



*Sacred Heart Parish
Sandringham*

75 YEARS



The Old Church

Sacred Heart Parish

Sandringham

75 YEARS

by

GAY MONAHAN



1988 FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

BACK ROW (L. to R.): Phillip Facciolo, Michael Dieter, Daniel Mercer, Simon Thomas, Michael Stubbs, Quentin White.

SECOND ROW: Sophie Bower, Maurice Pauly, Callie Gray, Julian Glover, Jeremy Andrews, Peri Gray, Andrew Halloran, Gabrielle Henderson.

THIRD ROW: Mrs. Shelley, Jessica Murphy, Christopher Over, Anna Louise Byrne, Michael Seletto, Emma Bolding, Luke McDonald, Lauren O'Farrell, Sr. Judith Bellesini.

FRONT ROW: Kate Bownas, Amy Morgan, Tony Pucella, Fr. Joe Finn, Fr. Jim Coakley P.P., Sam Muratore, Sarah Bravo, Eleanora Genovese.

Foreword

The organising committee of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations thank Mrs. Gay Monahan for compiling and writing this history of Sacred Heart Parish. We thank Fr. Jack Keaney and Mr. Les McCarthy of the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission, Sr. Lois Young, Sr. Judith Bellesini, and the many parishioners who provided abundant material which our author competently sifted and arranged into this interesting Parish History.

We hope that the book will develop interest in the history of our Parish, and that, as you read this book, you will recall events and episodes, that would be part of an extended history to be written in twenty years time. Please pass any information to Gay to keep safe for posterity.

This book not only records the history of Sacred Heart Parish, but also highlights the activities of the Sisters of the Presentation Order, now withdrawing from our Parish School after 77 years.

FATHER JIM COAKLEY,
Parish Priest.

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CHAPTER ONE

The Beginnings

It was a proud moment for the district of Sandringham when, in 1914, Sacred Heart was made a parish with Father William Mangan as parish priest. At this time, Sandringham was a popular watering place, with the big advantage of being serviced by regular trains from Melbourne. The district had an almost rural atmosphere with unmade paths and abundant tea-tree. There were farmlets and market gardens in the neighbourhood and some of the residents earned their living by fishing in Port Phillip Bay.

As early as 1905, the need for a church had been recognised. Father Gough, the parish priest of Elsternwick, (now St. James' Gardenvale) called a meeting to plan for a church in the Sandringham area. On 28th March, a well attended meeting was held for the purpose of raising funds for a new church. As there was no church closer than Brighton or Mentone, it was decided to proceed with the erection of a church, capable of meeting the requirements of the district. By the middle of the year, tenders were called to build a church, Gothic in style, to be constructed in brick, with a slate roof and a tower finished in metal. The church was to seat five hundred people. A block of land, at the corner of Sandringham and Fernhill Roads, had already been purchased. This site, on a slight hill, with views of Port Phillip Bay was considered one of the best in the district. On 18th March, 1906, the new church was blessed and opened by Archbishop Carr. The architect was Robert H. Schreiber, stained glass windows were by Montgomery and the altar was designed by Soham.



Original Sacred Heart Church, Sandringham

Father William Mangan was one of the pioneers who established the grand tradition of St. Patrick's College, Manly, just before the turn of the century. He was born in Melbourne, educated at St. Mary's Boys School, West Melbourne and Xavier College. He was ordained at the unusually early age of 22 on the 1st January, 1902. As a young priest, Fr. Mangan obtained an M.A. from Melbourne University, founded the Newman Society and worked for the establishment of Newman College. He was a man of strong principles and he unflinchingly adhered to these, even at the cost of personal sacrifice. He was editor and leader writer of the "Tribune" for eleven years and was noted as a vigorous and audacious writer. Many sick and infirm priests had great cause to be grateful to Fr. Mangan for his efforts on their behalf. He was a man of ready wit and could tell a story against himself. One of the parishioners remembers Father retelling the story of the time he overheard himself described as "a little bloke with the biggest head and the smallest feet you have ever seen".

During Father Mangan's time at Sacred Heart, he bought, on 4th March, 1914, house and land from Mr. J. Donaldson to be used as a presbytery. The sum paid was Eleven Hundred Pounds. At the opening of the new presbytery on May 16th, 1914, Archbishop Carr commented on Father Mangan's "praiseworthy promptitude" and the very reasonable cost of the land and house. In the 1914-1915 balance sheet the parish debt was Three Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty One Pounds. The parish had been charged One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Pounds on its separation from Elsternwick.

The need to raise money was an ever present part of the new parish priest's life. The Catholics of this time accepted their responsibilities gladly. An "At Home, Kitchen Tea" was held at Mrs. Reddan's home, in Tennyson



Fr. William Mangan

Street, to help stock the presbytery. Block collections were organised. The Messrs. Dypnall, Maguire, Bineham, Smythe, Quinn, Bertotto, Hubbard, Kennedy, Mrs. Quinn and Miss Stewart were the original collectors. Our Easter fete in 1914 raised One Hundred and Three Pounds. In the following summer, another fete ran for two weeks to attract the summer visitors. At this fete the school children performed.

On August 11th, 1917, Father Thomas Bride, came from Clifton Hill to take temporary charge of the parish, during Father Mangan's absence while serving as an A.I.F. chaplain in World War 1. Father Bride was a noted sportsman being an elegant batsman on the cricket field and a rover on the football field. Archbishop Carr described him as "zealous and self sacrificing". During his time at Sacred Heart the parishioners had a busy social life holding Euchre Parties, Fancy Dress Dances and Irish Concerts to raise money. Children's concerts were also popular.

In 1919 Father Mangan returned from the war and Father Bride moved to Kensington. At this time Queen Carnivals were popular. In 1920, Five Hundred and Forty Pounds resulted from the Carnival, and in 1925 an astounding One Thousand and Thirty Six Pounds. Special appeals were held quite often. In 1924 the first Parish Ball was held. The spiritual life of the parish was helped by the holding of regular Missions given by the Redemptorist Fathers.

Father Mangan was a great planner. During his time at Sacred Heart he paved the way for the formation of the new parishes at Hampton and Black Rock. These were offshoots from the original Sandringham Parish. In 1924 Father Mangan bought 8 blocks on the Santa Margarita Estate at Hampton at a cost of Two Thousand Pounds. The foundation stone of St. Mary's, Hampton, was laid by Archbishop Mannix on the 2nd November, 1924. The estimated cost of the church and school was Three Thousand Six Hundred Pounds. In March, 1926, St. Mary's Hampton became a separate parish with Father Dan Coakley as parish priest.

On the twentieth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the church, Archbishop Mannix blessed a complete set of Australian made stained glass windows. One of these was a tribute by the parishioners to Michael and Margaret Quin for their twenty years of caring for the church, and particularly for the sacristy and sanctuary. Some of these windows were incorporated into the design of the new church.

The Church District of Black Rock became attached to Sandringham Parish on 20th May, 1927, when the first cheque was paid to the Catholic Trust Corporation of One Thousand and Thirty One Pounds Nine Shillings and Seven Pence being transfer of liability from the Mentone Parish. St. Joseph's Church, however, was not formally opened until the 22nd April, 1928, although Mass had been held on Sundays in the uncompleted structure from the Foundation Day ceremony, on the 1st January, 1928. Owing to difficulty in the matter of bank advances, Mr. Owen Clinton provided a loan of One Thousand Pounds in November, 1927, which was repaid in November, 1928. Mr. Hancock gave the labour and material for the altar. Fr. Gurry was appointed parish priest of St. Joseph's in February, 1931. The first altar boys at Sacred Heart were Joe Meade and Francis Daly.



