



# Our Lady of the Mission

## WHITFORD PARISH

**GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE BOOK**



## Welcome

Our Lady Of the Mission warmly welcomes you to our celebrations commemorating the 50th Anniversary of our parish.

We are proud and humbled to be a part of this community that has thrived and grown in strength since 1974.

We are a diverse, inclusive and multicultural parish from all over the world, yet we gather together as one community in this, our place of worship, to pray, love and worship together. We serve one God and we love one another as He loves us. This is our faith journey together.



## Message from Fr Cyprian, Parish Priest

Dear Parishioners,

The twenty-fifth chapter of Leviticus provides us with the foundation for how the Israelites celebrated their fiftieth year — a jubilee year marked by the renewal of God's people and their community. As we commemorate Our Lady of the Mission's fifty years since 1974, we reflect on God's goodness in our lives, embrace the present with joy, and look forward to the future with renewed courage and hope.

I am deeply honoured and humbled to lead our parish community during this significant moment in its history, following in the footsteps of dedicated clergy like Fr. McSweeney, Monsignor Tim Corcoran, Fr. Geoff Aldous, Fr. Joe Tran, and their assistant priests. Their legacy has laid a strong foundation for the vibrant community we are today in this northern corridor.

We owe immense gratitude to our Archbishops — late Archbishops Goody, Foley, Emeritus Archbishop Barry James Hickey, our current Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, and Bishop Donald Sproston, his auxiliary bishop — and the Archdiocese administration for their unwavering support of our Catholic identity, which forms the core of who we are as a parish.

Today, we celebrate each and every parishioner of OLM, our primary schools — PCPS and WCPS — our Catholic colleges, and above all, our enduring faith in Jesus Christ that has sustained us over these past fifty years.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Parish Pastoral Council, parish staff, and countless volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort behind the scenes to plan and bring these celebrations to fruition.

To all who have called OLM their parish, both present and past members, thank you for celebrating with us. Let us remember in our prayers all deceased members of our parish, and I entrust all of us present here to the powerful intercessions of Our Lady of the Mission and Saint Joseph, her blessed spouse and patron Saint of the universal Church.

Happy and blessed Golden Jubilee to all!

Yours in Christ,

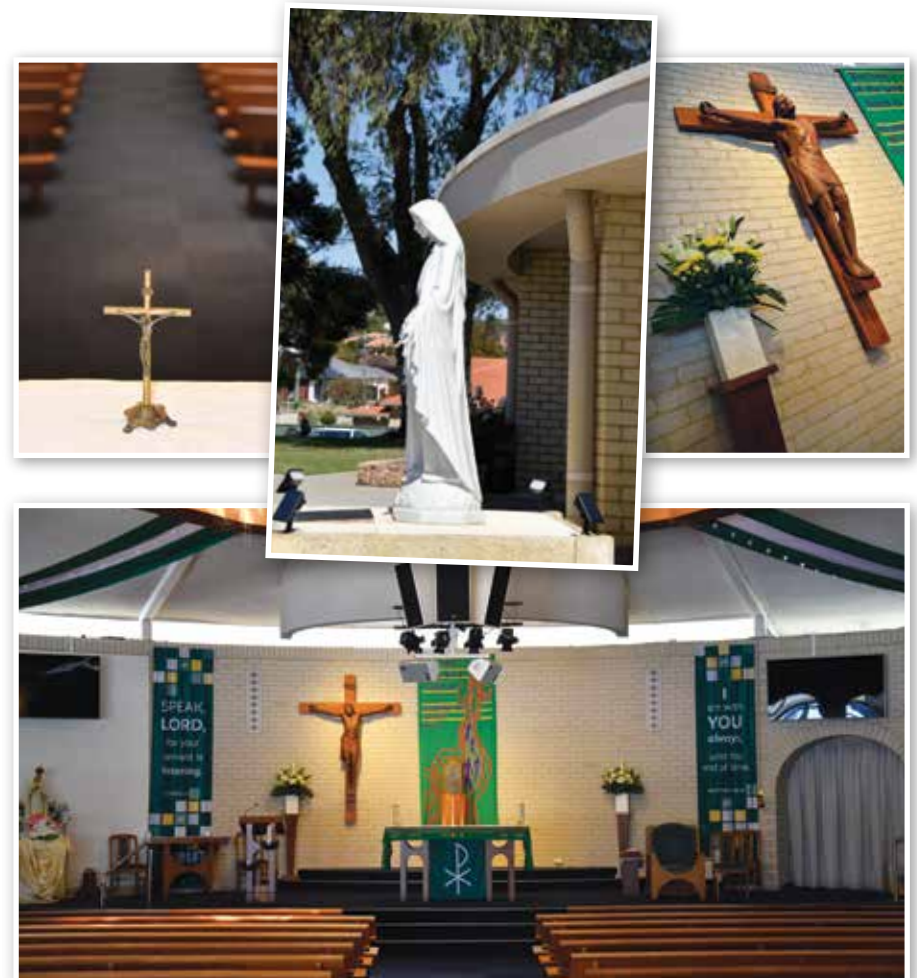


**Rev. Fr. Cyprian Malongo Shikokoti**  
Parish Priest

## Blessing Prayer

Dear Lord,

We meet together in the presence of a God whose love is freedom, whose touch is healing, whose voice is calm. We meet not in our own strength but in the knowledge that God's Spirit abides within us, in our worship and in our daily lives when we depart from this, our place of worship. The blessing received is shared, in the hope that others might be drawn to the God we serve. Amen.



## Golden Jubilee Mass

### CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth, we turn to You  
Make us Your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

*Christ, be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light, shine in Your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled, longing for hope, many despair  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us, make us Your living voice.*

*Longing for food, many are hungry, longing for water, many still thirst  
Make us Your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless, longing for warmth, many are cold  
Make us Your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.*

*Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another, making Your kingdom come.*

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

Bishop Don: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

### GREETING

Bishop Don: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Bishop Don: Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my

words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
*And, striking their breast, they say:*  
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

Bishop Don: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

### KYRIE

Cantor: Kýrie, eléison.

