERRY, PARENTS BETH & KINGSLEY AND BROTHER NICK



CONFIRMATION DAY 17TH JULY 1994 FOR ANTHONY BARNETT, SERINA JONES, GRANT JAMES & JARROD FARLEY (CONFIRMED BY BISHOP SATTERTHWAITE) WITH FAMILY MEMBERS MARIE FARLEY (GRANDMOTHER), LOUISE FARLEY, DOROTHY CLARKE (GREAT GRANDMOTHER) PETER & ROBYN JAMES, BETH & KINGSLEY BARNETT AND PAUL FARLEY

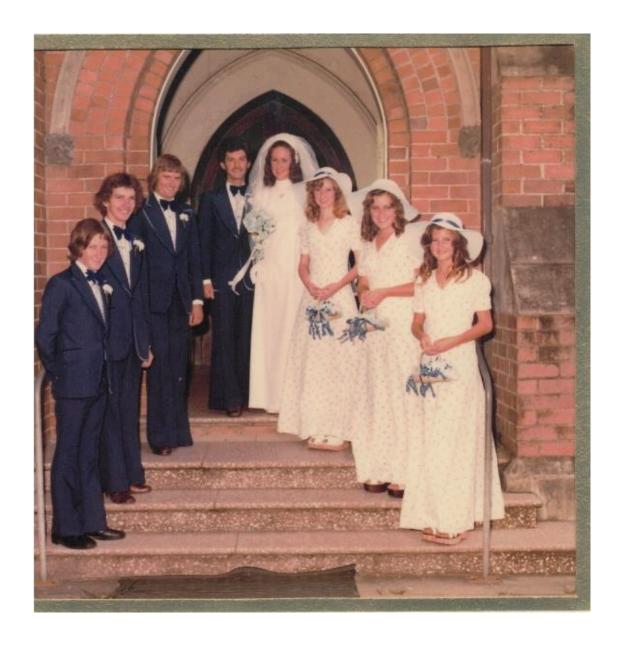
# The Farley Family from Pola Creek



L – R: Marie, Andrew, Pat, Tom, Paul, Mark, Susan, Josephine, Louise, Beth and Jack.



# MEMORIES OF JANET CLARKE (DAVIDSON)



Marriage of Robert Davidson and Janet Clarke 31 January 1976

L-R: Dennis Clarke, Phillip Davidson, Gary Colling, Robert Davidson, Janet Clarke, Anne, Marion and Pamela Clarke.



Marriage of Bernie Clarke and Daphne Sydenham 16 October 1954

L-R: Leo Mainey, Josephine Mainey, Bernie Clarke, Daphne Sydenham, Elsie Weilgosinski and Ray Barrie



# **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**



L – R : Back – Marie Farley, Dorrie Clarke and Daphne Clarke
Front – Monique Breckell, Dwayne Smith and Karrin Davidson
1985



First Holy Communion

Karrin Davidson, 1985

# **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**



**Brenden Davidson and Father Peter Perry, 1987** 



Alter Boys – Timothy and Neale Clarke, Cousins

# FAMILY MEMORIES of THERESE TEDD (nee HANRAHAN)

# WEDDING OF JACK FARLEY and MARIE CLARKE



All Saints Catholic Church - 20 May 1950 Jack and Marie Farley (nee Clarke) (Celebrant: Father Thomas McEvoy)



Groomsmen: Jim Farley, Jim Dunworth, Bridesmaids: Nancye Clarke, Cecilia Mainey

Flower Girl: Greta Clarke

# WEDDING OF JIM HANRAHAN and KATH FARLEY



All Saints Catholic Church - 19 May 1951 Jim and Kath Hanrahan (nee Farley) (Celebrant: Father Jeremiah Dineen)



All Saints Catholic Church - 19 May 1951
Jim and Kath Hanrahan
Groomsmen: Frank Hanrahan and Dr Martin Flood
Bridesmaids: Marie and Nell Farley



# **WEDDING OF JOE BOWERS and NANCY CLARKE**



All Saints Catholic Church - 1 October 1955 Joe and Nancye Bowers (nee Clarke)