Interior of Old Church



QUEEN CARNIVAL — EARLY 1920s

BACK ROW (L. to R.): M. Spence, N. Maguire, M. Lillis, A. Robinson, I. Bleazby.

FRONT ROW: I. Soffa, M. Kearney.

CHAPTER TWO

Early Days of Sacred Heart School

"From the ends of the earth I write to you for help" were the opening words of the letter sent by Father Corbett, of St. Mary's, East St. Kilda, to the Reverend Mother of the Presentation Convent in Sexton Street, Limerick, in 1873. The generosity of the response, and the dedication of the Sisters, in leaving their beloved homeland to come so far from home, was to influence generations of Catholic Children in Victoria. Conditions were often difficult, but with true pioneer spirit, the task of giving children a specifically Catholic education was carried out with gladness.

On the 5th May, 1912, Monseigneur Phelan opened a simple wooden school consisting of a hall measuring 41 feet by 26 feet with a cloakroom attached. The school was situated on the corner of Sandringham Road, and Collingwood Street. The Presentation Sisters travelled by train each day from Star of the Sea, at Gardenvale. Ursulla Redmond (nee Kennedy) was one of the "class of 1913". She was about nine years old. She remembers the school being in a bush setting. Part of the property was fenced. There was tea-tree outside and white sand mounds. The paths were unmade tracks and there was no sewerage.

One of the highlights of the school year was Empire Day, which was celebrated on the 24th May. The council provided footballs and rounder bats and balls on this day. Another highlight was the annual school picnic. This was organised by Mr. Soffa and the children would go for a trip on the bay in the "Hygeia" or "Weroona". Mr. Soffa, father of one of today's parishioners, Mrs. Ida Cuddigan, was a local newsagent. He delighted many school children by acting as Father Christmas and providing the presents himself. Mrs. Redmond remembers knitting socks for the soldiers and Sister Vincent being busy assisting with the turning of heels. In these early days the emphasis was on the teaching of the 3R's. The handwriting was beautiful and music and needlework were an important part of the curriculum. Some of the fathers worked for the Government, Council, Railways, Post Office or Police Force while others were fishermen. One of the fathers drove the horse drawn tram from Sandringham to Beaumaris. Two of the pupils came from Scotland and one, with little command of English, came from Spain.

On Father Mangan's return from the war, in 1919, he saw the need for a new school to provide more accommodation for the greater number of pupils. Increasing popularity of the area can be seen in the rising school enrolments of this period.

1912	50 pupils (approx.)	1917	84 pupils
1913	80 pupils	1918	75 pupils
1914	60 pupils	1919	93 pupils
1915	59 pupils	1920	95 pupils
1916	92 pupils	1921	132 pupils

In March, 1920, the old school and land were sold to Headlestone and Sharpin for One Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Pounds. The school fittings and shelter shed and outhouses were moved to the Fernhill Road site. Father Mangan had been able to purchase the land, measuring 80 feet by 140 feet at Seven Pounds a foot, between the presbytery and the church. On May 8th, 1920, Archbishop Mannix laid the foundation stone of the new school and it was opened by Bishop McCarthy of the Sandhurst Diocese in February the following year. The brick building was designed to accommodate three hundred



SACRED HEART SCHOOL GROUP 1912 OR 1913

Included in photo: Fr. Mangan, Sr. Bonaventure, Violet Noonan, May Maguire, Ursulla Kennedy, Kath Maguire, Frank Kennedy, Jim Noonan, Dave Duggan, Hush Kelly, John Gorman, Kathleen Gorman, Mary Bertotto, Mollie McCarthy, Eileen and Kathleen Daly, Frank and Dorrie O'Brien, Alice and Freddy Churchman, Walter Moss, John Cahill, the Bennetts, the Robins, the Townsends, the Ghadwicks, the Binehams.

pupils. The architect was Lawrence Holzer and the cost of the building was Two Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds. "The Advocate" (10-2-1921) described the school as follows: "the design is pleasing and lighting and hygienic arrangements most complete." The opening was a great social occasion with charabancs running from Flinders Street to Sandringham for the event. In 1926 the Inspector of Schools noted in his official report that the buildings were of modern type and apparently satisfactory in every way.

From 1926 to 1929 Mother Xavier Brennan was principal of the school. The State Elementary School Course was adopted. The Sisters worked diligently. Passing of the Merit Certificate was very important in the lives of the children. A successful pass was a passport to a good job, in those depression and post depression years, when fourteen years was the normal

PROGRAMME
Sacred Heart, Sandringham

1. CHORUS—(a) "Bout Song"
(b) "Dawn" } CHORAL CLASS

2. PHYSICAL CULTURE } INTERMEDIATE BOYS

3. CONVENT ORCHESTRA—"Gloria"
1st Violins: H. Baekman, J. Keary, T. Burke, M. Awburn, M. Bodsworth.
2nd Violins: R. Stephenson, J. Diamond, F. Taylor, P. Hutchings.
Pianos: E. Taylor, A. Byrne, B. Byrne, M. Smith, M. O'Neill, K. Keary.
Piccolo: D. Keary.

4. VOCAL SOLO—"Daddy Man" } R. STEPHENSON

5. OPERETTA—"Daisy Darling's Dream"
Prologue } N. BURKE

CHARACTERS

Daisy	P. Barker
Fairy Queen	K. Burke
Nurse	C. Kelly
Lila	J. King
Rosalund	N. Hassall
Phie	J. Meade
Angelina	D. Roberts
Popsy	J. Blazby
Poppy	M. Morris
Fluffy	N. Tonkin
Consequence	E. Burke
Lady Dolls, Gentlemen Dolls, Wax Dolls, Baby Dolls, Soldiers, Sailors, Fairy Dolls.	

I N T E R V A L

6. PIANO PORTE DUET—"Valse Brillante"
M. SMITH, M. AWBURN, M. O'NEILL, K. KEARY

7. PHYSICAL CULTURE } SENIOR GIRLS

8. ACTION SONG—"Samba" } JUNIOR BOYS

9. VIOLIN SOLO—"Perpetuo Mobile" (Brahm) } Miss T. BURKE

10. ACTION SONG—"Bacchante" (Hoffmann)
ROWERS: L. Donovan, C. Donovan, M. Smith, M. O'NEILL, E. Lator, J. Murray, N. Burke.

11. CONVENT ORCHESTRA—"Pouppe Valsure"
(Foidart)

12. RECITATION—"Three Kings" (Longfellow) } N. BURKE

TABLEAU—"The Crib"

Madonna	M. Burke
S. Joseph	L. Hatherly
Infant	J. Burke
KINGS: A. Lator, G. Hume, F. O'Sullivan.	
SHEPHERDS: J. Horton, D. Thomson,	
G. Eddy, J. Lavel, B. Collins.	
ANGELS: M. Fersman, D. King, J. Monaghan, M. O'Neill, N. O'Neill, N. Burke.	

"Aetate Fidelis."



CONCERT PERFORMERS 1930

Includes Murray O'Neill, Phil Meade, and the Graber Family.

school leaving age. In 1930 Sister Attracta came to Sacred Heart as music teacher. In 1932 she began orchestral work. In those years the Sisters were expected to organise a Ball and a Concert in aid of the Church. The preparation for these concerts must have involved many hours of hard work. They are remembered as being of a very high standard.