**Response:** **Kýrie, eléison.**

Cantor: Christe, eléison.

**Response:** **Christe, eléison.**

Cantor: Kýrie, eléison.

**Response:** **Kýrie, eléison.**

### GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, We give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, Heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer, you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen, Amen.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Bishop Don: Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit*

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 53:10-11**

*If he offers his life in atonement, what the Lord wishes will be done*

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response: Let your mercy be on us, O God, as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

### SECOND READING

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

Our high priest is one who has been tempted in every way that we are  
Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Mark 10:45**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all.

## GOSPEL

Fr Quoc: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Fr Quoc: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (10:35-45) .

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Fr Quoc: James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.' When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

**Bishop Don**



## THE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

*One bread, one body, One Lord of all  
One cup of blessing which we bless  
And we, though many, throughout the earth  
We are one body in this one Lord.*

*Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more  
Many the gifts, many the works  
One in the Lord of all  
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown  
Gathered to one for all.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Bishop Don: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Bishop Don: Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Bishop Don: The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

Bishop Don: Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

Bishop Don: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right and just.

## PREFACE

Bishop Don: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks... we acclaim:

## SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Eucharistic Prayer III*

Bishop Don: The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Bishop Don: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

### GREAT AMEN

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**

### THE COMMUNION RITE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop Don: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Bishop Don: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Bishop Don: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

Bishop Don: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Bishop Don: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of all the world, Miserere nobis.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of all the world, Miserere nobis.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of all the world, Donna nobis pacem.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bishop Don: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### POWER OF YOUR LOVE

*Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed  
Flowing from the grace that I found in You  
Lord, I've come to know, the weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away by the power of Your love.*

*Hold me close, let Your love surround me  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on  
In the power of Your love.*

*Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love, as You live in me  
Lord renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life  
In living everyday, in the power of Your love.*

**RECEIVE THE POWER**

*Every nation, every tribe, come together to worship You  
In Your presence we delight, we will follow to the ends of the earth  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Receive the Power, from the Holy Spirit  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Receive the Power to be a light unto the world.*

*As Your Spirit calls to rise we will answer and do Your will  
We'll forever testify of Your mercy and unfailing love  
Lamb of God, we worship You, Holy One, we worship You  
Bread of Life, we worship You, Emmanuel, we worship You  
Lamb of God, we worship You, Holy One, we worship You  
Bread of Life, we worship You, Emmanuel, we will sing forever.*

**SERVANT SONG**

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you  
Pray that I may have the grace to, let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road  
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you, in the night-time of your fear  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you  
I will share your joy and sorrow, 'til we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony  
Born of all we've known together, of Christ's love and agony.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bishop Don: Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES****BLESSING**

Bishop Don: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Bishop Don: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Bishop Don: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**HOW GREAT THOU ART**

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, How Great Thou Art.*



## From humble beginnings . . .



### New parish is Our Lady of The Mission

Archbishop Goody announced his approval of the name chosen for the new parish of Whitfords, Our Lady of The Mission, last Saturday night.

Whitfords was established as a new pastoral district twelve months ago when Father Nicholas McSweeney said his first Mass in the district as parish priest.

Until then, the area had been ministered by the Servite Community from Wanneroo.

Several months ago, the parishioners were asked to think and pray over a choice from 14 titles drawn up for their consideration.

Their choice narrowed to three: The Trinity, St. Andrew and Our Lady of The Mission.

#### MANY IN FAVOUR

By a large vote the parishioners gave their approval to the last mentioned.

Archbishop Goody discussed the result at a meeting of the parish council on Thursday last and was happy to give his approval.

Fr. McSweeney said that the title sought to include a wider concept than merely that of so-

ally to the Blessed Trinity — the sending forth of the Spirit from the Father and the Son.

Since the missionary activity of the Church in any country was an extension of that same Gift being sent forth from God, Father McSweeney said, the new

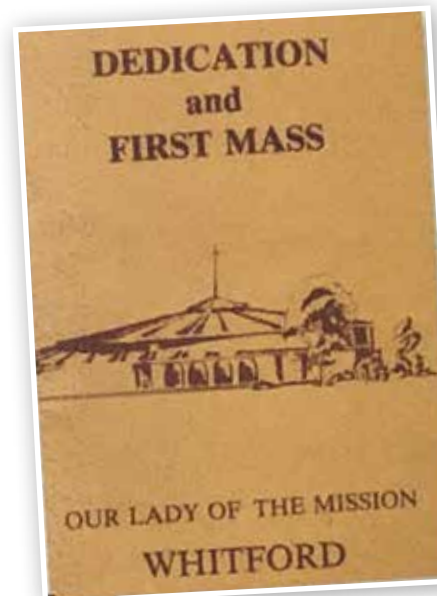
title emphasised the place Mary had been given in that plan of God for His People.

The first confirmation ceremony and episcopal visit for the new parish was held at the Padbury State School where Mass is celebrated each Sunday.

The majority of the children for confirmation attend State schools in the area.

They were trained initially by catechists visiting the schools, and were given an intensive training course by Mr. John Kilgallon.

• Among the 19 children confirmed at Whitfords by Archbishop Goody last Saturday night were those of Charles and



## Betty Rea

When I arrived in the Parish at the beginning of 1985 it had just celebrated its ten year anniversary. In those days the Presbytery was at 291 Camberwarra Drive, just up the hill from my home. Fr. Nick was still here and his assistant Fr. Bruce Jones was replaced by Fr. John Dwyer a few months after we arrived. Sister Teresa Daly was running Mercyville, which was at that stage just starting to take in lay ladies, having been built for the purpose of housing retired Sisters. She very quickly enlisted my help and so began a thirty five year stint as a volunteer at Mercyville.