# WEDDING OF BRUCE ABBOTTS and NELL FARLEY



All Saints Catholic Church – 4 April 1959
Bruce and Nell Abbotts (nee Farley)
Groomsmen: Ernest Ramsay & Don Walker
Bridesmaids: Marie & Clare Farley
Flower Girls: Anne & Therese Hanrahan



# WEDDING OF MICHAEL NOLAN and CLARE FARLEY



All Saints Catholic Church – 23 April 1962
Michael and Clare Nolan (nee Farley)
Groomsmen: Tony & Peter Nolan
Bridesmaids: Nell Abbotts (nee Farley) & Jan Faulkner
Flower Girl & Pageboy: Gail & Patrick Hanrahan



Father of the Bride: James Farley

# WEDDING OF BARRY NICHOLS and CATHERINE (Cassie) CLARKE



All Saints Catholic Church – 19 May 1970 Barry & Cassie Nichols (nee Clarke) Celebrant: (Father Anthony Casey)



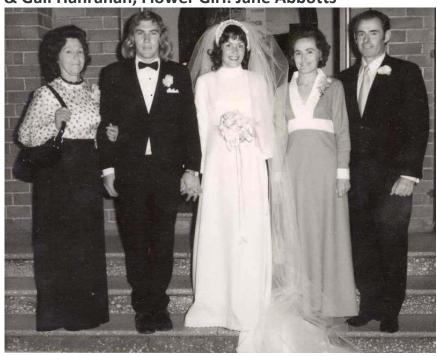
# WEDDING OF ALLAN (Buck) GRAHAM and ANNE HANRAHAN



All Saints Catholic Church – 15 July 1972 Allan & Anne Graham (nee Hanrahan)

**Groomsmen: Bruce Storey & Jon (Bing) Borger** 

Bridesmaids: Therese & Gail Hanrahan, Flower Girl: Jane Abbotts



Parents Kathleen Graham, Jim & Kathleen Hanrahan

# WEDDING OF BRIAN DOUGHAN and MARGARET CLARKE



All Saints Catholic Church – 23 October 1972
Brian & Margaret Doughan (nee Clarke)
Bridesmaids: Julie & Cassie Clarke



# WEDDING OF PAUL CARTER and GAIL HANRAHAN



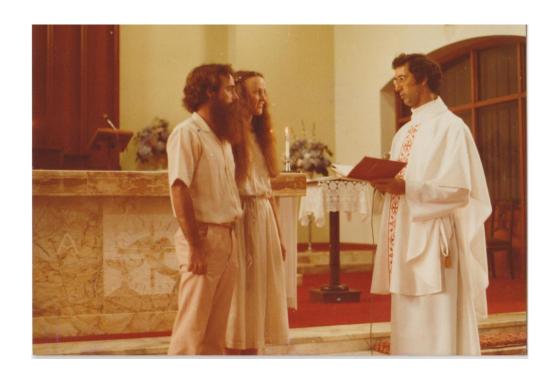
All Saints Catholic Church – 15 November 1980
Paul & Gail Carter (nee Hanrahan)

Groomsmen: Michael Landers & Greg Bannerman
Bridesmaids: Therese Hanrahan & Anne Graham (nee Hanrahan)

Flower Girl: Belinda Graham Brides Parents: Jim & Kath Hanrahan



# WEDDING OF TOM PLUNKETT and SUSAN FARLEY



All Saints Catholic Church – 1 January 1983
Tom & Susan Plunkett (nee Farley)
Celebrant: (Father Peter Perry)



# WEDDING OF PAUL SUMMERVILLE and CATHY NOLAN

# CATHY NOLAN & PAUL SUMMERVILLE WEDDING ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1989







THE HAPPY COUPLE - PAUL & KATE SUMMERVILLE WITH KATE'S PARENTS MICHAEL & CLARE NOLAN

# WEDDING OF JUSTIN COOK and TONIA CLARKE





All Saints Catholic Church – 20 Mar 1999
Justin & Tonia Cook (nee Clarke)
Brides Parents: Jill & Ned Clarke



# WEDDING OF TIMOTHY (Ted) COTTER and GRETA ANN CLARKE



Timothy (Ted) Michael Cotter married Greta Ann Clarke at All Saints Catholic Church on 28 February 1998. They were married by Father Pat Corbett. Greta is a fourth generation Australian and is the ninth child of twelve born to Dennis Charles Clarke and Dorothy Margaret (Mainey) from Sherwood.