Attendances at the school during 1928 were seriously affected by the big flu epidemic. In 1937 the outbreak of poliomyelitis caused the school to be closed for 9 weeks. The Inspector's report noted on the 4th July, 1938, that much of the leeway due to that closure had been made up by the teachers concentrating on essential subjects. Classes were large during these years. Often the junior teacher in charge of Grades One and Two would have the largest grade. The school Principal would have a full work load in the classroom as well as her administrative duties.

During the twenties the school continued to provide a solid education. In 1927 and again in 1928 the school Inspector commented on the need for another teacher as more than seventy pupils in Grades One, Two and Three were in the charge of a junior teacher. Sacred Heart has always shown an awareness of new ideas in education and in 1936, the Inspector of Schools wrote in glowing terms of the successful attempt made to introduce the revised curriculum. He commented on the pleasant working atmosphere and the high standard of mural decorations done by the children. During the thirties a good record of success with passing the Merit Certificate was achieved and many who passed continued with higher education.

Mother Rose Feeney first came to Sacred Heart in 1930. By the time she left the parish in 1972 she had made many friends and had become almost an institution at Sacred Heart. In her later years, no social function would take place in the parish unless Mother Rose put St. Joseph in the convent grounds to ensure good weather. Mother Rose was an excellent teacher and a firm disciplinarian. She also could be very kind. Her Bandeau used to be etched into her forehead and many people can still picture her with veil flying in the breeze, as she chased after some erring children who were playing in a prohibited area. At the farewell function held on March 19th, 1972, there were many who were sad to see her leave the parish. A fund was established in her name to assist children at Sacred Heart School to further their education by means of a Bursary or Book Grant.

CHAPTER THREE

The Convent

Until 1929, the Presentation Sisters travelled by train from Star of the Sea to the Sacred Heart School. In 1929, Father Mangan bought a guest house on the corner of Fernhill and Sandringham Roads. The building was in bad repair and many tradesmen were called in to make the building habitable. The bedrooms were underneath the main rooms and were consequently damp. On March 8th, 1929, the convent was blessed by Archbishop Mannix. In the early days Mass was said on an improvised altar. An appeal was held and generous amounts were promised. It is interesting to note that about half of the amounts promised was not actually contributed at the time of the financial statement. Difficult economic times were probably the cause of this.

Sisters Xavier Brennan, Imelda Hogan, Columba Roulent, Teresita Morris, Alberta Kearney Mary Dunne, Kevin Trehy and Paul Gallivan were the first residents of the new convent. Sadly Sister Alberta died during the first month. She was Irish born and only in her mid twenties. From Sandringham, the Sisters went to teach at Black Rock and Hampton. The Convent Annals note that Father Clifford acted as parish priest while Father Mangan was overseas in 1929. The annals also note Father Rovira's first mass in the parish church.

Conditions in the first convent were always far from ideal and during Father Hartnett's time at Sacred Heart it was decided to build a new convent. This building is still used by the Sisters today. The foundation stone of the



First Convent in Sandringham



OFFICIAL OPENING OF FIRST CONVENT

Including: Fr. Coakley, Dr. J. O'Neill (Murray's father), Mr. E. Soffa, Archbishop Mannix, Mr. M. Maguire.

new convent was laid in November, 1953. The building was blessed and opened by Archbishop Mannix on June 6th, 1954. The architects were Brophy and O'Connor, and the builder, Mr. Henderson. At this time, Mother Rupert Virgona was Superior of the convent.

The parishioners were always grateful for the work of the Sisters and appreciative of having the convent in the parish. The Sisters, often, must have found it difficult to make ends meet. No doubt they were grateful to those parishioners who helped the housekeeping budget with donations of fruit, vegetables, milk, cream and eggs. The Stayners ran a market garden and Pam remembers regularly taking a basket of "goodies" to the convent on her way to school. At one time, card parties were held and the money was given directly to the Sisters. In 1969 the Mothers gave the Sisters a new washing machine. During the late sixties and seventies, social functions were held in the convent grounds to raise money for the school. Mass is celebrated regularly in the convent chapel. Other parishioners are always welcome to attend.

CHAPTER FOUR

Father Leo Hartnett's Time at Sacred Heart

From January to June, 1936, Father Gavan Duffy was parish priest at Sacred Heart. His grandfather was Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, Premier of Victoria, and his brother, Sir Frank Gavan Duffy, a Chief Justice of the High Court. Archbishop Knox described him as a refined and gentle soul with an embracing charity. It is not clear why his stay in the parish was so short. Father Leo Hartnett succeeded Fr. Gavan Duffy, and he was to remain at Sacred Heart for twenty-six years.

Father Hartnett was a big man with a big voice. The latter could be embarrassing at times as his comments to penitents in the confessional would sometimes echo around the church. He was a man of prayer and of deep personal faith. He had a strong personality and was a very definite person. Father Pickering said, when delivering the eulogy at his Requiem Mass in August, 1970, "He was of stern stuff but sentiment was in him and gentleness and kindness".



FATHER LEO HARTNETT WITH HOLY NAME GROUP

FRONT ROW (L. to R.): Brian McCarthy, Peter Foster, Kevin Woodburn, Mick Kelly, Don Reese, Pat Kelly, Fr. Leo Hartnett, Frank Reade, Harry Turner, Bill Kelly, Tom Curthoys, Barry Skehan.

CENTRE ROW: Jim McGrath,?....,?....,?...., Ray Cole, Tim Fahey, Brian Curthoys, D. Brown, Ted Gardner,?...., J. Brown,?...., Joe Meade,

BACK ROW:?...., Jim Fulton, B. Hatherly,?...., John McCarthy, Leo Bourke,?...., Vern Peeler, Fred Duscher, Ron Owens, Bob Kershaw,?...., Falkingham,?....,?....,?....,?...., Dwyer, Mick Andrews, Jim McCarthy, Phil Meade.

The years of Father Hartnett's time in the parish were a settled period for the church, although he was in the parish during the second World War. His time at Sacred Heart spanned a period of great growth in the district. The number of pupils at the school would almost double. In an era when cars were not so common, the church was very much the centre of the spiritual and social life of the parishioners. In the "Credo" of 1938 the various parish groups are listed. Of these the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Women's Social Guild and the Altar Society still exist today.

The accent of parish life was on groups of common interest. "The Mens" and "The Womens" Sacred Heart Sodality, the Children of Mary, the Y.C.W., the N.C.G.M. all had large followings. "We stand for God and for his Glory" and "Faith of Our Fathers" were stirring hymns sung by the men of the Holy Name Society. Confirmation days were great days in the life of the parish. They must have required a high degree of stamina on the part of the confirmees, their parents and sponsors. In 1938 Archbishop Mannix expressed his delight at the large congregation. One hundred and twelve boys and girls and several adults from Sandringham and Black Rock were confirmed. Father Hartnett spoke on the doctrine of the sacrament and its ceremonies. After the confirmation ceremony Archbishop Mannix spoke for over an hour. Benediction was part of the Church Liturgy and was celebrated regularly on Sunday night. Many Catholics would go home after Benediction and listen to the "Catholic Hour" on the radio. Easter ceremonies were always well attended and on Holy Thursday and Good Friday the school girls would strew rose petals in the procession before the Blessed Sacrament. During 1959, 150 people attended daily Mass during Lent.