The church building in those days was at stage 1 of the building plan and stopped at the arches. The main entrance doors were where the current confessional rooms are and we had no toilets. The area now called the "adoration space" was the sacristy and could be closed off with curtains to give some privacy for robing. The tabernacle (which was on loan from the Sisters of Mercy) was under the archway at the right of the sanctuary. Vestments and sacred vessels were housed in a double wardrobe left of the door into the work sacristy / flower room.

That room also doubled as the Confessional, much to the embarrassment of some priests, who were not happy about sitting beside a sink and rubbish bin to hear confessions. The room had a door to the outside, which was the way whoever was unlocking the church entered, then made their way to the heavy wooden front doors, that were bolted top and bottom, to unlock the church.

Weekday Masses were celebrated in the Convent / Mercyville Chapel, except for Thursdays, when classes from WCPS took part in the Mass on a regular basis. As was the practice in many denominations and places Monday was the clergy's recognized day off. Priests of the vintage of Fr. Nick McSweeney, Fr. Jim Foley, Fr. Tim Corcoran and Fr. Geoff Aldous regularly went off to play golf on Monday mornings, while Fr. John Dwyer joined the younger priests who played tennis.

In June 1988 a Liturgy of the Word service was introduced at 9 a.m. on Monday mornings. This was led by some of the retired Acolytes in the Parish, at that time these included John Loreck and John Kilgallon. In 1990, when Fr. Brian Limbourn became Assistant Parish Priest, ( being into neither golf nor tennis), he offered to celebrate a Mass at 9 a.m. on Mondays and this became the regular practice until recent times.

Up until the time that the current Presbytery was built the Assistant Priest lived in the flat attached to the chapel. Fr. Brian was the first Assistant Priest

to move into the Presbytery which was completed in February 1991. Sadly, Fr. Nick McSweeney, who had been the founding Parish Priest, did not have the privilege of visiting the priests in their new home, as he passed away in the early hours of February 4th, the day they moved in.

In preparation for Christmas 1990 Fr. Brian took over the Mercyville kitchen one day and with the help of the retired Sisters and ladies made a Christmas cake for the Hostel. In those days Mercyville was classed as a Hostel and residents had to be fairly independent. There was a sleep over staff member on duty during the night, who was on call.

As time progressed the criteria for admission changed, as did the level of care until prior to its closing nursing care was provided to the point of death.

Fr. Brian also made good use of the new Presbytery kitchen, making a large batch of strawberry jam prior to one of the WCPS fetes. On the day of the fete he spent the day baking scones to supply the Devonshire Teas tent, producing fourteen dozen scones in total.

Following closely on the completion of the Presbytery in September 1991 work began on preparing the site for the parish hall, which was opened the following year in February. It was some years later that the Offices and two meeting rooms were added to the complex.

With full and part time secretaries plus office volunteers now employed to take care of office duties it is mind blowing to think that in the early days of the parish the Parish Priest did all of the record keeping and correspondence himself with the help of volunteers who counted the collections and recorded the planned giving. When the Presbytery was built an office was included, so that a part time secretary could be employed to take on some that load. Jane Foy was the first to take on that role.

The completion of the church was yet another building project in the nineties.



*Baking a Christmas cake in 1990*



Somehow, we managed to have the Sunday Masses in the church during the process but this involved some busy bees following the Saturday morning Masses (which were transferred to the Chapel during this time) with everyone picking up dusters and brushes to make the body of the church usable. The church was finally completed by the end of 1995.

Altar Servers learned on the job in the early days and basically whoever turned up and robed before the Mass started was on that day. Fr. Brian undertook to do a training course with those interested in being Altar Servers and started a roster system. The Priests and their Assistants in



subsequent years have provided training and Servers have been on roster. The COVID years saw numbers decline sharply and the number of those involved in this ministry remains low compared to the previous years.

In those early years we had Communion under both kinds on three occasions each year. Holy Thursday, the Feast of Corpus Christi and the Parish Feast Day (Mission Sunday, which falls on the penultimate Sunday of October). A number of Special Ministers were trained in preparation for the visit of Pope John Paul II in November 1986 when the huge number of people required extraordinary measures to ensure that everyone could receive Holy Communion. This led to Special Ministers being introduced into parishes and OLM invited 36 people to attend the 1988 courses, they were commissioned at the Feast of Corpus Christi and rostered over the four weekend Masses. Communion under both kinds was introduced on a regular basis on one Sunday of each month. This continued until 2020 with the onset of COVID.

1988 also saw the formation of a core group to train as an R.C.I.A. team. Sister Mary Berry, who was at that time heading up the Maranatha Institute led this group right through the programme with the first group of converts being accepted in late 1989 ready for reception into the Church during the Easter ceremonies 1991.

At the time that I arrived in the Parish it was considerably larger than now, with Kingsley / Woodvale breaking away in early 1987 and Ocean Reef Parish being established the following year.

OLM was always a popular Parish for the placement of students from St. Charles Seminary and after a year on placement here Steve Durkin was ordained Deacon at OLM in 1991.

He threw in the comment that he was glad that his parents had not named him Duncan, as that would have made him Deacon Duncan Durkin.

Deacon Michael Rowe spent a few months on placement in the Parish during 1994 prior to his ordination in May.

Another Priest who spent time here as a Deacon was Sean Fernandez. He spent four months in the latter part of 1994 at OLM as a Deacon and returned at the beginning of 1995 to serve as Assistant Priest.