On their marriage day Greta and Ted were joined by 45 of their 56 nieces and nephews.





Julie Clarke, Margaret Doughan, Marie Farley, Dorothy Clarke, Catherine Nichols & Sr Elizabeth Clarke at a Clarke family wedding in the mid 1990's



#### WEDDING OF SHANNON BROWN and ANNA BARNETT

# ANNA BARNETT MARRIED SHANNON BROWN IN ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH 14TH MARCH 2020 (CELEBRANT: FR JAMES FORSTER)





BRIDE'S PARENTS: KINGSLEY & BETH BARNETT WITH GRANDCHILDREN MILO, MATILDA & HANNAH
BRIDESMAIDS: BRIDGET PLUNKETT, KATIE BRENDON & NATASHA SULTANA
GROOMSMEN: MITCHL PICKER, MATT SCOTT & BEN GRAHAM



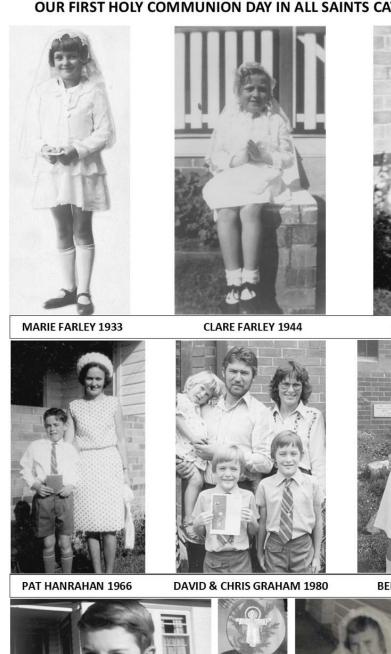
# **BAPTISM OF BRIDGET PLUNKETT**



Bridget with Mum Susan and Godparents Andrew & Louise Farley 1987



# **OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY IN ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**











The Clarke family had many Eucharistic celebrations over the years. This one is a First Holy Communion Celebration in the early 1990's.

Back: Marie Farley, Louise Farley, Dorothy Clarke, Peter James, Robyn James, Beth Barnett, Kingsley Barnett

Front: Travis Jones, George Plunkett, Serina Jones, Grant James, Jared Farley, Paul Farley



# CARTER FAMILY SACRAMENTS IN ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH





NAOMI CARTER'S BAPTISM 6.9.1981 WITH FAMILY & FR BILL MILLS, CONFIRMATION DAY 5.8.1989, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY 16.9.1990 WITH BROTHER MATT, NANNY KATH & GRANDPA JIM.



MATTHEW CARTER'S BAPTISM 24.3.1985 WITH PARENTS PAUL & GAIL, GODPARENTS THERESE & PAT.



FIRST COMMUNION BREAKFAST IN THE HALL



MATTHEW'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY 5.6.1994 WITH PARENTS GAIL & PAUL, SISTER NAOMI AND NANNY KATH, CONFIRMATION DAY 17.7.1994 WITH SPONSOR THERESE.





Andrew Farley's Confirmation Day, 1980

Andrew with Brothers Pat, Paul, Tom & Mark, Parents Marie & Jack, Sister Josephine, Aunty Kath & Uncle Jim, Aunty Clare & Cousin Steve



# FUNERAL of MISS JULIE (CLARKE)



The celebration of the life of Eileen Julie Anne Clarke (11th child of Dennis and Dorothy Clarke) on 26th April 2022

The funeral of Miss Julie was a sad but also a happy one. She received great respect from her past and present teaching colleagues and friends as they formed a guard of honour for her departure from the church. At her internment in the East Kempsey cemetery the mourners burst out singing the song that Julie taught and sang to so many children and adults in her time, called "This Little Light of Mine".

Julie truly was that "Light". May she continue to shine in the Hearts of everyone she touched.