During World War II air raid shelters were built by some of the parishioners in the convent grounds. People banded together and knitted for the soldiers. Food parcels were organised and despatched. The children at the school practised drills in the school grounds. Frank Burke remembers Mother Bernadette sending him a prayer book which he kept in his left hand pocket for the duration of the war.

At any given time in a parish, money is needed to finance the parish and school. Fr. Hartnett had many ways of encouraging people to give. He asked for quiet collections encouraging the giving of notes. At one time the congregation was told "threepence would not even buy you an egg today". At another time he suggested that some of the faithful appeared to be blind when the plate came around. Parish balls, concerts and a big annual car raffle were organised to help raise money.

The tennis club had started in 1922 and was a great club from both the sporting and social aspects. Teams took part in the V.C.L.T.A. competition and many social functions were held. The tennis club provided a great meeting place and at one stage was known as the marriage bureau. The tennis club raised money for itself and for the general parish finances. Many marriage receptions during the forties were held in the parish hall.

CHAPTER FIVE

The New School of 1952

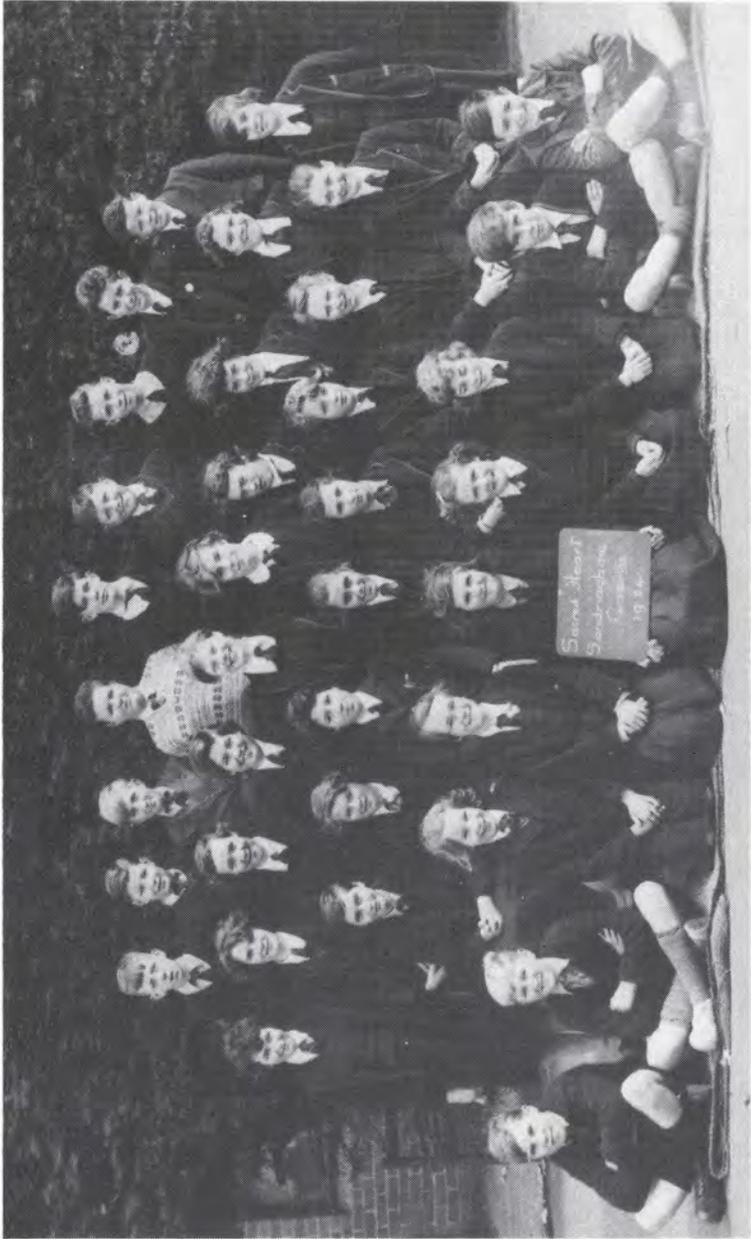
The Catholics of Australia always felt deeply the injustice of the system, whereby they paid taxes for education but were unable to have a share of these taxes for their own schools. The issue of the state aid was always in the forefront of Catholic thinking. The Catholic Federation was in existence at the time of World War I and it tried to get the message of the justice of the Catholic claim across to the wider community. When Archbishop Mannix arrived in Australia, he raised the issue of state aid on countless occasions. At the opening of the new Sacred Heart School in 1952, Archbishop Simonds again expressed the Catholic viewpoint, "In fidelity to their ideal of Christian education two generations of Australian Catholics have accepted a crushing financial burden in order to ensure that their children will receive an education that is thoroughly Christian in its spirit and at the same time completely efficient in its secular training".

By the late 1940's, the existing school accommodation could not cope with the increasing number of children wishing to attend the school. In 1947, it was suggested that the back verandah be closed and used as a classroom. This was done in 1948. In this year numbers of children were refused admittance because of the overcrowding. In response to this urgent need, five new classrooms were erected in 1952. The Architect was Mr. A. O. Dalton and the builder, Mr. W. Henderson. The school inspector's report of 1952 describes the classrooms as "well lighted, well suited for teaching purposes and tastefully decorated." Archbishop Simonds referred to Father Hartnett as a very courageous man who "possesses the enthusiastic co-operation of the people of Sandringham".

With the five additional classrooms Grades 4 to 8 moved to the new building. Cooking classes began in the school kitchen. The school functioned smoothly and the pupils were polite and courteous.

The Sacred Heart School has always provided an education of high standard and the staff have demonstrated a capacity to adjust to changing educational trends. As early as 1936 the school inspector commented on "the very successful attempt made to introduce the revised curriculum". This capacity to cope with change has always been a strong feature of the school. Music and art work have always had a strong emphasis. Mrs. Val Kingwell, the first president of the Mothers Club, was an organist and gave her services gratis for school singing, concerts and balls from 1929-1952. Various sporting activities were part of school life. The convent annals note that in 1971 Grades 1 and 2 from Sacred Heart played football against Grades 1 and 2 from Black Rock. Father Ernie Smith was the umpire. It was not recorded if any of his decisions were disputed. The "Credo" of October, 1938, describes the visit of the Sandringham II girls basketball team to Clifton Hill. The girls all squeezed in to Father Hartnett's Oldsmobile and he drove them to the match.

In 1956 Nagle Kindergarten was opened on land adjoining the convent, where Fernhill Hostel stands today.



CLASS OF '54

CHAPTER SIX

The Sixties and Seventies

The deliberations of the Second Vatican Council 1962-1965 undoubtedly touched the lives of all members of the Church today. It was an attempt to view the teaching of the Gospel message in the light of the changing world. The years after the Council were exciting and challenging for all Catholics. The Mass would be said in the vernacular, the laity would play a greater role in the Church liturgy, the message of the Good Samaritan parable would be re-examined and there would be a real attempt made to achieve unity among all Christians.

Father Patrick O'Connor had trained at All Hallows College, Dublin, a seminary that trained priests for the missions. He generously took up the call to come to a land so far from his own. A man of simple faith, he had great devotion to his breviary and his rosary. The sick and elderly were his special concern. Father O'Connor was a sociable man with a capacity for making friends with people of different creeds. During his time at Sacred Heart he was able to purchase the land where the presbytery now stands. In the past, there had been an unwillingness to sell to the Church. Father enjoyed playing cards, took an interest in the races but generally was very cautious in money matters. Father contracted Bill Booth of Heidelberg to plan and build two extra classrooms, but just as the site was being prepared, Father was moved to Wattle Park.