Staff and residents join together for their Christmas Dinner 1991.  
Left to right: Helena Osborne, Dorothy Sheridan, Sr Evangeliste,  
Deacon Steve Durkin, Sr Kaye Bolwell, Fr Tim Corcoran,  
Sr de Sales (standing), Mary Robinson, Mary Beverley,  
Boase Esther, Connie Fowler

## Dee & Chris Guildea

I arrived in Perth from London on the 28th of February 1971 with my husband Chris, daughter Angela and sons Sean and Canice. We only had a few suitcases and no idea what our new life would bring. After 11 months of living at the Greylands Migrants Hostel in Claremont, we moved into our one and only home in Australia on Mayflower Crescent in Craigie.

Back then, our pocket of Perth only had a few churches and the closest was St Anthony's in Wanneroo. We met Rose and Tommy Thompson, who brought with them the exciting news that a new priest was coming to the area and Mass would be given closer to home. Fr Nick McSweeney from Kilkenny, Ireland began giving Mass in a classroom at Springfield Primary where Angela and Sean attended early primary school. He then moved to a class at Padbury Primary, and when we welcomed my youngest son Adrian, he was baptised in the sandy carport of Fr Nick's Craigie home. Once Craigie Primary was built, we moved our children and our Sunday Mass to the classrooms. This became our home until Whitfords Catholic Primary finally opened its doors to us, with the library our last unofficial home.

In May of 1981, we packed up our bibles for the last time and opened the doors of our new parish, Our Lady of the Mission, with Archbishop Lancelot Goody helping us celebrate.

A few weeks later, Fr Nick brought me on board as the presbytery housekeeper, a role that gave me a lot of satisfaction. After a few years, Fr Nick moved on to Woodvale Parish and I had the pleasure of taking care of the lovely Fr Jim Foley for a year. Fr Tim Corcoran came next and in the decade he led us, he achieved quietly, building the Grotto for Our Lady, the parish hall, and the new presbytery. He was a wonderful friend and respected leader of our congregation. When Fr Tim moved on, we welcomed Fr Geoff Aldous, an incredibly prayerful man who spent much of his time visiting sick parishioners.

After 17 years as presbytery housekeeper, I retired to spend time with my grandchildren. Many of whom have joined us at Sunday Mass, in the parish that was once a classroom and sandy carport.

When Fr Geoff left, we welcomed our beloved Fr Joseph Tran, a sweeping breath of fresh air and high-fives. He inspired our youth to unite and represent our Parish at many World Youth Days and Sacred Heart Vietnam Mission trips. Although I no longer worked in the presbytery, we became great friends, with Fr Joe guiding my great granddaughters through their sacraments.

This brings us to today, with Fr Cyprian, a wonderful man who has worked to make our parish more accessible. In recent years he has baptised my great great granddaughter on the same altar that her mother and grandmother were baptised on.

Chris and I moved our young family away from our home, friends and family in Ireland and England to a place unknown. In our 50 years with Our Lady of the Mission, we found a new home, a place that has brought us the greatest friendships we've ever known.

It has brought me solace during times of sadness and hardship and has given me people and a home to celebrate my joys. My little brother rests here in the columbarium that Fr Joe built. It brings me great peace to know that our spirits will live on in the parish that we built.

Dee and Chris are parents to 4 children, grandparents to 17 children, great grandparents to 7 children and great great grandparents to 2 children.



## Sister Carmel

Prior to the Parish being established, Bishop Peter Quinn was negotiating with our Congregational Leader, Sr Joan Flynn, to provide Sisters to be involved in the emerging northern suburbs. At the same time the Sisters were seeking a site to build a retirement home for their elderly members. Hence, land as acquired adjoining the parish/school site.



The courage of the Sisters in providing buildings at this time was outstanding. 1975 saw the Convent built to house the Congregation Offices, the Novitiate and future school staff. In 1976 Mercyville opened under the expertise of Sr Camillus Jackson. Sister filled the roles of manager, nurse, gardener (with the help of 80 year old Sisters) and supervisor of staff.

Sr Barbara Lee joined the Steering Committee for the new school in 1977. Then in 1978 Sr Mary O'Connor was appointed Foundation Principal of Whitford Catholic Primary School, taking up the onerous task of starting a school with students without classrooms ready. Padbury Community Hall provided space

on a daily basis for three months.

In the meantime, the Chapel was built to provide for Mercyville and the Convent residents, opening its doors in 1978. Monsignor Sullivan, in retirement, became the Chaplain.

For several years the school library was rearranged each week for the parish Sunday Masses. In latter days, the Chapel was made available to the parish for weekday Masses and meditation groups.

After the parish was established Sr Mary Berry introduced the RCIA programme and in her retirement years was Spiritual Director to the St Vincent de Paul and wrote her reflections on the Sunday gospels. For some years Sr Noreen Cahill assisted in maintaining the gardens around Mercyville and the Convent.



As the population grew, there was a need for another primary school. Once again, a Sister of Mercy, Sr Carmel Wringe, was appointed as Principal of Padbury Catholic Primary School. Due to classrooms being incomplete, the first classes were given accommodation at Liwara Catholic Primary School for part of the first term.

Memories of the Sisters always go back to the joy of working with young, one income families, few resources and vast areas of sand to overcome. The generosity of parents to attend busy bees and volunteer in classrooms meant close relationships were established.

With the closing of Mercyville in 2022, the Sisters' time in the Parish came to an end. We give thanks to God for all that was achieved and pray for blessings on the future.



## Tom & Jan Fitzgerald

In 1971 the area that was to become Our Lady of the Mission Parish comprised of Hillarys, Kallaroo, Padbury and Craigie, along with the existing suburb of Mullaloo.

The first of many houses were built that year and as it only took about four to five months to build a home, the population grew quickly.

The nearest churches were Our Lady of Grace in North Beach and St Anthony's in Wanneroo. We were very thankful when Fr Carlo Marchetti started a Saturday evening Mass at Springfield Primary School in Kallaroo. We later moved to Padbury Catholic Primary School when one of our community members was headmaster there.

