

The believer is essentially one who remembers.
The Joy of the Gospel n 13



REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE

As we celebrate the opening of Our Lady of Dolours' church this weekend, we can remember with gratitude the people who have left us such a wonderful legacy. At the time of the opening of the church in 1921, it was just three years since the end of World War 1. The Spanish flu pandemic had been prevalent from 1918 to 1920. Hardship and loss were part of that era for many people.

MEMORY AND REMEMBERING A PART OF FAITH

In writing about the mission of evangelisation in the 21st century, Pope Francis says in *The Joy of the Gospel* n 13:

Nor should we see the newness of this mission as entailing a kind of forgetfulness of the living history which surrounds us and carries us forward. The joy of evangelising always arises from grateful remembrance.

Remembering reminds us of God's presence even in dark times when we can't physically gather in the church. Throughout the Bible remembering shaped generations. We remember God's promise to be with us always. Pope Francis wrote that the apostles never forgot the moment

when Jesus touched their hearts: "It was about four o'clock in the afternoon" as quoted from John's Gospel 1:39'

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Fr Thomas O'Loughlin is a Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham. Writing in volume 14 of the *Pastoral Review*, he says:

Christianity is religion of memory. We look to the future - indeed to beyond the future - and so we live today in such a way as to build that future, but we do so while recalling our past. Our past is significant because it identifies us, affirms that we are a community in a covenant with God, and provides us with a key to what what is significant in that relationship. The journey we are on is always looking forward, but we understand it by looking at where we have come from. We must start from here, but for better or for worse, this 'here' is not some ideal spot but a result of the winding paths of the Christian pilgrimage.



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS, CHATSWOOD

Father T. Barry's Big Undertaking

First of its Kind in Australia

Freeman's Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1850-1932).
Thursday 25 August 1921, page 14



New Church of Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood.
Waiting for the Opening Ceremonies.

The Church of "Our Lady of Dolours", Chatswood, which was blessed by the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Hobart, Dr W. Barry on Sunday, has given to Australia a building specially designed to suit the Australian climate and is the first of its kind to be erected here.

His Grace was assisted by the Rev. Father M. Sherin and the Rev. Father P. Nulty, after which the usual public meeting was held. Among those on the sanctuary, in addition to those named mentioned were: His Lordship Dr. O'Connor (Bishop of Armidale), the Right Rev. Monsignor J. O'Gorman, P.P., Very Rev Father P. Cullen (Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers), Very Rev. Dr. O'Reilly C.M.

... Father Barry then gave a financial statement. They set out to build a church for £10,000. We were guaranteed by the A.B.C. Bank for £7000, and we ourselves had raised £3000.

GENEROUS RESPONSE

The response to the appeal was most generous, over £1566 was announced later on. His Grace Archbishop Kelly gave £20, His Grace Archbishop Barry £20, the Chatswood School children £120, Father T. Barry £50, the architects and builders £50.10s each and among many others were £50 from the following; Messrs. M. Ryan; J. Doyle; while a number of valuable gifts were announced.

In proposing a vote to Archbishop Barry, Mr. H. D. Williams eulogised the work of his Grace and Father Barry, and said that in all the parochial movements the name of Barry was associated. The church secretary (Mr. J. Carden) briefly seconded the vote, which was carried by acclamation, and his Grace suitably replied.



Our Lady of Dolours' Church c 1900s



Convent and St Catherine's School for Young Ladies
opposite the church in Archer St c 1901



Chatswood Station 1900s