It took some time for the decisions of Vatican II to reach Australia and it was not until Father John Kelly arrived in the Parish in 1968 that the influence of Vatican II was really felt.

Father John Kelly (later Bishop Kelly) was born at South Yarra on 27-10-1916. He attended Parade College, East Melbourne and was then educated for a time by the Holy Ghost Fathers in County Tipperary, Ireland and completed his secondary education at St. Kevin's College, Toorak.

He was a man of action, a doer, who did not believe in letting the grass grow under his feet. He had been in the parish only a short while when he had all the stations removed from the Church. When questioned by some parishioners, who were loath to part with these treasures, he was to say blandly, that "Vin Gadsden did that". He did not feel it necessary to mention that the removal was on his orders. Father Kelly wanted the congregation to sing and sing it did. I can still see Father walking up and down the aisle coaxing, cajoling or forcing song out of somewhat reluctant mouths. The Altar was changed so that Mass could be said with the priest facing the people. Extra lighting was provided in the church and the Baptistry became a confessional. Offertory processions and other forms of liturgy were introduced.

Father Kelly was a very sociable man with an ability to relate to all types of people. He was a great planner and could see beyond the immediate future.

In 1968, Father went ahead with Father O'Connor's plans to build two new classrooms but extended this to include a staffroom, toilet, library and office. The toilets were renovated. It was in this year that Grades 7 and 8 ceased to be part of primary schools and became part of the junior secondary schools. In this year new systems of teaching maths and reading were introduced to the school. In 1970, a Parish Council was formed with Mr. Price as its first president. The old school became a Youth Centre. An inter church service

was held at Sacred Heart. This was a great success with amplifiers on the tennis court for the overflow who could not fit in the church. An Inter Church Social Committee was formed. The Ministers of all churches were part of it. A Lay Missionary Ceremony was held in the church as Clare Healy was going to Mt. Hagen in New Guinea for three years. During Father Kelly's time at Sacred Heart the parish seemed to take on new life. In 1970 Father Hartnett died leaving \$15,000 to the parish. There had been concerns about the condition of the old church which had run down over the years. A report was



Girls First Communion Group, 1963 — with Fr. O'Connor

obtained which suggested the church was unsafe. Meetings were held in the parish and it was decided to build a new church.

Father John Scarborough arrived in Sandringham in 1971. He was a gentle, compassionate man with an enormous generosity of spirit. He was humble, with the capacity to listen to any point of view presented to him and could see only the best in people's motives, Archbishop Little said that it was an awesome task to follow him as parish priest of Brunswick. He referred to him as working in an unassuming, effective way. On Father's arrival in the parish some opposition to the building of the new church was expressed. Father listened to this with courtesy but plans went ahead. A special meeting to discuss the building program on November 17th, was well attended with only seven people against the project. \$160,000 was the estimated cost. On 15th August, 1974, the new church and presbytery were blessed and opened by Bishop Kelly. The Architect was Saraty, Smith and Associates and the builder Leo Kelly. The old presbytery was converted to an art and craft area. It also was used as a library, and cooking classes were held in the kitchen. The parent organisations worked very hard to make this building functional. In 1971 the old school was condemned and wrecked.

Under Father Scarborough's guidance, inter church services continued, a day for young couples was introduced and help for the sick and elderly was organised. In 1971 there was a dramatic Confirmation ceremony. Bishop Cullinane administered the sacrament. The adult choir gave a splendid performance of choral singing accompanied by several instruments. Sister Patrice Marshall played the trumpet. The weather was stormy and in the middle of the Confirmation ceremony the lights went out. The evening continued by candlelight. During this year the boys and girls of Grade 6 at Sacred Heart organised an afternoon for the elderly. Community singing was enjoyed by all. Miss Kitty Walsh, who is a talented musician and has played for many parish functions, again played the organ. A renewal program was held in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress of 1973. Home Masses were held and discussion groups organised. Father Scarborough was not in good health during his time at Sacred Heart and towards the end was ably assisted by Sister Patricia Madigan, the Pastoral Associate. He was a much loved pastor who brought the message of Vatican II in a very real way to the parish. He demanded very little for himself and it was with real regret that the parishioners saw him leave the parish at the end of 1978.

During the sixties and seventies, Sacred Heart School continued to provide an excellent education for its pupils. It was fortunate to often have at least two sisters on the staff who were well supported by dedicated lay teachers. Sister Maureen Cullen, when interviewed before taking up her appointment at Sacred Heart in 1974, said that she was impressed with the vigorous life and activity of the Sacred Heart Parish. She was looking forward to small classes and stressed the co-operation of parents would be always welcome. Both Sister Maureen and Sister Berchmans Dowling, who had preceded her, had a great command of the English language. Sister Berchmans Dowling was born in Ireland and had the great joy of a trip home during her time at Sacred Heart. Sister Josephine Kennedy was a wonderful teacher who provided a bridge from the junior to the senior grades. She ran a tight ship in Grade 4 and many students have her to thank for the solid grounding she gave them in the 3R's. Sister Jude Donovan took a keen interest in sport.

Sister Louis Henwood was an enthusiastic netball coach and under her direction the teams reached a very high standard. Sister Claude Dunne was loved by all who knew her and Sister Marie Jones was a wonderful administrator and always knew every child in the school.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Fernhill Hostel for the Aged

During 1973 a Eucharistic Congress was held in Melbourne. As part of this there was a seminar on social concern. This resulted in the formation of a Christian Caring Committee in the parish. With Father Scarborough's enthusiastic support the dream of building a hostel to help the elderly evolved.

The dream was to build a 46 room hostel with each room having a basin and toilet. Admissions would be judged on need irrespective of creed but having respect to the frailty or medical condition, age and existing financial situation of the applicant. The original committee consisted of Father Scarborough (Chairman), Jeanette O'Neill (Secretary), Es. Merrick (Treasurer), Frank Maguire, Des Hill, Helen Stuchberry, Marie Murphy, Jack Linard and Tom Scott (Auditor). Of these, Frank Maguire, Jack Linard, Jeanette O'Neill and Tom Scott have remained actively involved throughout Fernhill's operation.

It was realized very early in the planning stage that a parish could not finance and maintain such a large project on its own. Wider community support was sought and generously given. Mrs. Helen Stuchberry, the official social worker for the municipality, gave invaluable assistance and has been referred to as the "angel of mercy" of the project. The land for the hostel was purchased from the Presentation Sisters for \$45. The site was one of the best in the district for a hostel, with a view over the bay from most residents' rooms, close to transport, churches, shops and other facilities so that residents could continue to be very much part of the community, not isolated and remote from friends and interests.



Fernhill — Early Days

Through the Aged Persons' Hostel Act, 1972, the Commonwealth Government donated \$618,000 to the project. Sandringham Council provided \$50,000 and the Committee of Management worked tirelessly to raise \$50,000. Practical support came from charitable trusts, local service clubs, and other Churches in the area. It was a real example of practical ecumenism. With further assistance from the Sandringham Council and much hard work, the capital cost was paid off in three years.