It was at that school that Fr Nicholas McSweeney celebrated his first Mass as our Parish Priest. A house on Camberwarra Drive was purchased as temporary presbytery and Fr McSweeney celebrated daily Mass in the closed-in carport. This room also doubled as the meeting room.

I remember being at a meeting when Fr Nicholas proposed that the name of Whitfords Parish could be Our Lady of the Mission. His reasoning for the name was that Mary's mission was to bring Jesus to the people, which thankfully this parish is still doing.

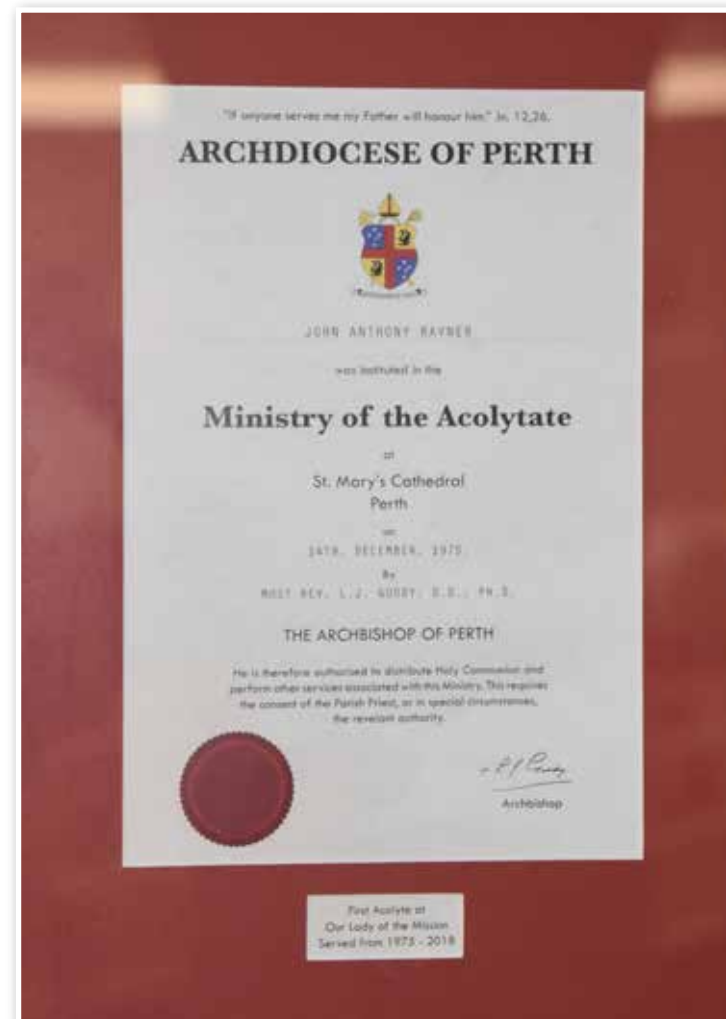
The parish grew rapidly and when Whitfords Catholic Primary School opened, Sunday Masses were held there. There was great excitement when the church was finally opened in 1981.

Our parish has continued to grow and thrive with many wonderful priests from all corners of the globe ministering to us. For this we are very grateful.



## John Rayner - First Acolyte

John Rayner was the first Acolyte at Our Lady of the Mission in 1975. He served the parish continually and faithfully until he sadly passed away in 2024. This certificate proudly hangs outside the robing room as a reminder of the commitment John gave to the parish.





## Pat Nerva

The Legion of Mary started in Dublin, Ireland by Frank Duff on 7 September 1921. Then in 1981, in Whitfords, Fr Nicholas McSweeney, parish priest of Our Lady of the Mission Parish, invited the legion of Mary to work in the parish. So on 24 November 1981, with the help of the North Beach Legionaries, Our Lady of the Mission Praesidium started its first meeting in Father's house. The inaugural officers were President Cathy Winders (RIP), Vice President Bill Ward (RIP), Secretary Pat Nerva (still standing, albeit wobbly) and Treasurer Linda Shrewsbury (returned to Argentina). After a few meetings there, we transferred to the church and met in what was then the robing area.

During this time we have been called to assist in visiting sick and housebound parishioners, taking them to Mass and various appointments and also praying with them when asked. Then we started door-to-door visits, getting surprise looks because it seemed like the first time that Catholics had ever knocked on doors. Most of the time we were well received, so enjoyed a friendly chat. Visiting parishioners was rewarding. We also called on new parishioners to welcome them into our wonderful parish. To those who lived outside our boundaries, we rang. Some Legionaries are also catechists and help with the After School Religious Programme (now called P.R.E.P.) and said the rosary with the children.



*Legion of Mary Group*



*Catechist Group*

Then when Fr Geoff Aldous became parish priest, he involved the Legion with the God Start cards programme. This involved delivering God Start birthday cards to children baptised in the parish on their birthdays until they were four years old. Before that, Legionaries were asked to deliver Baptism information letters to the parents informing them of the God Start programme. So although telephone numbers were correct at that time, we just had to make sure they were still at the addresses at the time of



delivery. Fr Joseph Tran, when he became our parish priest, continued with this programme and also added the Ministry Fair each year, in which various ministries (over 50 at the start) were invited to showcase their ministries so that parishioners were aware of their functions.

Then came COVID and our dwindling numbers curtailed our activities. But now we are gradually bouncing back again with our numbers climbing up again. We are ready to work for the parish at Fr Cyprian's guidance.

We are hoping to inspire others to help us continue working in this wonderful parish with Mary leading us. Mary needs your generosity and so do we. All that is asked is about one hour for our weekly meetings and between one and two hours during the week for work. We hope to see you one day, and so would Mary.



## Mel Nerva

In my view, some things happen by chance, while other events are destined to happen... The only difference is that if we are not prepared when the opportunity presents itself, we may not be able to take advantage of the gift presenting itself, and thus, it passes us by!

It's taken me a while to realise how wonderful the Scout motto "be prepared" is.

On 8th August this year, my wife, Patricia, and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary, and our children requested Fr Cyprian to say Mass at our home to make that day special for us. When Pat and I first met in Singapore, we could not envisage that many years later we'd have four daughters and one son, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild due in November this year. Wow! To think that I was once shy!

Pat and I met in Singapore. I had no intention of leaving the place of my birth. Yet, as I said, the opportunity presented, and the next thing I knew we were married in a beautiful church called St Mary's in Carmarthenshire, Wales.

My experience with Jones, Roberthan, Thompson CA. got me a job with Glaxo Labs Research in Ulverston, Lancashire. Then chance and opportunity presented itself and we found ourselves returning to Singapore. We were sure that we had sufficient travel and were ready to settle down.

I had busy jobs with Union Rubber Brokers and Lee & Co. Stocks & Share Brokers.

As I said, it's hard to distinguish chance from opportunity.

So the next chapter of our lives, as we skip the pages, found ourselves in Perth. In August 1975 we built our home in Hunter Way, Padbury and our family became Australian citizens on 29th September 1975.

Our Lady of the Mission was not built at that time, so we attended Mass conducted by Fr McSweeney, and if I'm not mistaken, we use the Padbury Catholic Primary School hall for Mass initially. I remember going to Fr McSweeney's home in Camberwarra Drive to record the generous donations by our small group of parishioners, and before you could say Jack, we had a beautiful church and a parish priest that I revere most.

He had a simple philosophy, say a few short prayers and focus on its meaning. I have always followed this; thank Fr Tim Corcoran.

Pat has been interested in promoting the Legion of Mary, and still today it is thriving.

One Sunday at the 8am Mass, Fr Tim (or Monsignor Tim as he is now titled) requested help from someone to start a choir at the 8am Mass. I wanted to help but to be in the background. So I waited until the last moment on Friday when I rang him up to offer my services. He answered the phone and said, "Mel, you're the first!" And that's how with the help of Anna Pollard (organist and music specialist), Bev Gronough (alto and musician) and Jane Pilkington (soprano) we became the choir. They committed to practising on a weekly basis and we sounded prayerful and vibrant. I was guided by Fr Tim who helped choose appropriate hymns accordingly.

Our children have grown and each have their professions after graduating from different universities. Now we're retired, although we are still involved in many things for work and church work in our parish, we haven't exactly retired.

May our Lord guard and protect us as her property and possession. Amen.

God bless.







## Janine McCoy

During December 1982 to January 1983, our family of four was looking to buy a house in the Whitford area. My husband, Rand, had secured a teaching position at Sacred Heart College. So, a few days before the start of school, we moved into our Craigie home. Ethan was three and a half and Sarah was eight months.

We soon located Our Lady of the Mission church and began attending Mass. Father Nick McSweeney was the priest. The church building was a simple circular structure with a large tuart tree at the front. The entrance was where our current confessionals are and corrugated iron sheets filled the arches currently visible in our foyer addition. The presbytery was located at 291 Camberwarra Drive in a normal house.

The parishioners were very friendly and had several groups and activities. Over the years, I attended a monthly lunch group which was held in a different house each month in rotation. For a couple of years the ladies held an 'International Dinner' at community halls. Chris Graham was one of the organisers.



I have helped at the Children's Liturgy when Sarah was three years old. I have been a reader during the liturgy. I have been in bible study groups with FR Brian Limbourn and took it over when he left. We would discuss the following week's readings. I belonged to the Poet's Group with Pat Cunneen. And, of course, the Overseas Mission Committee since its beginning. I have helped at the play group with my two youngest sons and had lots of responsibility with The Glory Be Cafe when it started. For the last several years I have volunteered at the church office.

Our Lady of the Mission is not only a great place, but a great community where you can be involved in many things.

## Sacred Heart College

### FROM HEART TO HEART

Sacred Heart College extends its heartfelt congratulations to Our Lady of the Missions Parish on the momentous occasion of their 50th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the parish's unwavering commitment to our God, faith, community and service.

Our relationship with Our Lady of the Mission Parish is deeply rooted in our shared history and values. Sacred Heart College was founded by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission (RNDM Sisters), whom the parish was also inspired by and named after. Together, we reflect the enduring legacy and spiritual foundation that we all cherish and our charism is embedded. This common heritage has strengthened our bond and fostered a close-knit community that spans generations.



We also share a relationship with Whitfords Catholic Primary School and Padbury Catholic Primary School which is where many of our students begin their Catholic schooling and spirituality, faith formation and catechesis.

The presence of Fr Cyprian, Fr Quoc and the priests of the parish over the 50 years as Chaplains at Sacred Heart College for many years has been a cornerstone of our spiritual life. From leading morning Masses to officiating at whole school gatherings and sacraments, their guidance and support have been invaluable. Their dedication has enriched the catechesis of our young people and inspired countless students to live out their faith with passion and purpose.

Our connection with the parish extends beyond the walls of our school. We were privileged to have regular visits to the residents at Mercyville Aged Care, located next door to the Parish. These visits are a beautiful expression of our commitment to service and compassion, and they strengthen the bond between our students and the wider community. We also visit the Parish and celebrate the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

Over the years, countless families from Sacred Heart College have been actively involved in the life of the parish. Whether as parishioners, altar servers, acolytes, or volunteers, their contributions have been integral to the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere that defines Our Lady of the Missions. This spirit of

serving others and community engagement reflects the strong values instilled by both the parish and our school.

One of the most inspiring aspects of our partnership is the shared mission work, particularly in Vietnam. Priests from the parish have supported us in reconnecting with the RNDM Sisters' work in Vietnam, furthering our collective efforts to support and uplift communities in need. These missions have not only provided vital assistance, but also deepened our understanding of global solidarity and compassion.