The building of Fernhill Hostel for the Aged commenced in May, 1976, and was completed in July, 1977. The first residents moved in in August of that year. These people were not expected to make an ingoing payment, but paid a proportion of the single pension. The official opening took place in November, 1977, when the building was blessed by Archbishop Little, and opened by Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, the Minister for Social Security at the time. Guests included Bishop Muston, Administrator of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Rev. R. Allardice, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Mr. K. J. Ball, President of the Baptist Union of Victoria, and the Mayor of Sandringham, Cr. Lawrence Bottomley.

During the eleven years of its existence, Fernhill has been a happy place with residents being cared for with love and understanding. Voluntary help from a wide cross section of the community has always played an important part in the running of Fernhill. In recent years one room is being kept as a respite room, thus fulfilling another great need in the community. This year, Fernhill Hostel for the Aged was awarded the prestigious Residential Care Award for 1988. The Minister for Health, Mr. David White, M.L.C., presented it to Mr. Frank Maguire, Mrs. Jill Presser and Mrs. Estelle Fyfe who represented the Committee of Management. What a fitting tribute to all those who have given of themselves since 1973 to make Fernhill a wonderful home where our elderly can live happy and dignified lives.



Fernhill — At Work

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Eighties

In 1979, Father Jim Coakley came from one side of the bay to the other to take up his role as parish priest of Sacred Heart. He quickly made himself at home here and enjoyed the proximity of the beach. In his time at Sandringham, he has consolidated and improved what has gone before him. From his early days in the parish, Father Jim had a broad vision of the future development of Sacred Heart. He has the ability to plan ahead and to encourage parishioners to work with him for the common good. Thanks to his vision and enterprise, some faults in the church buildings have been remedied. Sacred Heart Church is now more functional and aesthetically more pleasing. The church now has a central aisle. An overhead projector is used during church services. An aid to help the deaf has been installed. The church entrance has been extended and covered which has been much appreciated by those attending weddings and funerals.

The school classrooms have been refurbished and a magnificent multi purpose room, a library, art room and administration block have been erected during Father's time with us. Sister Lois Young was involved with the planning of these additions. Sister, who is handy with hammer and nails herself, was able to bring a wealth of practical experience to the task. We can thank Father Jim for the magnificent landscaping around the church and school which has beautified the entire church property. The statue of the Sacred Heart was obtained from the Sisters of St. Joseph. This mounted above the two foundation stones is a real landmark on the Bay Road corner.

Father Jim is a true pastor, always aware of the spiritual needs of the parish. He is interested in the faith development of both children and adults. The birthdays club was Father's idea. With the help of Ian and Carmel Humphreys, all children in the parish receive a birthday card from Father Jim until the time of their First Communion. This is a beautiful way, for the children, at an early age, to experience the warmth of belonging to the parish family. During 1985, Father organised a Vincentian Renewal in the parish. This ran for six weeks and was both inspiring and challenging. The Renewal was preceded by a wonderful Parish Dinner held in the Star of the Sea Hall. Cath Power and Joan Dunne organised personal invitations to all the parishioners.

For the past two years, 1987-88 and continuing on in 1989, our Parish has been involved with the Diocesan initiative, RENEW. About 120 of our parishioners have been involved in small group prayer and discussion about our faith, based on the scripture readings of the Sunday liturgy. This year as we planned for our 75th anniversary celebrations, Father put great importance on a Mission by the Redemptorist Fathers to be held in November so we can prayerfully thank God for the past, and plan for the future.

Sister Judith Bellesini came to Sacred Heart in 1982. In 1983 she became Principal. In Sister Judith's time as Principal of the school, all who have come in contact with her have been impressed by the warmth of her personality. She has not only been devoted in her concern for the school, but has taken part in the wider parish activities. During her time with us, a school based curriculum has been developed and implemented at the Sacred Heart School. Much time and thought has gone into the formulation of a written school policy.

With Father Jim's support, the sacramental program at the school commences in Prep. and aims to assist the faith development of parents and



Sister Lois Young with some of her charges shortly before the opening of the Parish School Extensions in 1982

children. The parents are encouraged to be closely involved with the preparation of the children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The children at Sacred Heart are fortunate to take part in a CO AS-IT program whereby they are taught Italian language and culture.

The youth of the parish are given encouragement to participate in sport. Sybil Kennedy and members of her family have for years organised the primary and post primary girls in a Netball competition. The accent has always been on enjoying the game, giving everyone a go and not winning at all costs. In 1982 Dr. Jim McDonald formed a Basketball team. When the school grounds were redesigned, not only was extra grassed area provided, but two netball and a basketball court were built. Having the courts lit encouraged the growth in basketball teams which in 1988 numbered fourteen.

Antioch is a Parish based youth group which is centred around prayer scripture, community and youth ministering to youth. It was started in the Parish by Mark Thornton in 1985 with Anne and Barry Thornton as the first parent couple, and Fr. Barry Meehan S.J. as the first Spiritual advisor. This group continued on for a couple of years with the aid of parent couples and was a means of bringing young people to a deeper commitment to their faith and a warmth between young people that had not been experienced before.

During the visit of Pope John Paul to Melbourne, he visited St. Paul's Cathedral and lit a candle there. This visit was a sign of great progress in the Ecumenical Movement in Melbourne. In Sandringham there is a very good spirit of friendship and co-operation between members of the different churches. Ecumenical services are held monthly and the Ministers Fraternal and Inter Church Council meet regularly. Elsie Carlton, a parishioner very interested in the Ecumenical Movement, recently received the Sandringham "Citizen of the Year" award for her activities not only in the parish of Sacred Heart, but also in the wider community.

Sister Bernard Welsh and Sister Fabian O'Keefe were both active in pastoral work in the parish. They made many friends among people of varying religious beliefs.



Fr. J. Coakley and Sandringham Parishioners at M.C.G. on occasion of the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1987

CHAPTER NINE

Assistant Priests at Sacred Heart

*"We really don't care just why he stayed
All we need to know
Is that he's here and here he'll stay
God bless you Father Joe."*

These lines ended Gerry Harper's poem celebrating Father Joe Finn's record as the longest serving assistant priest in the parish of Sacred Heart. On Friday, October 6th, 1988, Father Joe and Father Jim concelebrated Mass to thank God for Father's six years in the parish. Father Joe came late to the priesthood being ordained in 1978. His six years at Sandringham have been a real blessing for the parish, and if one can judge by outward appearances a blessing for Father Joe too. Any curate at Sacred Heart very quickly becomes familiar with the stretch of Bay Road from the presbytery to George Street, as his vocational lot is to officiate at many funerals at the New Cheltenham Cemetery. Father Joe has always been able to find just the right word of comfort and support at the appropriate time. He has fulfilled his role with sympathy and understanding, and has a great devotion to his beloved Magpies and his prowess on the golf course is well known in the district.

Over the years, the curates at Sacred Heart have borne out the truth of the maxim "Variety is the spice of life". With a variety of interests and talents they have certainly added colour and flavour to the life of the Sandringham Parish. Father James Clifford was the first Assistant Priest assigned to Sandringham in 1929. He was transferred four months later, so the mantle of first Assistant Priest at Sandringham can be given to Father Tom O'Keefe (1960-65). Father was a great scripture scholar and encouraged the formation



Fr. P. Gurry and Cast of "Trial by Jury"

of scripture groups in the parish. His knowledge of any matters relating to the army was quite extraordinary. With the advent of Father Paul Gurry (1978-1979) the parish came alive musically. Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury" was produced and also "Oliver". These productions were of a high standard. Father's rendition of "Get Me to the Church on Time," was truly memorable. When Father Peter Priestley was at Sacred Heart some of the parishioners were somewhat fearful of the other residents of the presbytery — Father's snakes. Father Priestley had also a great interest in motor bikes. Father Scarborough once complained that he got rid of the snakes only to acquire trains. Father Val Maglica (1975-1978) a gentle kindly man, had an interest in steam trains. He was also musical, and related very well to the choir during his years with us. He had a special empathy with the sick. Father Damian West (1982-1983) was a spiritual man interested in the charismatic movement, and also in racing. He once tipped, on the parish news-sheet, the winner of the Melbourne Cup. He was known to give one punter a blessing — "May all your quinellas be good ones".