As we celebrate this Golden Jubilee together with you, Sacred Heart College looks forward to continuing our close relationship with Our Lady of the Missions Parish. Together, we will strive to uphold the values and traditions that have shaped our community, guided by the enduring legacy of the RNDM Sisters.

Once again, congratulations on 50 years of remarkable service, dedication to community and inspiring so many love of God our Saviour. May the next 50 years be filled with continued blessings, growth, and an ever-stronger sense of faith and community.

### Mr Leo Di Gregorio

*Principal, Sacred Heart College*





## Padbury Catholic Primary School

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of the Mission Parish it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on and honour the profound relationship between our parish and our school.

The establishment of Padbury Catholic Primary School in 1985 was a natural extension of the parish's mission. Founding Principal Sister Carmel Wringe reminisces that the first school mass was held in 1985 on the Feast of St Joseph. Parents were asked to drop their children at the church and a whole page of instructions about behaviour was distributed. Mass began and parents with young children proceeded to bring out food, and a picnic atmosphere took over. For the poor parish priest things only got worse as it began to rain and the noise level became even louder. Sister Carmel knew that there was a need for faith education of some of the families.



The golden anniversary of Our Lady of the Mission Parish not only marks five decades of faith and community but also highlights the enduring bond that has shaped and guided our spiritual journey here at Padbury Catholic Primary School. The support and guidance provided by our Parish Priests over the years has been instrumental in shaping the spiritual experiences of our students. Our regular school masses, sacramental programs and community outreach initiatives are all part of the vibrant tapestry that connects our students with the larger parish community.

As we honour the past and look to the future, we remain committed to nurturing the values and vision that have guided both Our Lady of the Mission Church and Padbury Catholic Primary School. Our shared mission, to provide a foundation of faith, learning and community, continues to inspire us and will guide our efforts for many years to come.

On behalf of the entire Padbury Catholic Primary School community, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Our Lady of the Mission Parish on reaching this incredible milestone.

**Mrs Margaret Williamson**

*Principal, Padbury Catholic Primary School*

## Whitford Catholic Primary School

As we gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our cherished Parish, Our Lady of the Mission, we reflect on the journey that has led us to this milestone.

Before the Parish was built, Whitford Catholic Primary School held mass in what is known now as our Year 5 & 6 block. These makeshift arrangements served as the heart of our spiritual space and fostered a close-knit environment, where lines between school and parish life were beautifully blurred. In time the vision of a dedicated Catholic Church became reality. With the support of our school community and the unwavering faith of our fellow parishioners, the construction of the Parish began.

Having the Parish onsite has been a tremendous blessing for our school. Our Parish Priests have played a pivotal role in enriching the lives of our students. Regular visits to our school bring joy and through guidance, assists students in learning the importance of faith, compassion and service. Providing a constant reminder of the values which we hold dear; Faith, Excellence, Service, Trust and Community. The proximity of the Parish allows for regular school masses, sacramental preparations and spiritual guidance, creating a seamless integration of faith and education. For our students, the Parish is a place where they can deepen their relationship with God and learn about the teachings of the Church. It also serves as a sanctuary where families can come together to pray, celebrate and find solace in times of need.

As we celebrate this golden 50th anniversary, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings our Parish has bought to our school and local community. On behalf of Whitford Catholic Primary School, we extend a heartfelt congratulations to our Parish on reaching this remarkable milestone. Your presence and support have been invaluable to our school, and we look forward to many more years of shared faith and partnership.

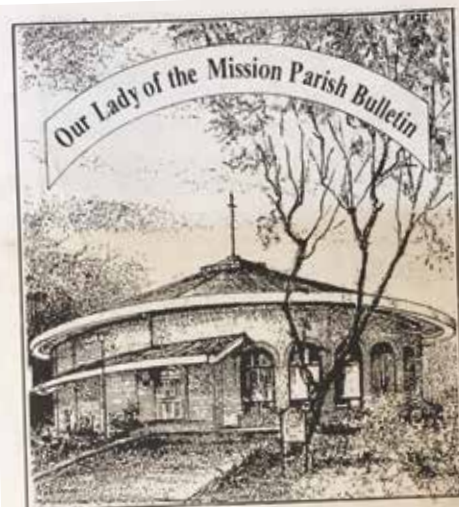




Church opening mass



Church opening 16 may 1981



**Our Lady of the Mission Parish Bulletin**

Parish Priest: Fr. Tim Coxson  
Presbytery: 270 Camberwata Drive, Craigie, 6025 Telephone: 367 2776

Assistant Priest: Fr. Sean Fernandez

MASS TIMES: 15 - 20 January 1996	Chapel	Chapel	Church
Day	9.00am	9.00am	
Monday	7.00am	9.00am	
Tuesday	7.00am	9.00am	
Wednesday	7.00am	9.00am	
Thursday	7.00am	9.00am	
Friday	7.00am	9.00am	
Saturday			8.30am
Sunday			6.30pm

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 12 noon - 1 p.m., 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
BAPTISMS: BY APPOINTMENT







25th parish anniversary, 1999



1st parish priest Fr Nicholas



26th January 1986 Our Lady of the Mission Parish Whitford

P.P.: Father Nick McSweeney A.P.: Father John Dwyer

Presbytery: 291 Camberwarra Drive, Craigie Tel. No. 4016631

P.P. Ocean Reef: Father Simon Carson

Presbytery: 18 Tornado Road, Ocean Reef Tel. No. 4015846

Mass Times: Vigil (Saturday): 7pm

Sunday: 8am 9.30am 11am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am Chapel

**NEWS FLASH:** Father Nick has received approval from the Archbishop to finish his time as Parish Priest of Whitford after 11½ years at the end of May and to take a holiday in Ireland followed by a 3 to 4 month course on the Mass and Sacraments. He will then return to the Archdiocese at the beginning of 1987 to take up a new appointment.