Father Neville McKie (1979-1982) was a former motor mechanic. He brought with him a chalice made from his former tools of trade which had been melted down. Many of the youth had wonderful trips to Father's block of land in the Ballarat area. Father, the boys, and his dog named Deefer (D for dog) had a great time. Father's sermons were always well prepared, thought provoking, but sometimes went a little over time. Father John Abraham was a genial, kindly man.

Father Ernie Smith (1968-1970), a source of boundless energy, was a veritable Peter Pan sweeping all along with his enthusiasm. He did wonderful work with the youth of the parish and returned to Sacred Heart to officiate at many weddings. He was a devoted supporter of North Melbourne and took a keen interest in the local Sacred Heart football team.



Fr. E. Smith in one of his few moments of relaxation

CHAPTER TEN

Parish Groups and Organisations

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

in the parish of the Sacred Heart, Sandringham, 1936-1988

The Sacred Heart Conference was founded in 1936 and is one of the oldest parish organisations.

The first President was Jim Meere of Susan Street, the Secretary was Joe O'Kelly of Codrington Street, and it is thought the Treasurer was Alf, Duscher of McLauchlin Avenue. There was a great need for the Society in our community at that time: The effects of the Great Depression were still being experienced, unemployment in the district was high, many families lived well below the poverty line, and government funded social welfare schemes were barely in existence.

The Conference, numbering no more than six or seven, worked hard helping the most needy clients especially those families with children. They contributed money themselves, begged from parishioners, endeavoured to find work for the bread winners, and in all cases brought some consolation and help to the needy by their friendship and understanding. Truly it may be said that they practised Christianity by helping those in need on a person to person basis.

World War II brought difficulties. Pressure of war work forced many members to become inactive and it was left mainly to Joe O'Kelly to carry the burden as best he could. Joe remained an active member until he died earlier this year at the age of 91.

Post war the membership gradually increased and the work diversified. In addition to visiting the poor in their homes regular visits were made to Ozanam House and Kingston Centre. Clothing and furniture drives were conducted, families were assisted during eviction from their homes, houses were repaired and children given assistance with their education.

The Conference actively supported the establishment of the Hampton Store and campaigned to have the Society purchase the freehold. The revenue generated by the store has been very useful, but more importantly we have been able to help destitute families who have lost their possessions through fire or flood, or who have sold their possessions to raise money to travel to Melbourne seeking work. The secret of the success of the store is the ladies who give their voluntary assistance. Without their assistance this great venture would founder.

In 1973 the Society amended it's rule and admitted women to full and equal membership. Our Conference responded and welcomed Sisters Fabian and Bernard of the Presentation Order, Gwladys Maguire became Treasurer, Cath Power and Pat Croke uncovered poverty and suffering we did not know to exist.

The political upheaval in South-east Asia generated a flood of Asian refugees into Australia in the early eighties. The Conference sponsored two Cambodian families, and with the aid of clergy, religious and parishioners, successfully settled some twenty or more people into the Australian way of life.

We have a saying "No work of charity is foreign to the Society". If you have ideas talk to us. The enthusiasm of members, not ability or lack of money, is our only limiting factor.

THE SANDRINGHAM CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE

The Sandringham Credit Co-Operative commenced in 1971, during Bishop Kelly's time as Parish Priest. Ever since its beginning, the office has been opened every Sunday, including holiday periods, for the benefit of Members. It is serviced by voluntary helpers. The Sandringham Credit Co-Op. is able to offer attractive interest rates on deposits and low interest rates on loans. Since its inception, low interest loans of nearly one million dollars, have been approved for all sorts of uses from car loans to home improvements. At present, there are approximately three hundred Members and two hundred and forty of those are Shareholders. New Members are welcome. The following people have contributed to the success of the Co-Op. over the years:—

Jim McGrath Jnr. (*Inaugural President*);
Howard Wright (*President — 17 years*);
Steve Excell (*Inaugural Secretary*);
Jim McGrath Snr. (Late) (*Secretary*);
Reg Bourke (Late) (*Secretary*);
Peter Meade (*Secretary*);
Maree Wright (*Secretary*);
Cath Power (*Present Secretary*);

David Falkland, Noel Gregory, Jack Savage, Mel Rudd, Bill Cameron, Frank Scully, Jim Andrews, Frank Meade, Bill Berreen, Peter Longshaw, Mick Holden, Michael Scully and Julie Quirk, have all been *Directors* of the Sandringham Co-Op. and Anna Collins a *Collector*.

THE CONCERN GROUP

With Father Scarborough's active support, Jenny Hall, started this Group in the early seventies. There has always been a significant number of elderly people in Sandringham, and until this time, there was very little being done to assist them, in an organised way.

Since Jenny left the parish the work of the group has been in the capable hands of Pat Combe and Laurina Andrews.

In the early days, the Members of the Concern Group would visit the seven or eight Nursing Homes in the district at least twice a month. The visits were appreciated by the residents of the Nursing Homes, and also by those in charge. Later, it was decided to bring as many of the elderly as possible together for social gatherings. Transport was organised for those who needed it. The Group now use the very comfortable multi purpose room at the School for monthly functions. In the past, they "made do" with the small meeting room, or later, the old Church. Films have been shown, Bingo afternoons and community singing have all been popular. Local entertainers have come to these gatherings. Father Paul Gurry was always a very popular guest.

At the present time, more activities for the elderly are available so that numbers attending the Monthly functions are not as large. Today, the home visits are largely undertaken by the Catholic Womens League and the Legion of Mary and the Special Ministers of the Sick.

THE CHARISMATIC GROUP

This enthusiastic Group meets each Wednesday in the Parish Lounge to praise and thank the Lord in the spirit of the Apostles.

THE LEGION OF MARY

Miss Grace McGuinness from Caulfield Curia spoke at Sunday Masses in 1979, and the Legion of Mary recommenced with Mrs. Margaret Cameron as President. There are now about seven active Members of this group, but they are supported by a Prayer Group of thirty. People in need of spiritual comfort are visited.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Began in 1979, after Mrs. Berna Foster and Mrs. Edna Field spoke at Mass one Sunday, with Mrs. Elsie Carlton as President. This group has sixteen members and meets on the second Monday of each month. A gospel meditation is part of each meeting. The group does charitable work in the parish and community. The League hopes, by united action to influence legislators on moral issues.

THE LITURGY GROUP

Since Vatican II there has been an opportunity to contribute to the Liturgy of the parish in various ways. The Liturgy Groups, led by Sr. Judith and Pat Combe meet monthly. They prepare the commentaries, hymns and prayers of the faithful to suit the readings of the day so that the Mass is a meaningful experience for all participants.