"Your achievements are a measure of your love for God."

"May Yahweh bless you from Zion all the days of your life."

25th May 1986

Trinity Sunday

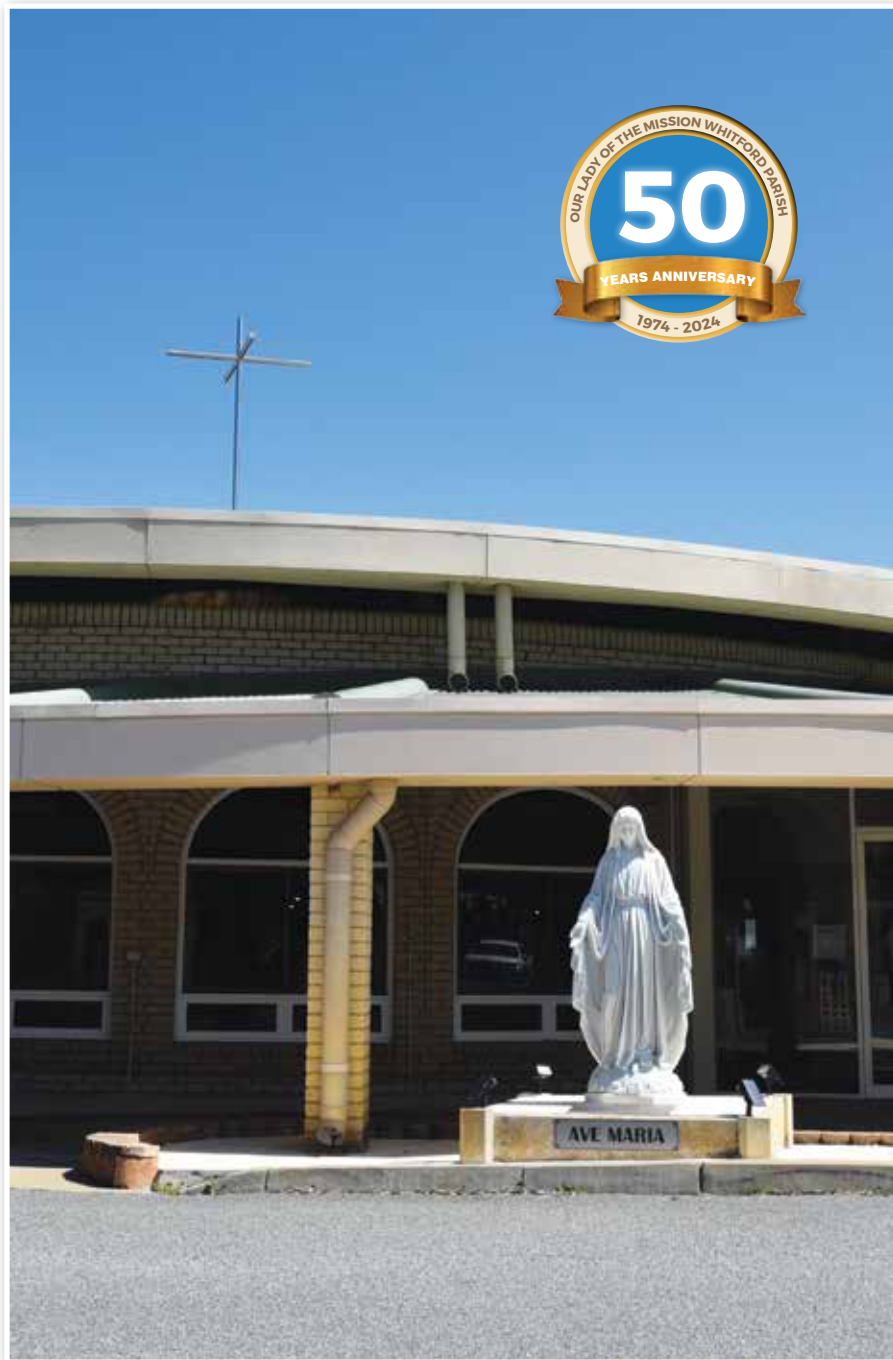
History of Our Lady of the Mission Statue

A statue of 'Our Lady of the Mission' was always part of the plans for the parish from the time that the title was chosen by the parishioners for our parish. This was done in October, 1975. At that time the Parish Ladies Group under the leadership of Mary Rebbecki undertook to raise funds for the furnishing of Our Lady's alcove in a future parish church. These funds were raised by cake stalls, quiz night, Christmas raffles, etc. by this parish ladies group which was later to become the Catholic Womens League. After Stage One of the Church was completed in May 1981 Fr. Nick began to look around for a suitable work of art to honour Our Lady of the Mission. He eventually settled on a life-sized statue of Mary the young mother and her Child. Sculptured from the clay of the earth by human hands Sister Angelica Ballon of the Disciples of the Divine Master, a renowned person in the art of terracotta and resident in Rome was commissioned to do the work for our parish in 1984 even though Sr. Angelica had many other orders ahead of ours. It was transported by sea from Rome to Melbourne in February this year and eventually by road from Melbourne to Perth. The statue was blessed and became part of the parish on Sunday, May 18th, 1986.

\*\*\*\*\*  
• **GOODBYE TO FATHER NICK**

- A SOCIAL FUNCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE WHITFORD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 30TH MAY COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.
- BYO DRINKS, GLASSES AND NIBBLES. TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE.
- BABYSITTING FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE YOUTH GROUP.
- CONTACT ANNE ON 401 1723.
- COME ALONG AND SAY FAREWELL AS A COMMUNITY TO FATHER NICK.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Father Nick's last Mass in the Parish is the 11am Mass today.





## OUR LADY OF THE MISSION WHITFORD PARISH

270 Camberwarra Drive Craigie WA 6025  
9307 2776 • [whitford@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:whitford@perthcatholic.org.au)