Music is an integral part of our Eucharistic celebrations and we have a wonderful band of organists led by Kit Walsh. Moira Marsh organises the Children's Liturgy which was introduced by Miss Kristin Allen in 1980.

Many of our parishioners are actively involved in our liturgy as Special Ministers of the Eucharist, lectors, commentators, ushers and a small group take communion to sick after the 9.00 a.m. Mass each Sunday.



Special Ministers Pauline Bourke, Gerry Harper and Pat Combe about to visit the sick.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION — The Parents and Friends and Mother's Club amalgamated in 1985 to become the Parents' Association. This group of school parents meet monthly to organize social events and raise funds for the running of the school and to purchase equipment for the classrooms. There are various sub groups of the Association, namely the Tuck Shop and Uniform Shop, as well as the Safety House Committee which ensures there are safe houses for the children to go to in time of emergency on their way home from school.

EDUCATION BOARD — consists of a group of parents, together with the priests, principal and a class teacher, who meet each term to discuss and advise the principal in the area of school policy.

OUTREACH — This group was started up a couple of years ago to ensure that families were helped and supported in times of emergency. Meals, transport and childminding are provided by parents as the need arises.

CATECHETICS

Phyllis McCarthy and Laurel Smith help with preparing those children in the Parish who are not at the Sacred Heart School, for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The desire for this program was expressed by some of the parents. There is a Training Program for Catechists and classes are held at the Sacred Heart and in some of the Schools.

BUBBLES AND BOOTEES

In 1986, Gabrielle Smith felt there was a need in the Parish for mothers of babies and young children to have the opportunity to meet socially. Approximately twenty mothers met and called their Group "Bubbles" (for Champagne), and "Bootees" (for the babies). The main purpose of the Group is a social one, but this purpose has been extended so practical help is available for the mothers in time of need. Father Jim and Father Joe have supported the Group and have celebrated Mass for them at home.

F.I.S.H.

After the Renew Program, in February this year, Andrew Wallace started a Youth Group in the Parish. It's name, F.I.S.H., means Friends in Sacred Heart. The Group caters for boys and girls from Year 10 to Year 12.

A weekly Meeting is held. On one week, a discussion of topics to do with Faith is held, and every alternate week is a social evening. About twenty-two young people belong to the Group, and there is a weekly attendance of about fifteen.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Looking to the Future

In an age where Christian values are being replaced in many cases by materialistic ones, we, the Church, face a real challenge as we move towards the nineties.

It is important for us to find strength and support from the Parish family. The laity must be prepared to play an increasing role in the life of the Church. At present, the parish of Sacred Heart is a warm, caring community. The parishioners are involved in preparation of the liturgy, some are readers and commentators at Mass, others act as Ministers of the Sick and others take the young children for a special Children's Liturgy during the early part of Mass. We have always been fortunate in having talented organists. The Charismatic Groups, the Legion of Mary, the Concern Group, F.I.S.H., St. Vincent de Paul Society are all active in the parish. First Friday "Holy Hour" still draws large numbers. The Parish of Sacred Heart is fortunate to have the leadership, support and encouragement of Father Jim Coakley and Father Joe Finn.

Next year will be the first year since 1912 when a Presentation Sister will not be Principal of Sacred Heart School. Parishioners of Sacred Heart for 77 years owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all those Sisters who have given their lives so that our heritage of Catholic faith could be passed on to our sons and daughters. Generations of children have come home quoting "Sister says . . .". Sister was a rock of stability in a changing world. Over the years the Presentation Sisters worked gladly and tirelessly. They, by their vocation, have presented generosity, diligence and selflessness as a great example for the boys and girls in their care. While we regret the passing of the Presentation Sisters we are able to be confident that the band of dedicated lay teachers in our school will continue to look after the needs of the children.

Placing our trust in God, united in the friendship of our parish family, we at Sacred Heart look forward to the future. In reflecting a little on what has gone before, we hope to understand ourselves a little better and to move ahead with confidence.

Religious Vocations

PRIESTS

FR. PHILLIP CASEY
FR. TOM SHEERAN
FR. JOHN O'KELLY
FR. VINCENT BURKE
FR. DENIS MINOGUE
FR. PETER HOWARD
FR. JOHN SALVANO
FR. MARTIN LEACH
FR. PAUL GARDINER, S.J.
FR. CHRIS GLEESON, S.J.
FR. SHANE O'CONNOR, O.C.
FR. PETER McALPINE, O.C.
FR. JOHN KING, M.S.C.

RELIGIOUS

SR. SHIELA CANTWELL, P.B.V.M.
SR. VIANNEY O'NEILL, P.B.V.M.
SR. JOAN PATTERSON, P.B.V.M.
SR. SHIELA FEISS, BRIGIDINE
FR. MARIE O'KELLY, BRIGIDINE
SR. THERESA RYAN, BRIGIDINE
SR. ROSE DERRICK, P.B.V.M.
SR. CLARE CORCORAN, P.B.V.M.
SR. BENEDICT CHILDS, P.B.V.M.
SR. MARY COLOE, P.B.V.M.
SR. GAIL RYAN, BRIGIDINE
SR. DENISE ALLEN, BRIGIDINE
SR. ELIZABETH MEADE, GOOD SHEPHERD
SR. JOSEPHINE O'KELLY, SISTER OF CHARITY
SR. JOSEPHINE O'SHANNESY, BLUE SISTERS
BR. KEVIN KING, M.S.C.

LIST OF PARISH PRIESTS

1914-1917 FR. WILLIAM MANGAN
1917-1919 FR. THOMAS BRIDE
1919-1936 FR. WILLIAM MANGAN
1936 FR. GUY GAVAN DUFFY
1936-1962 FR. LEO HARTNETT
1962-1968 FR. PATRICK O'CONNOR
1968-1971 FR. JOHN A. KELLY
1971-1979 FR. JOHN SCARBOROUGH
1979- FR. JIM COAKLEY

LIST OF ASSISTANT PRIESTS

1929	FR. JAMES CLIFFORD
1960-1965	FR. TOM O'KEEFFE
1965-1968	FR. FRANK McLAUGHLAN
1968	FR. GREG HANDLEY
1968-1972	FR. ERNIE SMITH
1970-1971	FR. JOHN ABRAHAM
1972-1975	FR. PETER PRIESTLEY
1975-1978	FR. VAL MAGLICA
1978-1979	FR. PAUL GURRY
1979-1982	FR. NEVILLE McKIE
1982-1983	FR. DAMIAN WEST
1983-	FR. JOSEPH FINN

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AT SACRED HEART

1912-	SISTER TERESA McCARTHY
-1925	SISTER BERNADETTE KEANEY
1926-1929	MOTHER XAVIER BRENNAN
1930-1933	MOTHER ROSE FEENEY
1934-1939	MOTHER BERNADETTE KEANEY
1940-1945	MOTHER CECILIA SULLIVAN
1946-1948	MOTHER HILDA CONVERY
1949-1955	MOTHER RUPERT VIRGONA
1956-1958	MOTHER CELESTINE O'CONNELL
1959-1961	SISTER CLAUDE DUNNE
1962-1964	SISTER JUDE DONOVAN
1965-1967	SISTER LOUIS HENWOOD
1968-1970	SISTER MARIE THERESE JONES
1971-1973	SISTER BERCHMANS DOWLING
1974-1979	SISTER MAUREEN CULLEN
1980-1982	SISTER LOIS YOUNG
1983-1988	SISTER JUDITH BELLESINI



The Church Today